

**Massachusetts Music Teachers Association
Board Meeting**

Friday, June 12, 2015

At the home of Dorothy Travis, 40 Naples Rd, Melrose, MA

President Dorothy Travis called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. after offering us an amazing assortment of refreshments.

Secretary's note – All corrections to these minutes, which were voted on and approved at the Sept. 18, 2015, meeting, are listed in *italics*.

Present:

Dorothy Travis, President, MTNA Competitions Chair

Heather Riley, Vice President for Membership

Amy Lee, MAE Chair

Valerie Stark, Treasurer

John Stapp, Bay State Piano Chair

Vera Rubin, Immediate Past President and Bay State Strings Chair

Alison Barr, Secretary, Newsletter Editor

Vivian Tsang, Webmaster, Judged Festival Chair

Janet Ainsworth, President-Elect, Chair of Commissioned Composer Program

1) Reading and Approval of the Minutes – Alison Barr

Dorothy asked if there were any additions or corrections to the February 27, 2015, Minutes that had been circulated via email.

Alison said she would add as an addendum the following email from Amy Lee, which was sent out to all Board members on March 25, 2015.

I have had no response from the Brookline center contact regarding the use of an additional room for Strings evaluations. I'm afraid that we can't make it happen this year, but we should definitely plan it for next year. Perhaps Gordon College would be a good venue to expand to Strings? My concern with Brookline Music School is the tight corners and slanted ceilings in the upper-level classrooms.

Valerie made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, Vivian

Tsang seconded. Unanimously passed.

2) Treasurer's Report (Financial Report and Long-term Financial Plan Report) Valerie Stark

Treasurer Valerie Starke reported that we have \$31,874.90 in Checking and \$19,852.37 in Savings. We also now have \$25,037.06 in a 48-Month Jumbo CD, established on April 29, 2015. (The \$37.06 represents the first month's interest!)

Vivian is going to change our Web Provider, so that will eliminate the accounting problem that Valerie has found with "GoDaddy" charges.

Please see Treasurer's Report and Individual Program Financial Reports at the end of these minutes. *Valerie announced that not all program expenses are "final" in her report and will be updated at the next meeting.*

It has been a great year financially and we all applauded the hard work Valerie has put into our finances and also in her procuring higher rate on the CD because we are a teachers' organization.

Valerie reminded everyone that when submitting a request for reimbursement, please use the "MMTA Financial Form for Program Chairs."

To find this form, click on "Current Members" and then "Newsletters/Board Meeting Minutes"

3) MAE Chair Report (see below after next item)

4) Membership Report -Welcome Letter- Heather Riley

Heather reported that Calvin Burgett from Mason Hamlin contacted her and asked if they could be a sponsor and become an Associate Member. Discussion ensued about how this might work. We do not have an Associate Member category at this time. Heather could respond that he could join as a regular member and then Dorothy can follow up as to how to disseminate information about the Mason Hamlin factory in Haverhill and potential teacher tours of that factory.

Heather reported that there are some discrepancies in National Membership reports as to how many members we have at any given time. She reported 257 members with 9 new members.

She is following upon the NO-Email members. There are very few now.

Heather also reported that MTNA dues went up by \$1.00 for this year, making the total amount \$106. Out Mass MTA dues did not change.

Heather circulated a lovely Welcome letter (see it at end of minutes.) We read and suggested a few edits, including a sentence about the opportunity that members have to “give back by volunteering” and to “network” at our annual social event – the Teacher of the Year Party.

Discussion followed about the letter and when it would be mailed to new members. *Dorothy sent an email to members who have not yet renewed, letting them know that the deadline for renewal is June 30, 2015.* We also discussed letting new members know about the Teacher of the Year Social Event.

Heather reported that there is a discrepancy between our (MMTA) site, which indicates Michelle Gordon as SE chapter president, and the MTNA site, which (still) indicates Judith Mitchell as SE president. Heather emailed Judith Mitchell about this, and she made it very clear that she is NOT president (which Michelle has obviously confirmed), and although Judith tried to correct this, National still has her listed. We need to make sure this is resolved with the National site.

Heather brought up the fact that we have a Collegiate Chapter (Keene State College in Keene, NH) listed as our Mass Collegiate Chapter. This is because the chapter’s advisor is a MASS MTA member. Heather will try to get this listing corrected since the chapter functions in NH and should be listed as such.

Heather reported that Julie Cleveland, an MMTA member from Gloucester, has expressed interest in starting a North Shore Local Association. Discussion ensued. There have been many attempts over the years to establish new locals, most recently, Cape and the Islands,

which fold after two years. Julie needs to look at the MTNA website for a business model and also try to attend our T of the Y Social Event.

