

MMTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Minutes Submitted by Karin Wilks, secretary

Date: September 20, 2019

Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Location: Melrose City Hall, 590 Main Street, Melrose, MA 02176

Present Board Members: Ellyses Kuan, Melissa Vining, Nilly Shilo, Karin Wilks, Yulia Zhuravleva,

Present Chair People: Dorothy Travis, Alison Barr, Vera Rubin, Jonathan Roberts.

Absent Board Members: Heather Riley, Janet Ainsworth

Absent Chair People: Esther Ning Yau, Vivian Tsang, Leslie Hitelman, Penny Oullette, (Heather Riley)

President Ellyses Kuan called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Minutes of June meeting had been previously approved and posted. The following minutes are numbered in the order they were addressed. Ellyses made note of the fact that in the interest of efficiency, all agenda items had been allotted a time limit.

1. WEBSITE SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT – Ellyses

- Previously submitted report was accepted without questions.

2. MUSIC CONNECT PROGRAM REPORT – Alison

- Alison reported that the program has been a great success in its inaugural year. She shared a heartfelt thank you note from a grateful teacher.
- Alison further reported that one teacher in the program has not yet been reimbursed because they have not submitted for payment.
- She pointed out that no applications have been received for the current academic year. It was agreed that there is nothing to prevent teachers for applying for multiple years.
- Melissa confirmed that a request for applications will be printed in the upcoming newsletter.

3. COMMISSIONED COMPOSER REPORT – Dorothy

- Dorothy is enthusiastic about the three composers to be featured at the Quad-State Conference next month. She share personal anecdotes about each of these talented musicians.

- Each performer will receive a stipend of \$150. The board had no objection to providing lunch free of charge to certain guests of the composers on the day of the conference. Vera questioned why only \$150 was to be paid. Dorothy responded that this was the agreed-upon stipend given the fact that the number of recipients was not known in advance.
- Alison and Yulia discussed the accounting aspect of the expense, and it was agreed that since the Commissioned Composer program occurs every two years and not just for the quad-state hosted by Massachusetts, the expense should fall under the line-item "Commissioned Composer" and not "Quad-State Conference."

4. QUAD-STATE CONFERENCE REPORT – Alison

- Alison reported that there are currently 60 registrants for the conference and that more are registering daily. She thanked all involved for their hard work, and singled out Melissa's production of the printed program as deserving of special recognition and praise!
- Alison also commented that the discount available to MMTA at Office Max is very good.
- Five businesses have contracted for ad space in the program.
- The cost of lunches from Endicott is \$11.18. \$15 per lunch will be collected from attendees.
- Alison and Yulia ironed out some of the logistics of paying unexpected day-off expenses.
- Dorothy inquired and it was confirmed that performance and practice areas will be set up. Alison believes so, but will double check.
- As an aside, Dorothy acknowledged that Spectrum Music is going out of business.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT – Yulia

- Yulia reported the current cash position of the organization and commented that the balances are slightly higher than last year at this time.
- Discussed: The procedure for submitting expense reimbursement requests needs to be updated. Dorothy volunteered to assist with this task.

6. MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Yulia

- Ellyses stated that a teacher who has recently earned National Certification is interested in starting a new Massachusetts chapter of MMTA.
- Yulia has sorted the current membership demographically, and reported that seniors (age 70-plus) make up a large percentage of the membership.
- Discussed: Yulia asked for suggestions for answering new members' requests for "contacts." The board suggested that new members be reminded of social events, and that they search the membership database for nearby members.

7. MTNA STATE COMPETITION REPORT – Jonathan

- The state competition will be held at Brandeis University on Sunday, November 3rd. Jonathan requested that board members see him about volunteering for the registration table and other day-of needs of the program.
- Jonathan noted that national registrations for this year's competitions is at an all-time high.
- Various budgetary details were discussed, including:
 - Details regarding the number of judges and amount of judges' stipends. It was agreed that, in terms of the number of judges hired, the highest standard of competitive excellence should be upheld for the Massachusetts competition and that the board supports Jonathan's decisions in this matter.
 - Jonathan again voiced concern about unpaid teacher fees. The board determined that applications having unpaid fees will be classified as "incomplete." Nilly commented that the section for teacher fees on the application could be made more prominent.

