



**WMTA Executive Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Friday, February 4, 2022**  
10am via Zoom

Members present: Mickey Lytle, Rachel Fritz, Sydney Alexander, Mary Anne Olvera, Opala Billhorn, Sandra Statz, Tricia Marton, Catherine Walby. Absent: Teresa Drews, Hector Landa, Justin Krueger, Jessica Johnson.

- I. **Call to Order/Welcome:** 10:03am
- II. **Adoption of Agenda** Approval by Consensus.
- III. **Approval of Minutes (Executive Board 10/21/21)** Approval by Consensus.
- IV. **Reports of Officers**
  - a. **President, Mickey Lytle, NCTM:** See attached report.
  - b. **Immediate Past President, Rachel Fritz:** See attached report. Rachel has spent much time with Slingshot regarding fixing Ovation for 2022 auditions. As part of the poor design of Ovation, the database wasn't set up to continue auditions past 2021. We need to consider how much time and money we want to spend on this. We've put in 10-20 hours on rescuing Ovation for 2022 already. It was decided to use Google Sheets for 2022 and put in the 2022 auditions data in the summer when Slingshot is ready, making 2022 our first year to enter in the new database and a way to work out the kinks in the new system. Opala and Mary Anne says we can leave it this way now, and will work on in the future. People are OK with system now.
  - c. **1<sup>st</sup> VP-Conference, Hector Landa:** Not present. See attached report. We need to get moving on a venue so we can make up some lost time for planning.
  - d. **2<sup>nd</sup> VP-Membership, Justin Krueger, NCTM:** See attached report. Make sure DC chairs are up to date and membership list updated.
  - e. **Treasurer, Sydney Alexander:** See Report. Numbers may look scary with database costs, but we shouldn't be doing any further Ovation costs/changes. We should be having checks now coming in for registrations, too. 75% of Slingshot costs are going to District expenses and 25% are going to Badger expenses.
- V. **Reports of Program Chairs**
  - a. **Arts Awareness and Advocacy, Teresa Drews:** Not Present. Nothing to report.
  - b. **Badger Keyboard Competition, Mary Anne Olvera, NCTM:** See attached report. Badger Keyboard is in May. The present issue is consistent communication with the Parkside professor. We also need a site chair for Parkside.
  - c. **Badger Vocal/Instrumental Competition – Opala Bilhorn, NCTM:** See attached report. Competition will be held in May. We will be allowing pre-recorded accompaniments for everyone this year. It's updated on the website, too. We are also working on the ensemble track for vocal and ensemble.
  - d. **College Faculty Representative, Jessica Johnson, NCTM:** Not present. See report.
  - e. **District Auditions, Sandra Statz, NCTM:** See attached report. Zoom meetings on Friday mornings are going great. Some teachers have been getting push back on masking requirements. Reminded to stick to the protocols from the facility for enforcement. Opala asked: most public schools are required to wear masks, is there room for unmasking for singing? Rachel responded: most music schools have policies on this. We are following the school recommendations. Sandra

responded that if you have a choice, go with the Judge's call. If both the judge and the facility don't care, then they can do what they are comfortable with. Opala stated we need to communicate with everyone on this. Sandra will recommunicate.

- f. **Independent Music Teachers Forum, Tricia Marton:** See attached report. "The Gathering" is getting together in Fall 2022. We are hoping for proposals
- g. **Local Association Chair, Catherine Walby, NCTM:** Nothing to report.

**VI. Standing/Special Committees**

- a. **Finance Committee, Sydney Alexander:** Local Association Special Project Grant, see report for details. New larger local association grant: We put it out, but didn't get applicants in the last 2 years. We'd like to offer again this year for this grant. The application is due March 1, June board meeting to vote on it. Committee is meeting soon to discuss/revise student grants application.

