

# WMTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wisconsin Center for Music Education Waunakee, Wisconsin

June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 9:30am – 12:00pm

**In attendance:** Catherine Walby, Nicholas Phillips, Suzanne Fauser, Gail Heywood, Arlyss Troge, Sandra Ryan, Emily Schultz, Drea Wagner, Lisa Zwiefelhofer, Nancy Burman, Bethany Hartlaub, Leah Kozelek, Rita Schuman, Katie Butler.

**Regrets:** Rachel Fritz, Kayme Henkel.

**Call to Order** – By President, Catherine Walby at 9:37am.

**Adoption of the Agenda** – Motion to adopt by Nancy Burman, seconded by Lisa Zwiefelhofer.

**Approval of Minutes** – Approved by consensus.

## Officer Reports

**President – Catherine Walby, NCTM** – Stepping down: Owen Lovell, Arthur Johnson and Luke Talen. New: Erin Peyer, Technology; Diana Shapiro, Collaborative Performance Forum; Leah Kozelek and Emily Schultz, District Auditions committee. Arts Awareness and Advocacy Forum is still vacant. No MTNA travel grants were given this year due to proximity of ECD and none attending MTNA. Nick Phillips will be going to the MTNA leadership summit in Cincinnati as the president elect.

**Immediate Past President – Gail Heywood, NCTM** – No report.

**President Elect – Nicholas Phillips, NCTM** – Nick has been working with Catherine to learn the position and will officially take over after the Business Luncheon at this year's WMTA Conference.

**1<sup>st</sup> VP-Conference – Gail Heywood, NCTM** – This year's conference will be held at the Blue Harbor Resort & Conference in Sheboygan on October 23<sup>rd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>. The conference guest artist will be Panayis Lyras, Silver medalist at the 1981 Van Cliburn Competition. The Friday night dinner is plated, they will have a vegetarian option and happily work with anybody who has dietary needs. The entertainment for the evening is not yet determined. The one-day exhibit hall will be Friday only and in a large foyer area. We are currently looking for advertising options for the Conference program. The deadline for conference booklet submissions is September 1<sup>st</sup>. Discussed options for improving attendance of collegiate members. Currently it is \$55 if they register in advance. Perhaps members in the area could host some of the students or help fund a student to help cover housing expense. Perhaps students could meet together for a pizza party instead of joining in the banquet dinner. If student scholarships were initiated by the local associations it may be a strong way to tie them to the local area and be easier to connect the opportunity. It was also proposed that students may be able to come for free if they work at least two hours during the event. Nick Phillips motioned to allow collegiate members to come free of charge, except the meals, if they volunteer for two hours at the conference. The deadline to express desire to help would be by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Nancy Burman second. Voting was unanimously in favor. Collegiate members may pay for meals if they wish.

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP-Membership – Arlyss Troge** – MTNA Membership is down 1% and WMTA membership was up %1 for the past year. Local Association presidents have been contacted with guidance to help promote new members and membership retention. The WMTA Newsletter continues to be mailed to 18 members who do not have email.

**Treasurer – Rachel Fritz** – Not present. Catherine Walby reported. The Income from membership dues, conference fees, and other is \$74,101.68. Expenses is \$81,985.74. The current year balance is negative \$7,884.06. The current account balances are \$10,558.15 in the checking account, \$20,579.98 in the Money Market account and \$133,129.08 in a CD. The finance committee has been working on a budget. Most of the expenses are fixed and in order to balance the budget we need to increase all district audition entry fees by \$10. The finance committee decided that was too much for the students and their families. The alternative is to only increase certain fees. This will bring us closer and the difference will come out of savings to keep the balance budgeted. As a note, we have not raised fees in roughly 14 years. Nick Phillips motioned to raise all district and badger (pre-college only) competition fees by \$5 and revisit potential fee increases in the future. Sandy Ryan seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Nancy Burman motioned that in order to balance the budget, we will take any remainder out of the savings account. Lisa Zwiefelhofer second. Motion passed unanimously. The board will discuss doing another audit at the June 2016 meeting. It was motioned by Nancy Burman to go ahead with the 990 tax form preparation and its expenses. Seconded by Bethany Hartlaub. Motioned passed unanimously.

## Program Chair Reports

**Arts Awareness and Advocacy – Vacant** – No report.

**Badger Collegiate Competition – Drea Wagner, NCTM** – The competition was moved to March this year instead of May. It was a money saving change to participate on the same day and location as district auditions. This event is open to all instruments and voice. Winners receive a cash prize.