8. MTNA STATE COMPOSITION COMPETITION REPORT – Lelsie (not present)

- It was noted that Massachusetts has the highest number of entrants nationwide for this competition!
- MOVED: Dorothy: The judges fee for the MTNA State Composition Competition shall be raised from \$300 to \$400.
- SECOND: Alison
- DISCUSSION: none
- VOTE: unanimous approval.

9. MTNA PRESIDENTS' CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO – Ellyses

- Ellyses read the current MTNA policy regarding travel reimbursements for Presidents and Presidents Elect. She noted that it was recently amended to include the partial advance payment of expenses.
- Discussed: How to allocate reimbursement expenses on the budget. Yulia recommended separate accounting for travel related to the quad-state and national conferences and the Leadership Summit.
- Action: Dorothy volunteered to draft an updated travel reimbursement policy. Ellyses will send it out for approval by email vote.

10. NOMINATING COMMITTEE – Ellyses

- Ellyses reviewed the current by-laws which stipulate how the nominating committee is to be formed, and commented that she is having trouble filling the committee with the requisite volunteers. She is particularly concerned that our current Immediate Past President is not available.
- It was proposed that Dorothy, as the next Immediate Past President, could serve on the committee. She pointed out that the by-laws allow for replacement appointments by the President. However, Nilly volunteered to serve on the committee.
- The Nominating Committee now consists of: Melissa, Valerie (Stark, past Treasurer), and Nilly. They will be contacting board members about their intentions for the term of service commencing in July of 2020.
- Discussed: Yulia shared her well-reasoned opinion that the job of Treasurer should be filled by two people instead of one, and/or that the bookkeeping element of the job be out-sourced. The board was completely sympathetic and thanked Yulia for her excellent work. The matter will be addressed further.

11. NEWSLETTER & SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT – Melissa

- Melissa asked for the dates of all upcoming events for inclusion in the newsletter and said that Vivian will make the appropriate updates on the website.

12. CERTIFICATION REPORT – Nilly

- Nilly reported that two candidates for national certification are due to submit their projects this month.
- She also noted that a newly re-certified teacher who just moved to Massachusetts, requested that her name not be published in the newsletter or other publications.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

- Ellyses thinks that Massachusetts deserves consideration as the MTNA state of the year, most especially due to our ground-breaking Music Connect Program.
- Action: Alison will write an application for the distinction.
- Ellyses suggested nominating Alison for the 2021 MTNA Fellowship. This would require a payment of \$1,500 which would be collected by fund-raising events such as a concert and silent auction.
- Alison will host the 2020 social event at her home in Hanover. The date is to be determined, and will be in mid-June.

- Vera asked if a non-board member could be nominated for Teacher of the Year. The board approved this idea.
- Action: Vera will write a new set of criteria for the TOY award, which could be called "artist-teacher."
- Ellyses and Heather will be brain-storming ideas for the 2020 celebration of MMTA's 60th Anniversary.
- Alison requested and it was agreed that the MTNA National Representative to the quad-state conference, Ginger Hwalek, be reimbursed for her expenses of attending.
- Dorothy is a candidate for the Eastern Division Representative to MTNA. Please support Dorothy's candidacy and cast your vote!

Dorothy Travis

Dorothy Travis, is a music director, accompanist, teacher and performer. Travis received music degrees from Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam and Northwestern University. She has served as chair of the Massachusetts State Performance Competitions, president of MMTA, Commissioned Composer chair and was named 2016 MMTA Teacher of the Year. "Throughout my career, MTNA has been a focal point where I [receive](#) inspiration from its diverse [membership](#) through conferences, colleagues, articles and interactions. As a division director-elect, I would use my communication skills to honor the importance of MTNA and its continued relevance in today's world," she says.

SUBMITTED REPORTS:

Certification Chair Report

September 12, 2019

The national office just confirmed that we have a newly certified teacher, **Michelle Madasamy**. I'm going to send her a welcoming letter and invite her to the Quad Conference so that we get to meet her, and she gets to know our MMTA organization.

I will also ask her for a brief bio and photo to post in the Newsletter although it may not make it to the upcoming issue.

