

Maryland State Music Teachers Association

Board Meeting Minutes, April 14, 2008

In attendance: Douglas Guiles, Richard Hartzell, David Holmes, Claudette Horwitz, Ann Matteson, Marina Ovtcharenko, Marcia Slentz-Whalen, Kathryn Stansbery; Kristina Suter, Junko Takahashi, Helen Weems, Deborah White-Bondhus, and Carol Wolfe-Ralph

The meeting was held at Jordan Kitts Music in College Park, and was **called to order by President, Carol Wolfe-Ralph at 10.15**

Agenda: After a few additions to the agenda, Marcia moved to approve it as amended, Richard seconded. Passed unanimously.

Minutes of February 18, 2008 Board Meeting: Secretary, Kathy Stansbery read the minutes. The following correction was made: under Student Activities, Theory, second paragraph...The first sentence should read, "Graduate student, Nathan Lincoln-Decusatis, was hired to do the computer layout of the tests over his winter break."

David moved to approve, Marcia seconded, passed unanimously.

Finance Report: VP for Finance, Claudette Horwitz gave her report, as of March 31. Several events have yet to submit their net income. She quoted the judges' fees for various events. MTNA gives judges \$75/hr. Most of MSMTA's events pay judges \$25 per hour, which is the "official" payment, although MSMTA's Ensemble pays \$30. The judges for the Chamber Music were paid \$100, but the hourly breakdown is not known. Scott Beard, chair for the E. R. Davis, said that \$25 was really low, plus MSMTA does not pay mileage. Doug Guiles, who is chairing the Activity Fees committee, is compiling all this information so that a decision can be made concerning fee changes in July.

Presidents Report: The **April MSMTA Newsletter** is on the website.

The **Concerto** worked well this year as Carol had organized a good pick-up group (14 members). The student winners were ecstatic. We need to let people know about this, to encourage more participation; consequently, we will receive more income. Carol used Sibelius to input parts from a conductor's score. The committee is considering Beethoven's 2nd and Mozart's K. 40. Carol is willing to do the parts if necessary. Once the decisions on repertoire are made, it will be sent out via email through the local presidents and appear in the next newsletter.

The **MTNA Conference in Denver** was very good this year. Lang Lang was the guest artist. There is new insurance that members can receive under MTNA. Maryland is the 1st state to have this information on their website! Although Gary Ingle is Executive Director, because of his duties, the MTNA Board decided that he should also be the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The MTNA membership said that this involved a By-Laws change, thus the membership should have voted on this. It was voted to "let it go."

Local Associations have given around \$1200 in donations to **Ronald McDonald House**.

Student Activities: VP Richard Hartzell presented the following report.

Piano Ensemble: There was a University of MD liaison person, Marcus Wyche, who was very responsible and a great help, so it was felt that paying him was justified.

During the event one piano was damaged, but it is not known if it was an MSMTA participant.

Practice rooms are NOT rented for events by MSMTA, although they have been used as such. This usage cannot be allowed. The Solo is so huge, it is not a practical option to make practice rooms available. This also goes for other events. Richard will inform all Chairs that practice rooms are not available for MSMTA's use.

Chairs should be responsible for **certificates** for their individual event.

Publications: New Publications VP, Junko Takahashi, had no report. The paper copy of the April Newsletter has not yet been mailed.

Membership: VP Marina Ovtcharenko presented her report. We have 602 members, including 51 new members this year in 8 local associations. She would like to know to which local association members belong. John Ralph is working on this.

Old Business

Directory: Local presidents need to give Carol current membership information within the next week. She will send out emails.

Howard County Theory: This is no longer an issue; Howard County had sufficient numbers of entries in two centers this year to justify having a second center for next year. Montgomery County will probably request a second center for the coming year.

Judges' Fees: Chair, Doug Guiles, announced that the Finance VP, Claudette Horwitz, is now included in the Committee. The committee needs to check income/losses to see if it is necessary to increase activity fees as well.

HS Recognition Exams: Ann Matteson reported that this event made \$2000 last year due to an increase in fees. However, there should not be such a profit as it is a shared Maryland State Board of Education/MSMTA event. Doug moved to use any excess in income from the HS Exams to increase the judges' compensation, at Ann's discretion, as long as it does not exceed the profit for this year. Marcia seconded. Passed unanimously.

It is possible to have a contact name and/or all chairs' names in the MSMTA Student Activities Handbook, if desired. At this time an Anne Arundel County member is not listed as a contact for AAMTA.

Is there a letter to be given to the High School Principal to obtain an excused absence for taking the HS Exams? This should probably be done in conjunction with the Maryland Board of Education. It would be preferable to have this letter available online to print out. Carol will ask Ann to check on this.

Carol will look into the status of any MSMTA **Student Chapters** and investigate what it would involve to initiate them.

New Business:

Theory: Marina and Junko reported that Montgomery County MTA has too many students in its one Theory center to chaperone. There are safety concerns as well as a lack of a quiet environment

and attention for the students taking the upper levels. Therefore, they wish to have two testing dates next year, separating the lower level (1-6) and upper level (7 and up).

Debbie needs 5 test-writers for next year. Kristina suggested that writing tests needs to begin earlier, as this year, some were not completed until January. All tests and CDs were given to Debbie at the very last minute. There was very little time to review tests, copy CDs, etc. There is also a need to get more people involved, as the job is too big for a small amount of people. The proofing done by U of MD students cannot be done before their winter break. It would be nice to have the CDs professionally produced and then proofed at the same time as the tests. Carol proposed having one person be in charge of scheduling, to make sure everything is done on time. This would include the writing, proofing, copying, and getting the materials to centers in a timely manner. Perhaps two people would be needed, one for the lower levels and one for the upper levels.

Doug moved to ask the Theory Chair, in conjunction with the President, to review how the Theory program can be restructured. Kristina seconded. Passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50. The next meeting is June 9th

Respectfully Submitted by,

Kathryn P. Stansbery, MSMTA Recording Secretary