**VII. Old Business**

- a. **Ovation issues and expenses, Rachel Fritz:** Allocating/capping funds for fixing of Ovation (see Immediate Past President Report): Ovation, we pay \$185/hour for slingshot. Catherine suggests we stop investing in Ovation. Tricia suggested we should focus our finances on what we really want to do. Sydney stated we don't have lots of money to be paying for excessive funds to draw from. Rachel agreed we can stop and quit working on this. Mickey stated that we can get the info out of Ovation that we need; Rachel reminded we may have paid for 5 years' worth of storage of information. Rachel moved and Catherine seconded to not invest any more funds into Ovation. Motion carried.

**VIII. New Business**

- a. **Privacy policy and mailing list inquiries, Mickey Lytle:** We have had a request to purchase our mailing list. Catherine: We have sent a postal list in the past, but not an email list. We have offered to send emails on their behalf, but not send them the list. Rachel says we can say it's one time use only and set it up so we can tell if they use it more than once. Rachel moved to sell our postal list and at a cost of \$75/list for one-time use, but not sell the email listing. Discussion: Tricia suggested why wouldn't we sell them an ad at the same \$75. Members felt that targeted emails have different desired outcomes and audience than one-time postal use by most organizations. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. **Judge's compensation, entry fees for 2023 Auditions season, Mary Anne Olvera:** Mary Anne outlined current rates and stated we need to reevaluate rates based on other organizations' rates and our expectations of judges. Rachel moved for new rates of: District for \$35, \$38 for Badger, \$40 for National. Discussion: We need to collect more financial information before we can set/adjust rates for 2023. Motion to table for June meeting after finance reviews it with input from Mary Anne and Opala, and more research.
- c. **Auditions structure/requirements proposal by members, Sandra Statz:** Sandra reviewed that David Reedy proposed elimination of memorization and/or theory requirements. After discussion, Mickey suggested sending a survey to the membership. The board will be asked to submit questions by Feb 11 and we will get a survey out to the board to review, and then we can send it to the membership for planning 2023 and forward.
- d. **Meeting venue/platform for June meeting, Mickey Lytle:** Need to determine meeting arrangements for June Executive Board/Administrative Council meetings. Also consider faculty attendance scheduling issues for board meeting attendance. It was decided that the June 10 meeting will be in person with flexibility to move to Zoom if pandemic requires. No hybrid option will be available. It was decided that given COVID and food sensitivity issues, lunch will be bring your own, but WMTA will provide coffee, water, & soda. Mickey will send out meeting information when venue is secured.

**IX. Announcements**

- a. Next Executive Board and Administrative Council Meetings are tentatively set for Friday, June 10, 2022. Meeting times to be announced when venue is set.

**X. Adjournment** approximately 11:48am. By Consensus.

## Reports of Officers

### President: Mickey Lytle, NCTM

Appointments: Hector Landa, VP-Conference; Juanita Becker, Media Chair

New Hire: Heather Reeder, Administrative Assistant

Resignations: none

Open: Ashley Jehn's position as the MTNA Senior Competitions Coordinator has not been filled.

I'd like to extend a special thank you to Rachel Fritz for all she's still doing with the Slingshot work, and for her willingness to be available to me for presidential onboarding issues. Much appreciation, Rachel!

### Immediate Past President: Rachel Fritz

I have been working on the new auditions database project. At the October meeting WMTA decided to go forward with the proposal from Slingshot Data Labs. This is the same company that has been able to give WMTA support for the Ovation database which this new database will be replacing. We started based on Slingshots recommendation to begin with the standard status. In December we learned that the target date was going to be about 2 weeks later than we were anticipating. At that point WMTA chose to move to elevated status. In order to have the project, it would need to be completed for the Spring 2022 auditions. In the middle of January we learned that despite the elevated, the project still would not be finished in time for Spring 2022.

At this point then we went back to work using Ovation, it had worked for the 2021 auditions with the needed updates and we were prepared to work around these items. The largest of these being theory tests that are not in the system and theory leveling not lining up with what current WMTA rules. Then as teachers were entering information we learned that the system was not taking submission into events. Currently this is the issue that the database company is working on for auditions.

As Ovation is not functioning at this point we have had to move to google sheets for registration at this point. Thank you to Louise Mann for assisting in this process.