Two more candidates are at the end of their Certification process. Their projects are actually due this month (September 2019), and hopefully they submit them on time.

Looking forward to our meeting on the 20th.
Nilly Shilo

Commissioned Chair Report for September 2019 Board Meeting

All four Quad State MTNA presidents have been contacted regarding the commissioned composer concert at Quad State and have supplied information for the program.

First on the program will be the premiere of a piece by Dennis Báthory-Kitsz, commissioned by Vermont, entitled Fugue States for flute, voice, looper and metallaphones. Due to technical demands, it was decided to prerecord this piece.

NH and Maine are doing a joint commission and have selected Alexandra du Bois. Her piece is a solo piano piece entitled Oh Monarch, How Beautiful You Are, which is from a gatha—sanskrit for "verse" or "song"—which calls us to be in the present moment by zen buddhist monk, teacher, poet, and peace activist thich nhat Hahn. The piece will be performed by Annie Antonacos from Maine who is also the Commissioned Composer Chair.

The MA composer is Vartan Aghababian. He will be premiering Modal Dances, a seven movement piece for flute, clarinet, and bassoon with auxillary percussion based on the seven modes.

The national portion of the commission fee for MA has been requested from National for \$750. Our portion is \$1250 for a total commission fee of \$2000 which will be presented at the concert. We will be paying each of the three musicians \$150 per our guidelines.

Clarification of lunch for musicians (likely 3) and composers mother.

Composition Competition Report:

Dear Board,

The 2019 MTNA Composition Competition is underway. Massachusetts has an increase in the number of entries. Ten teachers entered a total of 22 students!

The breakdown for the 22 entries is 4 Young Artist, 9 Senior, 6 Junior, and 3 Elementary.

We have three distinguished judges evaluating the compositions and selecting winners and honorable mentions to represent Massachusetts at the Eastern Division Competition.

The judges are Alla Borzova, Elizabeth R. Austin, and Michael Djupstrom.

Thank you for supporting this program. The teacher fees will total \$370.

According to Yulia, MMTA will receive 50% of the entry fee from National. \$935 is

50% of the \$1870 in entry fees.

Typically the judges are each paid \$300. Since we have 22 entries this year I would like to be able to offer the judges extra compensation. Reading the score and writing comments for 22 compositions will require many hours of work. I propose that with the \$1305 that we collect we could pay each of the judges \$400.

What are your thoughts? Proposals?

thank you, Leslie

MTNA Leadership Summit Report

By Ellyses Kuan (September 8, 2019)

Speaker, Christine Bates, a retired psychologist specializing in psychotherapy shared with the state presidents, using the enneagram, a model of personality differences, to understand ourselves and others. She explains how to use the model to improve the dynamics of personal and professional relationships. By going into a closer look at each of the different types and examine the potential strengths, gifts and contribution to organizations and working with students.

Each state received the Membership Renewals report dated August 28, 2019. Currently there are 48 existing members have not renewed their dues. MTNA urges every state to contact these members for a follow-up contact within the following week, or by the end of September.

In the states-by-size meeting, states with the similar size of membership shares the challenge of having a collegiate chapter, getting the college faculty involved (joining the membership) and finding venues for events due to increase of rental cost. Meeting moderator Cindy Peterson-Pearl, Board Director Northwest Division reminds state president to nominate their state MTA for the State Affiliate of the year in the future. The nomination number this year is unusually low this year (only 13 states). As a result, there are not enough entries for all seven division and all seven states-by-sure meetings to get at least two nominees from which to select a finalist. The board of direction will discuss the matter and make the selection at their meeting.

In the State Presidents Advisory Council Meeting meeting, Florida and South Carolina states are suggestion an adjustment to the percentage paid to the State MTAs, and more financial supports/rebates from National in support the MTNA competition on a state level due to the recent implementation of the ONLINE video for division competition. CEO Gary Ingles shared the reports and said needs more time to evaluate the video platform . MTNA's suggestion to states that has a net loss on competition

should look into establishing a new teacher's entry fee, to lower the expenses, find other income and continue the status quo.

Brian Sheppard, MTNA COO, announced the 2020 MTNA National Conference will be on March 21-25 at the Chicago Marriott Downtown . Competition Winner from National Chopin Piano Competition and internationally acclaimed pianist Anton Nel will highlight the evening recitals. Keyboard speaks is Noa Kageyama, performance psychologist and Juilliard faculty member. Early bird registration deadline is December 5, 2019.