Everyone agreed that Heather has done a BEAUTIFUL JOB in her position!!!

3) MAE Chair Report - Amy Lee

Amy reported that the North Shore MAE's at Gordon College were hugely successful. We should maintain this location. It will also allow an extra room for strings, which Brookline Music School does not. Amy and Vera can be in touch about next year's strings MAE. 30 students participated this year.

The Brookline Music School venue continues to be a successful one. It was packed this year. Amy is concerned that she can't continue to be present on the actual day of both of the current MAE's.

Perhaps Julie Cleveland can be asked to help at the Gordon location next year.

With the new registration rates, and as long as 30 students minimum register for each of the two venues, the program can pay \$200.00 per judge.

Valerie Ross is helping with the Brookline location.

Thank you, Amy, for revitalizing this wonderful program!

5) Website Host Update - Vivian Tsang

Vivian reported that the changeover to a new Web Host will probably happen this summer and that the website may be down for short periods of time while this happens.

6) Teacher of the Year Party - Dorothy

Plans are underway to have the party honoring Elizabeth Ann Reed on June 20 at 11:30 a.m., at the NEW home of Vera Rubin, 89 Columbus Ave., Waltham. Dorothy will send one more reminder. Set up will be at 1:45 and Vera will purchase the artwork to give as Betty's gift. Several Board Members stated regrets.

7) Quad State on Oct. 2-3, 2015, and Mass. Commissioned Composer – Janet Ainsworth

Alison urged everyone to support the Quad-State Conference to take place on the campus of St. Michael's College in Vermont, on Fri., Oct. 2 and Sat., Oct 3, 2015. More information will soon be up on the website, but here is a preview:

Friday- a concert is planned. Brian Connelly, pianist from Rice University. This concert is presented as a celebration of VMTA's 50th anniversary. With the help of Frederick Johnson Piano, there may also be a workshop presented by a publisher on Friday afternoon.

Saturday- We will have a workshop on Bartok presented by Sylvia Parker (UVM faculty and VMTA member), and an afternoon wellness workshop presented by Nicholas Quarrier a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy at Ithaca College, and a concert of state commissioned works.

Janet reported that there is a hold-up in her procurement of a Commissioned Composer, whose work will be premiered at the Quad State. She will work on trying to finalize arrangements with her current candidate, and, if unable to proceed, Dorothy and the Board will supply prospective candidates. The commission is now \$2000.00, but the composer is responsible for musician's fees for the performance and transportation to Vermont. **Action: Janet will get back to Dorothy about this by the end of June.**

8) National Conference Report – Las Vegas 2015 – Dorothy Travis

Dorothy reported that seven Mass. members (and one significant other) attended the MTNA Conference in Las Vegas in March. It was wonderful to be there! Our Mass cocktail hour included all but one of these members.

Dorothy strongly encouraged all Board Members and other MMTA members to take advantage of the Reed Family Travel Fund and the Enrichment Travel \$ available to go to San Antonio next year – April 2-7, 2016. It is well worth the effort!

She also said that the Alfred-published State/Regional pieces are a nice souvenir to bring to your students – there is now one entitled, “Massachusetts- A Musical Tribute”

9) MTNA State Competition - New Chair/Increase Teacher Fee/Date for 2015 - Dorothy

Dorothy has been serving beautifully for several years and wishes to move on. **Action: The Nominating Committee will find a replacement (though it'll be TOUGH!)**

Dorothy feels that the Teacher Fee should be increased. It is now \$25.00 for the first four students entered in any of the divisions. Discussion ensued. **Action: Dorothy will email a proposal for a new proposal including a cap for the number of students entered per teacher and also a new fee structure for teachers.**

Amy asked for the list of judges' names. **Action: Vivian will send an updates list to Amy and John.**

10) Music Development Program \$625.00 Scholarship \$ received
This item will be tied in with #13 - Scholarship Applications

11) Bay State Contest and CD update - John

John reported that Boston Conservatory ended up being a less expensive venue than Fitchburg State University. It was a great venue!

John announced that he'd be stepping down as Bay State Contest Chair. The Nominating Committee will find a replacement, though all agreed it would be very difficult to find someone as capable as John for this HUGE job. John will provide a current job description to help with the search and is willing to serve as the Venue Coordinator. Vivian is willing to stay on as the Student Coordinator.

Discussion ensued about the possibility of increasing the \$1000.00 stipend for this Chair position. Alison said that it should be discussed as part of a larger topic - whether we want to have aid positions among our mostly volunteer work force. This is both a philosophical and practical issue. Perhaps there is a different way to look at it - hiring an Administrative Assistant to help with whatever large, complicated and time-consuming jobs we may have. Dorothy said we should include this topic in a discussion at a future meeting.

