

Minutes from MMTA Winter Board Meeting (Feb 17, 2018)

In attendance: Melissa Simons, Robert Carney, Jason Hausback, Kyu Butler, Sharon Parker, Laura Wiebe, Erica Manzo

In absentia: Peter Miyamoto, Chris Vitt

Meeting was called to order at 4:08pm with introductions

- I. Approval of MMTA Board Meeting Minutes from Nov 2, 2018.
Motion made to approve minutes as submitted. Seconded. Minutes approved as submitted.

- II. Officer Reports: (as needed)

- a. President – Robert Carney

All report information is incorporated later in agenda

- b. President Elect – *Need nominations*

Robert reported that Hye-Jung was discussed as a possible candidate at the Nov meeting; however, she has not been officially asked.

According to the by-laws, the President should elect a nominating committee which should contain the immediate past President (Peter) and two active members of the association. Jason agreed to be on the nominating committee. Kyu will ask around St. Louis area to see about interest in serving on the committee.

Although we are a little delayed in starting on the process, provisions in the bylaws allow for electronic voting. Once the nominating committee completes task, it will come to the executive committee for a vote and then the full membership for a vote. We hope to publish for 3 months and have official vote running during that time, allowing us to make everything official at the June meeting.

- c. VP Auditions – Jason Hausback/Kyu Butler

Jason reported that the dates for 2019 conference have been discussed but not confirmed (see agenda item VII for more detail.) He will approach the University Plaza Hotel in Springfield for reserving a block of rooms.

Discussion on ways to save money. We seem to lose money based on judges changing their minds about hotel stays/food. Questions were posed to offer a “package deal” to judges; find judges closer to competition; cut down on number of judges.

Discussion about pros and cons to hiring local judges/teachers to help save money. Executive committee agreed that there should be clear qualifications and rules to deter bias. Robert suggests that local association presidents could communicate that to memberships as well as

discuss concerns.

Discussion about how to raise number of applicants. Idea was brought forth to add chamber music (string ensembles/string and piano) as a category for pre-collegiate. Discussion over logistical issues (qualified judges, available rooms for competition, etc). It was brought to attention that MMTA rules already allow for ensembles at all levels, so an executive vote wouldn't be necessary. Jason and Kyu will move forward with advertising and soliciting interest at the pre-collegiate level. String judge can adjudicate piano trios and string ensembles.

d. VP Publications and Public Relations – Laura Wiebe

Laura asked for input on creating a job description. She is also managing the Facebook page for MMTA and asked if there was any other official information she should include on that page. Ideas given were to introduce executive committee with pictures and to highlight local associations and what they are accomplishing.

e. VP Local Associations and Student Chapters – Sharon Parker

Sharon reported that she received one matching grant application from St. Louis local chapter (SLAMTA). They are asking for \$1,000 to present a 3-day event of artist recitals and lectures (see Appendix A for application). Motion made by Sharon to approve money for SLAMTA, seconded, and passed. Sharon will send spreadsheet of who is eligible in each year and the past allocations of money.

Robert reported that MMAMTA has asked for even year rotation (instead of odd years). No one expressed concern. This change will be made.

f. Secretary – Melissa Loehnig Simons

Melissa reported that she is excited to be working for MMTA again. The job description mentions that the Secretary is to “maintain the MMTA binder and keep it up-to-date.” Discussion about where this might be. Robert will contact Lauren to track it down.

g. Executive Secretary (and Advertisement) – Erica Manzo

Erica reported on the current balance and that the balance is better than in last couple of fiscal years. Robert will follow up with Chris to get full report to add to minutes.

h. Treasurer – Chris Vitt

N/A

i. Webmaster – (vacant)

Robert stressed the importance of this position, specifically to maintain and update content on webpages. Robert offered help with upcoming redesign of website but doesn't want the full responsibility long term

III. Officer Positions Open

a. President-Elect

See above discussion (Item IIb)

b. MTNA Young Artist

Kyu will ask to see about possible interest in St Louis

c. MTNA Jr/Sr.

Jason mentioned that Daniel Ketter could be of possible interest. Robert voiced that an executive vote is not needed, as the position is appointed by the President. Jason will ask Daniel to see if he will accept position.

d. Website

See above discussion (Item III)

IV. Moving Forward with Website and Registration

a. Website functionalities?

Although certain websites have been recommended (specifically Tenuto Web) – these will charge \$1,000 or more to get website up and running. Custom companies will charge more. See Item IVb for solution.

i. Login for board members?