At the time of writing this report here is the current progress on the new database:

Event Management	89%	completed
Performance Point Entry	100%	completed
Performance Schedule	68%	completed
Judge Contacts	93%	completed
Student Profiles	91%	completed
Teacher Profiles	86%	completed
Event Day Forms	100%	completed

Awards Records                      20.9% completed  
 Badger Report                        0% completed

Even though this is taking much more time than planned as WMTA paid for this on a contract basis additional costs outside of the elevated status are not being incurred for the new database.

For the Ovation database fixes to make it usable, we have incurred additional costs. At the time of writing we have paid \$185 for 1 hour of additional support. This does not include the issue on which they are currently working.

As an organization I ask that we determine how much time we want Slingshot to spend to get Ovation operational.

**1<sup>st</sup> VP-Conference: Hector Landa**

The 2022 WMTA State Conference will be held in Superior, WI, date and specific location TBD. More information will be shared as available.

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP-Membership: Justin Krueger, NCTM**

I ask that LA Membership or DC chairs to look through the membership list to make sure info is correct.

We do our best to make sure all is up to date, but sometimes there is lag in terms of updates to communication.

**Treasurer: Sydney Alexander**

Wisconsin Music Teachers Association

Treasurer Report – February 4, 2022

<b>Account Balances: Jan. 28, 2022</b>	
Checking	7,964
Money Market	19,640
CD 2597 (3.44%, matures 11/28/22)	131,732
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 159,336</b>

<b>Income &amp; Expense: July 1 - Jan. 28, 2022</b>		
<b>Programs</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expense</b>
Membership	2,505	0
Conference	7,100	7,772
District Auditions	0	9,202
Badger Competition	0	2,533
MTNA Competitions	690	570

Young Composer Competition	790	1, 115
Musical Advancement (grants, etc.)	0	3, 710
<b>Administration &amp; General</b>		
	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expense</b>
Salaries & Stipends	0	3, 266
Meetings & Travel	0	978
Printing, Postage, Publications	250	749
Technology	0	515
Insurance	0	550
Interest	2, 260	0
Legal & Financial	0	10
	<b>Net: \$ - 17, 375</b>	<b>\$ 13, 595 \$ 30, 970</b>

**Notes:**

- We have invested \$10,133 so far into the development of our new Competitions Database. This expense is reflected in the District Auditions (75%) and Badger Competition (25%) numbers above. \$10,000 was transferred from our Money Market account to cover these costs.

## **Reports of Program Chairs**

### **Arts Awareness and Advocacy: Teresa Drews**

Nothing to report.

### **Badger Keyboard Competition: Mary Anne Olvera, NCTM**

#### 2022 WMTA BADGER KEYBOARD COMPETITION

All venues have been secured and confirmed, with important dates being:

- Badger NE - Saturday May 21, UW - Stevens Point - Adults & Duets
- Badger NW - Saturday May 21, UW-River Falls
- Badger S - Sunday May 22, UW - Parkside
- Registration Deadline - April 20

All judges have been secured, and I'm currently looking for a few backup judges (acknowledgement of email contact has always been a challenge, so still awaiting response from a few). We are looking forward to in-person events at all venues, with COVID protocols in place. All attendees will be expected to observe the requirements for the site.

This competition is on track and moving forward.

Website information for Badger competitions is updated and current.

### **Badger Vocal/Instrumental: Opala Bilhorn**

The 20212 Badger State Vocal/Instrumental Competition will be held at UW-Steven's Point on May 21, 2022. The registration deadline is April 20, 2022.

The adjudicators have been secured (Woodwind, String, Vocal – 2).

For the year 2022 we are making an exception to the, “no pre-recorded accompaniments,” rule and we are allowing recordings for accompaniments.

REMINDER! We are having a friendly challenge for the 2022 Auditions!

