

**Mass Music Teachers Association
Business Meeting
Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2013
At the Home of President Vera Rubin**

Also includes accepted email vote of November 24, 2013, passed unanimously by the Board.

The meeting was called to order at 10:11 a.m.

(As people feasted on the breakfast set up by host Vera set up with help by Alice and Dorothy)

Present: Vera Rubin, Jane Fiske, Nilly Shilo, Dorothy Travis, John Stapp, Alison Barr, Lydia Reed-Guertin, Janet Ainsworth, and, observing, Alice Dusenberry.

Vera asked for a motion to approve the Minutes from June 4, 2013, meeting, which had been written by Secretary Michelle Gordon and circulated online.

Dorothy asked for a moment to reread and consider the minutes before the vote. So granted.

Vera brought up the venue for the **Strings portion of the Bay State Contest**, saying that the one competition room made available at the current venue may not be sufficient for the increased number of competitors. The venue is Newton Town Hall. Of course, it is impossible to say how many students will participate in the contest in year 2014. So far the venue has three warm-up rooms with no pianos in those rooms. We will keep our fingers crossed, hoping that the venue will be sufficient for the upcoming year.

Dorothy moved that the Secretary's Minutes from the June 4, 2013, meeting be accepted as presented. Alison seconded. Vera called for the vote. Unanimously approved.

Vera happily announced that veteran MMTA member, Valerie Stark, who had served on the Board in the 80's, had accepted the nomination of the Treasurer position, to begin immediately upon approval by the board. This is to fill the opening created by Jan Spillane's resignation. A highly informative meeting between Valerie, Jan and Vera as held in the past week to insure a smooth transition. Jan had used bookkeeping software already on her computer, which we will need to purchase for Valerie. The cost of this software is approximately \$300.

Valerie sent regrets for not being able to attend the Board Meeting, but may be able to attend subsequent meetings.

Vera expressed feelings that we have erred in not hiring an accountant and that such a qualified and skilled person is direly needed to complete tax forms, etc., outside of the normal and more layman's duties of our volunteer Treasurer. Jan was able to complete all these duties at a high level, because she is a certified CPA as well as a music teacher.

Much discussion ensued.

Vera reported that Jan Spillane, at first, and subsequently Jan's husband, also a CPA, has offered to complete the most immediate tax filings, due by Nov. 15, 2013, at the rate of \$130 per hour, estimating that it will take around three hours to do this job.

Lydia moved to nominate Valerie Stark to the position of MMTA Treasurer. Dorothy seconded and Vera called for the vote to approve this nomination and install Valerie. Unanimously approved.

Dorothy moved to approve the purchase of “Quickbooks” or other brand of bookkeeping software for the Treasurer and also to hire Mr. Robert Spillane, CPA, to be paid an amount not to exceed \$500.00 for total services rendered, in order to complete our immediate tax filings due on November 15, 2013.

Jane seconded this motion. Vera called for the vote. Unanimously approved.

Dorothy will contact an accountant she knows to ask about being hired on a per-service basis to do our tax forms and any work outside the realm of our Treasurer’s regular duties and expertise.

Alison will contact Vivian with some website updates regarding Local Associations and also to change the MMTA Treasurer email to Valerie Stark’s new email address instead of Jan’s. Vera has VS’s new email address.

Dorothy reported on the MTNA Competitions – the deadline of which was to be the afternoon of the meeting in progress, (Sept. 11) so not all entrants may be in.

This will take place at Brandeis on SUNDAY, Nov. 17.

Numbers so far:

13 Jr. Piano

5 Sr. Piano

2 Young Artist

1 Sr. Brass

1 S. String
22 in all

Leslie, not present, but reporting before the meeting, has 8 Composition competitors in various categories.

Dorothy asked for feedback concerning competition room distribution with the higher number of Jr. entrants – should the juniors be in the hall instead of the seniors? Vera and others felt that the seniors should have the best hall and piano, others felt that scheduling might trump this need. Varying opinions were expressed. Also discussed were the length of the day and judges -- numbers and distribution. Ultimately, these decisions rest with Dorothy.