John said we could afford to pay higher venue rent AND also raise the

registration fee.

John felt that some judges needed better prep, and he will make sure he does that next year.

(Secretary's aside: Nominating Committee consists of Immediate Past President – Vera Rubin – and also two active members -- Alison Barr and Vivian Tsang volunteered. **Action: This committee will begin working on next year's slate.**)

Action: Alison will contact Esther Ning Yau to see if she is interested in chairing.

John reported that we had 238 pianists (!) entered in the 2015 Bay State and 37 strings! Wonderful.

Notes taken over by Vivian, Secretary pro temps, since Alison had to leave:

An item was submitted from Vera regarding judging at the Bay State Strings Division:

Many prizes were given out and there may have been judge (s) who may have known some of the students entered.

Vera's suggestion: Markus Placci, one of the judges, who is also a judge at my second, Roman Totenberg, competition, can organize nice facilities at BC for free. At least he will try to do so. This way we can save the space rental fee, and hire university professors for the competition. We also can go for three panel members. We can raise the registration fee, if necessary.

Other discussion about inequities ensued. Monitors may need to be more empowered to enforce the rules – no parents talking to judges, no recording, etc.

12) Membership Requirement for MA teachers entering students in State Contests

MMTA/MTNA Membership dues are \$106 right now. More discussion is needed, but the immediate solution is to raise the fees for nonmembers entering students to an amount HIGHER than the \$106.00 dues.

13) Scholarship Applications

Herbert Bowker: Anna Yatskova, applicant

Valerie Henkin, Teacher

Valerie moved and Heather seconded to give the entire \$300.00 to this student.

Nancy Oliva Scholarship Applications

Amelia Wagner, applicant, student of Heather Riley

Valerie Stark moved to establish a “Judged Festival Scholarship” for this year only, to match whatever the Nancy Oliva Scholarship would award, and to award this one-time scholarship to Amelia Wagner. (This student lives in NH but studies in Mass, but can’t compete in the Bay State Contest because she is not a Mass. resident.) (Double major in Piano Performance and Digital Art at DePauw University)

Heather seconded

Unanimously approved

Michael Heyang and Kevin Sherman, applicants

Valerie moved to award the Nancy Olivia Scholarship to these students in the amount we gave out last year. Heather seconded.

Unanimously approved

Michael: Student of Valerie Henkin

Going to Cornell Univ.

Kevin: Student of Valerie Henkin

Going to Peabody

Some discussion ensued as to whether teachers have to be MMTA members in order for their students to apply for scholarships.

Dorothy announced that our next meeting would be held on Friday, Sept. 18 at 10 a.m. at her home, 40 Naples Rd., in Melrose.

The other meetings of the year are TBA

Meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

**Attached: Draft of “Welcome Letter” from Heather Riley (format was altered in pasting)
AND Treasurer’s Report from Valerie.**

Dear

Welcome to the Massachusetts Music Teachers Association! On behalf of the organization, I want thank you for joining MMTA and MTNA for the 2015-16 membership year - we sincerely appreciate your investment in the professional music community of Massachusetts. I hope that your membership experience will enrich, support and inspire you and your students! I encourage you to explore and participate in the many programs MMTA has for teachers and students, such as the Bay State Contest, Musical Achievement Evaluations (MAE), Judged Recitals Festival, and the MTNA competitions. In addition, there are composer commissions, scholarships, and enrichment funds for both teachers and students. You can find all the information about benefits, student programs, and more on our MMTA website at MMTA.net. While you’re there, be sure to Login to your MMTA account where you can update your online profile, register for events, and manage student participation.

Also, don’t forget to take advantage of the many benefits through your MTNA membership! You have access to continuing education and professional development through the annual MTNA conferences, competitions, and pedagogy seminars. Plus, there are many discounts available for office supplies, travel, insurance, banking, legal consultation, and many new technology resources. You also automatically receive exclusive access to MTNA publications, like American Music Teacher and the MTNA e-Journal. Please visit the MTNA website at MTNA.net to learn more about all the resources and benefits.

If you have any questions about your membership, or how to participate in MMTA events, please contact me at: membership@mma.net.

Yours truly,

Heather Riley

Vice President, Membership, MMTA

Treasurer's Report June 12, 2015

Current balances as of May 31

Checking 31,874.99

Savings 19,852.37

48M Jumbo Cert. 25,037.06

The 48 month CD was established April 29, 2015, and already has gained 37.06 in interest.

The reports for the finances of all programs this year are attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Stark, Treasurer