Executive committee agreed to not worry about this currently

ii. Find a Teacher Page? (link to MTNA's)

Discussion about peskiness of maintaining this page. It should list only currently active teachers who have paid membership dues and this is tricky to keep tabs on. The alternative would be to refer site visitors to MTNA's Find a Teacher search engine. Executive committee agreed this would be more manageable

iii. Location for all meeting minutes, job descriptions, procedures, forms (should this be publicly accessible?)

Discussion about what should be confidential vs. public. Robert mentioned the need to document we are a functioning entity in order to maintain status as non-profit organization.

b. Website companies – go with WordPress's business package at \$300/yr?

Robert reported on WordPress (content management software) as a solution to the website redesign. The business package is around \$300/yr and is stable, safe, and economical. Plug-Ins would allow us to choose what we would like to have available (minutes, member logins, etc). Our current site uses WordPress, so it will be an easier solution to mitigate issues the site has had in the past. Robert will move ahead. He will look at "premium themes" (visual aesthetic template) and email executive committee for feedback.

- c. Registration – use web-based Google Docs? Also payment through PayPal?
All agreed that simplicity is the main goal. If we use a simple web-based form, teachers will have to fill out a single form for every student. Payments can go through PayPal or some other medium.

Discussion about other options; none seemed appropriate due to past experience and the amount of customization necessary.

Concern expressed about timetable. The goal is to have the new plan in place before next meeting (early June) and then we can discuss how to troubleshoot.

- V. Foundation Fellow – 2020; Peter recommends a table for next year in Chicago.
Robert mentioned that we will be picking a fellow in November for the 2020 year and to be thinking about nominations. Discussion about qualifications and benefits.

Executive committee will discuss possibility of having a table at the gala event in November when nominations are made.
- VI. Matching Grants: Mid-Missouri Area Music Teachers Association switch to even years
See above discussion (Item IIe)
- VII. State Conference – MSU: Nov 7-10
Jason reported that we will not be certain about calendar until March. Hye-Jung is the site host and can work with Julie to iron out any problems with venue. Robert will follow up with Hye-Jung.
- VIII. Membership Drive this Spring (leading up to June board meeting)
Robert expressed need for more communication with current members (through local associations) and a push to renew so we don't lose members.
- IX. Poster Sessions Update (Committee: Robert, Kyu, Sharon)
Discussion about forming a committee was had at November meeting, but never formalized. Motion moved by Melissa to approve committee, seconded, and passed. Committee can move forward with guidelines for dimensions, information, etc.
- X. Other Topics
None brought forward
- XI. Next Meeting?
In early May, Robert will send out Doodle Poll for meeting time in June. Other business could be held via email if necessary. Everyone expressed smoothness of “virtual” meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:01 pm

Appendix A



January 27, 2019

Dear Sharon and the MMTA Board,

Several years ago I suggested at a SLAMTA board meeting that we set up a special fund to support an annual special guest artist event. This was after we had a very successful event with composer Christopher Norton. With the approval of the board I was given the go-ahead to establish a special fund to support the idea of inviting an acclaimed artist to St. Louis for the benefit of our teachers and students. It has been a very successful program and we look forward, with MMTA's support, to continue to enrich our teachers and their students.

We need a minimum of \$3K before we can officially invite one of the 3 guests who have tentatively said, "yes". To date we have raised \$1.3K in donations. We need to secure a performance site and we will not be able to set dates in Winifred Moore Auditorium until the summer of 2019. (as is the case in most academic institutions) However, Caroline Hixson is well connected there, and will be able to get us a date. We are hoping for a Fall or Spring date.

MMTA generously gave us a matching grant in 2017, and as a result, we were able to invite pianist Anton Nel back to St. Louis. It was a most successful and well-attended weekend of events. Typically, artists arrive on Thursday evening, then give a presentation to teachers on Friday, followed by Master Classes on Saturday, culminating in the Solo Recital on Sunday afternoon. The Master Classes will be held at Steinway Gallery in St. Louis. Presentations are also at Steinway Gallery in St. Louis.

Here is a list of who we have invited over the past 5 years

2014 - Pianist Anton Nel

2015 - Pianist/Composer Alexander Peskanov (also did a presentation on the Russian Regimen of Piano Technique)

2016 - Pianist Sean Chen

2017 - Pianist Anton Nel

2018 - Pianist, Stephen Spooner (also did a presentation on "Preparing students for competition")

We are hoping to invite one of the following teachers/pianists to St. Louis in the next year:

- Sasha Starceвич
- Natalya Antonova
- Ian Hobson

We hope our proposal will meet with your approval. I look forward to hearing back from you. We can then get to work to make the magic happen again in the coming year.

Many thanks,
Laureen Di Bisceglie
SLAMTA Legacy Fund Chair.

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