The teacher who recruits the most first-time participant teachers to the WMTA Vocal & Instrumental tracks will receive a \$50 Amazon Gift Card at the Fall 2022 WMTA Conference. Teachers who have successfully made new-teacher recruits will need to email [opalas.music.studio@gmail](mailto:opalas.music.studio@gmail.com) by April 9, 2022, and share the name(s) of the teachers they successfully recruited as well as their emails. These must be teachers who have NEVER participated in WMTA VOCAL or INSTRUMENTAL auditions before.

I look forward to seeing an exciting group of first-time participants in our Spring WMTA auditions!!

I’m looking forward to an excellent contest season!

**College Faculty Representative: Jessica Johnson, NCTM**

I’m hoping that we can reinstate the collegiate posters next fall and I’m already thinking about well-being/wellness presenters for the fall conference.

**District Auditions: Sandra Statz, NCTM**

DISTRICT AUDITIONS 2022!

7/14 of our state’s District Chairs are new to IN PERSON auditions this year and these fearless leaders are taking on 2022 despite a dinosaur of a computer system. Sling Shot was not able to deliver a new system in time for the ’22 season and Ovation has already posed some time delays in serving our teachers. But, our DC’s are AMAZING.

Some things that I have done (besides being available for our DC’s) is to run Friday morning DC Zoom meetings. It’s a time when they can bring their questions. Between I and our more experienced DC’s, we are answering questions. Helping people stay on top of “what’s next” as we step through this season. I send a printed summary to the DC’s via our google group each Friday. I have also paired each new DC with an experienced DC. We also have a DC Google Group. So, new DC’s can ask questions in the google group as well as reach out to their assigned experienced DC for help. Of course, they all know they can reach out to me too. As for Ovation, we are not worrying about teaching our new DC’s about HOW to do everything in there. When it comes to scheduling and such, I will just help whoever needs it and get it done. It would take longer to teach it than just do it but so far they have all been resourceful. They know I’m just one person.

While we are super excited to be offering all IN PERSON auditions this year and all teachers are involved in helping students, families and teacher stay well and safe, WMTA is following ALL CoVid safety requirements established by our hosting sites, first and foremost. WMTA is also following all CDC safety requirements. WMTA is also following all cancellation/no show past

policies and that is as follows: NO REFUNDS will be granted after your district's APPLICATION DUE DATE. Teachers have been advised that if a student need to miss their in-person audition for any reason, the application fees will be forfeited.

We have given District Chairs the option of running in person or online submissions of theory exams. Three Districts have chosen to run IN PERSON Theory testing. The remaining districts will be receiving all theory info from Sydney Alexander the last week of February. District Chairs will share the info with their teachers that week and are asked to administer the tests to their students March 5-19. Then, the tests are returned to each District Chair and the district corrects the tests and enters the points into Ovation by no later than April 2. Teachers may administer the tests either in their studio, in person; via zoom with the teacher moderating the tests; or the teacher may ask the parents to administer the tests.

There will be some districts, if not all, that will NOT be providing practice rooms to warm up in this year.

If anyone has missed my new email, it is: [sandra.statz2@gmail.com](mailto:sandra.statz2@gmail.com) If anyone has questions at any time, please just send an email my way and allow me 24 hours to respond.

#### **Independent Music Teachers Forum: Tricia Marton**

I submitted an article to appear in the February WMTA newsletter from The Gathering, with a call for proposals. Teachers are encouraged to submit proposals.

#### **Local Associations: Catherine Walby, NCTM**

Not much to report. I haven't had a lot of time to dig into the position. We had a beneficial meeting at the state conference and now we need to act on some of those ideas.

I'll be sharing the Local Association Special Project Grant with LA presidents when the time comes.

### **Standing/Special Committees**

#### **Finance: Sydney Alexander**

In February of 2020, we discussed & drafted a new Local Association Special Project Grant. However, we did not receive any applicants due to covid, and we did not advertise the grant in 2021. We would like to offer the grant for 2022. Sydney has updated the application with this year's dates. It will be posted on the website and Catherine Walby will send a notice to LA Presidents. Here is the timeline:

- March 1 - Application out
- May 1 - Application deadline
- Finance Committee reviews applications in May
- Board votes on recipient(s) at June meeting
- June 15 - Recipient(s) announced