**Badger Keyboard Competition – Kayme Henkel, NCTM** – Not present. Next year's date is Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. An interesting statistic, 32% of the teachers only entered 1 student and 27% of the teachers entered 5 or more students.

**Badger Vocal/Instrumental Competition – Nancy Burman, NCTM** – Numbers continue to drop, but this year’s event was held at the same time as one of the piano competitions and that worked very well. With so few students we had several honorable mentions, but no winners declared. Judging was done by college professors, but they all wrote many comments, enjoyed their day, and teachers commented positively overall on the judging. Many of the members running the competition also accompany their students. Also, some students have had a hard time finding an accompanist for the competition that day. Discussion was made regarding fees, availability and communication on how to match up accompanists with the need.

**College Faculty Forum – vacant** – No report.

**District Auditions – Rita Schuman, NCTM** – The first year of Ovation is complete. There were a few glitches, but we got through it. Emily Schultz has been cleaning up the composition database. Members with questions about the database or repertoire should now contact Emily Schultz at [wmta-compositionhotline@gmail.com](mailto:wmta-compositionhotline@gmail.com). To provide feedback on judges, positive or negative, please contact Leah Kozelek at [leahkozelek@gmail.com](mailto:leahkozelek@gmail.com). The board discussed methods to improve the overall quality of comments from the Judges. As a perspective, the judge is providing an additional lesson through written comments. The board also discussed some of the form items and comments that have been given from the members and students. Rita has been working on changes to the form to help meet the student’s educational needs.

**High School Virtuoso Competition – Bethany Hartlaub** – This year’s event will be held at the same time as the MTNA competitions on either October 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>. This event provides an opportunity for students in grades 9-12 from across the state to perform music, similar to the MTNA competitions. This is open to all instruments and voice. Applications must be postmarked by September 9, 2015.

**Independent Music Teachers Forum – Sandra Ryan** – Communication for state and local events continues to be a focus. It is recommended that the local associations have a web presence either of their own or on the state website.

**Local Associations – Lisa Zwiefelhofer, NCTM** – End of the year reports reveal the biggest concern is reduced membership. Marshfield will no longer be holding meetings, but they will be sending students to competitions. During the February meeting we discussed encouraging all members to participate in a Local Association. The board discussed this issue further including website updates and opportunities. We will not require all WMTA members to be part of an LA but we will do a better job reaching out to non-LA members. When members join/renew MTNA/WMTA membership, a list of LA are included. We'll ask MTNA to include a location for each LA rather than just the name of it, particularly for new members who don't know WI well.

## **Standing/Special Committees**

**Ovation - Suzanne Fauser** – No report.

**Central Office – Katie Butler** – The next newsletter will be a printed August issue. Due date for submissions is July 1, 2015.

**Finance - Rachel Fritz** – Not present. Finance issues were discussed during the treasurer report.

**Bylaws - Catherine Walby, NCTM** – Proposed changes to the bylaws will be published in the August newsletter, to be voted on at the Annual Business meeting.

**Website – Katie Butler** – The website needs a new software program to move forward with the membership database. The different options were discussed. Rita Schuman motioned to go with “Participants Database Plugin” for a onetime fee of \$115. Arlyss Troge second. Motion approved unanimously. The biggest unknown with expense will be staff time to implement the program.

**Nominating Committee – Rita Schuman, NCTM** – Nicholas Phillips was voted in as the new president elect and we are still looking for a new individual to serve as the VP of Conferences. Rachel Fritz will continue as treasurer and Arlyss Troge will continue as VP of membership.

## **Old Business-none**

None

## **New Business**

**Collegiate Study Grants, Catherine Walby, NCTM** – Five students have applied for grants. The board discussed how much to award. Rita Schuman motioned to award \$200 per student. Nancy Burman second. Motion approved unanimously

**2016 Foundation Fellow, Catherine Walby, NCTM** – Nominated individuals were discussed. The issue was tabled until the October meeting.

**Auditions Issues** – Discussed during the district auditions section.

**Scholarships for Needy Students, Lisa Zwiefelhofer, NCTM** – There are teachers who give lessons for free. The board discussed if we have the ability to support them in the endeavor. After discussion, it was decided to be part of the Local Associations and not a state issue.

**Announcements** – LaCrosse area group will host Dennis Alexander on July 11<sup>th</sup>. New Song Piano Studio and Michibago Music Teacher Association is hosting Robert Vandall on September 25-26th. The next board meeting will take place in Sheboygan on Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8pm in the Lake-view room on the third floor.

**Adjournment** – Nancy Burman motion to adjourn. Rita Schuman second. The meeting was adjourned at 12:19pm.