Deadline to nominate and fully fund a Fellow is Monday, January 20!

**MMTA Board Meeting Report
MMTA's Music Connect Program**

Thank you for approving the scholarship amount of \$5120.00 for 2019-2020 academic year.

Applications are open for this year!

After Quad State, I will work on redoubling efforts to find independent funding sources.

Grants paid out for 2018-2019 AFTER our June Board Meeting:

\$180

\$240

\$420 Total

I will read (names omitted) a beautiful letter I received from the parent of a MMTA's Music Connect grant recipient.

Melissa Vining was kind enough to create a wonderful ad promoting MMTA's Music Connect for the Quad State Program Book. Thanks, Melissa!

Thanks for all the support! This program remains a source of amazing pride in the power of MMTA and our ability to help students!!!!

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Barr

Newsletter and Social Media Information

MMTA Board Meeting – September 20, 2019

Newsletter

- Information requested from board members:
 - o Articles for the newsletter
 - o Event dates/times/locations (as soon as available)
- If you want me to send out any email blasts regarding events, etc. I'm happy to do that
 - o For email blasts, send me the event details and let me know when you want me to schedule the blast(s)

MMTA Newsletter Submission Deadlines and Publishing Dates 2019-2020

- Fall 2019
 - o Deadline for submissions Friday, September 13
 - o To be published Monday, September 23
- Winter 2019
 - o Deadline for submissions Friday, December 6
 - o To be published Monday, December 16
- Spring 2020
 - o Deadline for submissions Friday, March 6
 - o To be published Monday, March 16
- Summer 2020
 - o Deadline for submissions Friday, June 5
 - o To be published Monday, June 15

Social Media

- Request for social media content from board members
 - o I would like to continue getting social media content from all board members

o Please try to send at least 4 pieces of content (it can also be something that you want repeated four times throughout the year)

§ Topics (festival information, exciting news from MMTA, etc.)

§ Details (registration information, dates, times, web links, etc.)

§ Pictures and/or marketing copy is helpful, but not required

*I think it would be great to take a new group photo of the board if we have time!

Nominating Committee

9.20.2019

Ellyses Kuan

ARTICLE V – ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. A Nominating Committee shall be elected to nominate MMTA officers. The committee shall consist of the Immediate Past President and two (2) Active members of the Association. The MMTA Board of Directors shall elect these two members. Each shall have given his or her consent. The committee shall elect its own chair.

The Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate of not more than two (2) candidates for each office. This slate shall appear in an issue of the official Association publication at least thirty (30) days before the date of the annual meeting of the Association

To do:

1. Elect two Active members to be presented at the nominating committee
2. Identify the number of offices the committee will need to fill

Over the summer, I have reached out to some of the board members and active members and seek interest in joining the committee. We currently have two candidates who are willing to serve on the committee at the moment.

Candidates:

Melissa Vining

Valerie Stark

We will take a vote at the board meeting so they can move on identifying their own chair person and seek potential candidates to fill the office.

The vote for new officers will be at the June Annual Meeting (June 12, 2020)

President/President-Elect Advanced Funding for MTNA conference, Funding for Leadership Summit Proposal

9.20.2019

Ellyses Kuan

President/President-Elect Advanced Funding for MTNA conference

Back in October 2018, Dorothy proposed an amendment to the change of the policy in providing partial advanced funding for President and President-Elect to attend the MTNA conference. The discussion started in the emails and some of the officers have expressed their voting preference. However, the official vote has not been counted. Since the MTNA Conference 2020 is coming up soon, I would like to propose we go through the matter at the meeting .

The following includes the current policy and the highlighted one is the amendment Dorothy suggested and drafted.

Travel Policy for President/President-elect Approved at February 15, 2016 Board Meeting

- The President shall have a travel allowance of up to \$2000 to attend the National Convention, Quad State Convention and Eastern Division Competitions.
- The President-elect shall have a travel allowance of up to \$1500 to attend the National Convention, Quad State Convention and Eastern Division Competitions.
- In the event that the President is unable to attend the National or Quad State conventions, the President-elect shall have the same travel allowance as the President.
- The \$3500 caps in this policy are subject to review by the treasurer on a yearly basis.