Dorothy asked for volunteers for the a.m. or p.m. on that day. Lydia and Alison will serve in the morning, starting early, Alice throughout the day.

Dorothy also brought up a suggestion originally from Linda Stump, MTNA Competition Chair, to put the MTNA Competition heading up at the top of the website, not ONLY in the pull down that opens when one clicks “Student Programs.” Much discussion ensued. Some thought it was preferential to the Competitions, others thought that since the Competition program as offered by National, it could fairly be somehow distinguished from our State-only programs on our website. Vivian had reported upon being asked, that this would be quite a large revamping. Jane suggested that decided that Dorothy explore with Vivian a way to make the Competition program more immediately accessible on our website and to come back to the board at the next meeting with possible changes/solutions.

Vera brought up a Code of Ethics issue that originated at the MTNA national level, presumably from a disagreement or threat of litigation by a member-teacher against MTNA. Gary Ingle, MTNA Executive Director, has asked states to consider a revised Code of Ethics, which Vera had circulated via email. The phrase in our current Code of Ethics (printed in our Handbook-Directory) states, “The teacher shall respect the integrity of other teachers’ studios and shall not actively recruit students from another studio.” MTNA has asked that states vote to **remove** this statement, in order to bring the state Codes into agreement with the newly revised National Code of Ethics, from which this statement has been dropped.

Discussion ensued. Since it is up to the state to decide on its own Code, many at the meeting felt that by keeping this statement in our Code, we were asking teachers to **aspire** to a high standard of professional behavior, even though there may be exceptions in the actual behavior of individual teachers. The consensus at the meeting was to keep our existing Code of Ethics with this statement included.

Lydia announced that that the 2013-2014 Membership Directory and Handbook, with a bright yellow cover, is “hot off the press,” and she brought copies in advance. The mailing will go out soon to all members.

Old Business

Vera asked Lydia to report on the Enrichment Grant program she’s been working on. Lydia expressed her opinion that, since our fiscal year runs from July 1 – June 30, it would be best to make applications available for this grant program by July 1, 2014. The information on applying could then be made available to the membership via the Winter Newsletter, and

that the Enrichment Grant Applications could possibly have a deadline of June 15, 2014.

Online, Lydia will circulate to the Board a proposal of the Enrichment Grants, application and acceptance process.

A brief discussion ensued about MTNA Certification. Alison is Eastern Division Certification Commissioner. Massachusetts has traditionally had very low participation in this program.

John is planning to continue as Bay State Chair. Thank you, John!!!!

Vera brought up the fact that young people joining the profession do not want to seem to volunteer for MMTA positions. Alison disagreed, stating that there are many young people who do have a “volunteerism mindset.”

Dorothy, joined by all our voices, heartily thanked Vera for her leadership.

Vera adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Alison Barr
Secretary pro temps for Michelle Gordon, unable to attend

Email Vote submitted by Alison Barr, accepted Nov. 24, 2013
I make a motion that we approve \$1000.00 (limit of \$250.00 per individual) total travel funds for use of MMTA members for the express use of travel/lodging/registration for the MTNA Chicago Conference to be held on March 22-26, 2014.

Application for such funds is open to members with the following qualifications:

Members of MMTA who have been members in good standing of the organization for a minimum of 2 consecutive years. Applicants must have served on the board, a committee or volunteered in at least 2 MMTA events. Past and Present volunteers are invited to apply.

Use of such funds would be governed by these criteria:

- a) Must sign a statement similar to MTNA and NEPTA: "By Signing this application, I verify that I will use awarded funds for their intended purpose and by the proposed date. If I do not use the awarded funds, I will return them to MMTA."
- b) Applicants should attach a copy of the official course or conference application along with conference description or tuition fees.
- c) Grant recipients must provide a brief written report of their experiences to be published in an MMTA newsletter

The total amount of \$1000.00 will be divided evenly among all qualified candidates applying, with no individual grant exceeding \$250.00, as verified and awarded by a sub-committee of the MMTA Board.