Proposed Amendment to the Above Policy October 6, 2018

- The allowance for the travel policy is paid on a reimbursable basis, but a partial advance payment may be made to the President and/or President/Elect prior to travel not to exceed the cost of registration, trip insurance, and 50% of the airfare.
- The President and/or President/Elect must provide receipts to the treasurer and proof of trip insurance in order to receive an advance on the allowance.

Motion for Amended Travel Policy for President/President-elect

**Presented September 20,
2019**

- The President shall have a travel allowance of up to \$2000 to attend the National and Quad State Conventions and the *MTNA Leadership Summit.
- The President-elect shall have a travel allowance of up to \$1500 to attend the National and Quad State Conventions and the MTNA Leadership Summit.
- In the event that the President is unable to attend the National or Quad State conventions, the President-elect shall have the same travel allowance as the President.
- The \$3500 caps in this policy are subject to a yearly review by the treasurer.
- The allowance for the travel policy is paid on a reimbursable basis, but a partial advance payment may be made to the President and/or President/Elect prior to travel not to exceed the cost of registration, trip insurance, and 50% of the airfare.
- The President and/or President/Elect must provide receipts to the treasurer and proof of trip insurance in order to receive an advance on the allowance.
- Per diem on meals limited to \$55 per day

* MTNA covers the cost of airfare and hotel.

Leadership Summit Budget Proposal

The MTNA Leadership Summit is hosted by MTNA annually in September for State President (or President-Elect) to receive training in running the state organization. MTNA covers the expenses including airfare, hotel and local transportation (roundtrip from and to the airport) but not meal expense. Vivian reminds us (in the email threads) that since the Eastern Division Competition has moved to online format, maybe the board should make amendments to the budget allocation. Thus, I suggested we move the Eastern Division Competition expense budget to cover the meal expenses for State President or State President-Elect who attends the summit on behalf of MMTA. No motion is formed at the moment. We should have further discussion on this at the meeting.

MTNA State Competition Report, September 11, 2019

Jonathan Roberts, Competition Chair

The 2019 State Competition will be held on Sunday, November 3rd at Brandeis University.

With the state competition registration deadline having passed at 3pm today, the final registration numbers are as follows:

Piano, Junior Division – 8

String, Junior Division – 4

Woodwind, Junior Division – 1

Piano, Senior Division – 9

String, Senior Division – 5

Piano, Young Artist Division – 6

Woodwind, Young Artist Division – 1

With the number of entrants this year, especially the larger number of young artist entrants, I am planning for the junior and senior divisions of the piano competition to take place concurrently, with the young artist piano competition following the senior competition. With the number of string entrants, the junior and senior competitions can be done back to back with the same set of judges. So, there will be a total of three judging rooms. Only the senior and young artist piano divisions will be open to the public.

If any board members are interested in volunteering to help for all or part of the day, please let me know. I will need room monitors for each of the three competitions and a volunteer to help with registration.

Website Committee Report

9.20.2019

Ellyses Kuan

Unfortunately, the website design dropped out of the job due to personal and family reasons. The website committee is in the process to start/restart looking for a different web designer / web company to take on this project.

Melissa has two contacts (one local designer and one online company based in midwest).

Most important concern: How to make sure our existing registration program can incorporate in the new website unless there is an easy and economic alternative?

We will continue to update the progress as we know more.

Thank you all.

Treasurer Report

September 20, 2019

| <u>Accounts</u> | <u>6/19</u> | <u>7/19</u> | <u>8/19</u> | <u>9/20/19</u> |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| Savings | \$20,091 | \$20,100 | \$20,109 | \$20,109 |
| Checking | 54,766 | 57,533 | 54,918 | 55,757 |
| Total | 74,857 | 77,633 | 75,027 | 75,849 |

Total Balances last year: June '18 \$73,824 August '18 \$71,861

Comments:

- July Increase:
 - Membership dues
 - Quad State Registration
- August Decrease:
 - Scholarships Paid
- September Increase:
 - Membership Fees
 - Commissioned Composer Rebate
 - Quad State Registration and expenses