



WMTA Executive Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday, October 13, 2022

Barkers Island Inn, Superior WI

The meeting was called to order at 8:17pm. Members present: Sydney Alexander, Opala Bilhorn, Rachel Fritz, Justin Krueger, Hector Landa, Mickey Lytle, Mary Anne Olvera, Nicholas Phillips, Sandra Statz, and Catherine Walby.

Agenda was adopted as presented.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from June 2022 meeting: Rachel moved, Sandra second, approval by consensus.

Reports of Officers

President

Mickey Lytle, NCTM

New appointments: Teacher Award of Excellence Chair (outgoing Drew Donica; incoming Sandra Statz)

Vacancies: NCTM Certification Chair (Gail Heywood has resigned, effective 8/1/22. The position is currently open.) District Auditions State Chair (Sandra Statz is resigning, effective 6/1/23.)

WMTA Students Compositions Chair Sam Ecoff resigned, effective 9/12/22; Amber Bruns, NCTM, is stepping in. Amber and Mickey are planning to gather input from past participating teachers and other states to restructure the event for more participation.

2022 MTNA Leadership Summit Report: Topics included: General overview of MTNA; Revised Office Depot Program; Betterhelp.com for mental health services; Business Resources section of MTNA website; NCTM encouragement, classes and support; Conferences; Judging; Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI); Dues increases with Consumer Price Index; Membership notes (Justin); Social Media; Website inviting and relevant to younger members; New Member telephone tree; Professional development; Young Professional/Seasoned Professional member Partnerships; Don't need a collegiate chapter to be a collegiate member.

2023 National Conference Notes: Reno: \$119 single/double; 3/27 Fellow Gala; 1/16 deadline to nominate Fellow; Sun-Tue exhibit hall open; Early Reg deadline: \$395 active, \$95 collegiate (waived for volunteers)

Much time has been spent assisting Hector and Heather with the conference planning committee as they were both very new to all aspects of conference planning.

Rachel Fritz and I have had bi-weekly meetings with Slingshot through the summer and fall.

Notes from the September MTNA leadership summit in Cincinnati to pass on to leadership.

Immediate Past President

Rachel Fritz

WMTA continues to work with Slingshot on the District Auditions database. It has been named "Cadence." There will be a demonstration of the database in the District Chairs meeting at the conference. All members are welcome to attend. Work continues on finding a company for background checks and will be discussed in Old Business.

1st VP-Conference

Hector Landa

Thanks to Mickey Lytle, Heather Reeder, Sydney Alexander, Roberta Grube, and Buffy Luostari for all their help planning and fine-tuning many aspects of this year’s conference. As a first year VP of Conference, I have been working closely with the President to evaluate a list of aspects of the planning of future conferences that may need to be revised. These include but not limited to: considering updating conference registration fees, the feasibility of presenting a MTNA Competitions Winners’ Recital during the conference, and developing a clearer policy about compensation of conference presenters.

Hector also suggested there could be an experienced person “shadowing” the process, to make the learning curve easier regarding the planning process, especially if the process is new to the planner. Mickey mentioned a nominating committee as a possible place to nominate a new planner for any upcoming year. Nick suggested a previous planner could act as a possible “shadow” to mentor the next planner.

The 2023 State Conference will take place at the Radisson Hotel in La Crosse, WI on October 19-22. A contract was signed on July 30, 2022.

2nd VP-Membership

Justin Krueger, NCTM

The district database will be worked on and hopefully ready just after the conference. I was waiting as I believe that folks had until October to register for eligibility for auditions.

There is a drop in numbers, due to Covid and other issues.

Sandra requested a current numbers list. Justin concurred.

Collection of membership renewal dues and audition dues was discussed: what is the most efficient way to go about this; paying on time? (Oct 15th is the deadline for audition participation) Nick suggested that this should be handled at the local association level by local chapter presidents.

One challenge Justin mentioned was figuring out how to sort out members based upon zip code and which chapter or event the dues belonged under.

Mickey suggested the idea of having a virtual local chapter in addition to the in-person chapters. Nick suggested reminding members of conference archives, and their availability to all, perhaps a note in the newsletter.

Treasurer

Sydney Alexander

These numbers do not reflect the conference expenses.

Wisconsin Music Teachers Association

Treasurer Report – October 2022

Account Balances: Sep 30, 2022	
Checking	14,790
Money Market	19,657
Square	2,755
CD 2597 (3.92%, matures 11/28/22)	135,598
Total	\$ 172,800

Income & Expense: July 1 - Oct 1, 2022		
Programs	Income	Expense
Membership	1,494	0
Advertising	175	0
Grants	0	0
Conference	6,220	25
WMTA Competitions	990	3,668
MTNA Competitions	0	0
Administration	Income	Expense
Wages & Stipends	0	1,210
Meetings & Travel	0	0
Printing, Postage, Publications	0	48
Supplies, Tools, Services	0	367
Insurance	0	500
Interest	1,330	0
Net: \$ 4,391	\$ 10,209	\$ 5,818

Reports of Program Chairs

Arts Awareness and Advocacy

Teresa Drews

Nothing to report.

Regional/State Keyboard Competitions **Mary Anne Olvera, NCTM**

Dates and Venues for the Regional Keyboard Competitions are:

Sunday, May 7, 2023

South - Regional Keyboard Competition

Wisconsin Conservatory of Music

Saturday, May 13, 2023
NE - Regional Keyboard Competition
Adults, Duets, UW – O

Saturday, May 13, 2023
NW - Regional Keyboard Competition
UW-LX

Date and Venue for the new State Keyboard Competition is:
Saturday, May 20, 2023
UW-SP

Registration deadline for all Regional Keyboard events = April 5
Registration deadline for State Keyboard event = May 16

Both of these events carry new fees, with Regional fees = \$35, and the newly instituted State fee = \$40. Because this is the second year that this S Regional event has been held on a Sunday, it may be necessary to modify start times, typically 8:00, to assist church musicians.

All are prepping for the necessity/probability of doing background checks at the respective venue, with the understanding that each venue will deal with the safety of minors on campus in their own way. The new State Keyboard Competition is organized (venue, eligibility and options, schedule.) This event is an all-day performance event, held in the recital hall. Admission will be charged (adults = \$10, non-participating students = \$5, under 5yo free). An awards ceremony will be held after all students have performed, and judges have made their final decisions, i.e., end of day.

With the help of a newly updated WMTA Judge's Directory, the process of contracting judges for these 4 events is underway.

Badger Vocal/Instrumental

Opala Bilhorn, NCTM

The 2023 State V/I/E Auditions are May 13th at UW-Oshkosh.

The new Ensemble Track is set to go for the 2023 Auditions. Information is being shared with the DCs and teachers. I am continuing to work with Heather Reeder and others to update the WMTA Website to reflect our current rules for auditions, and to be easier to navigate.

Myself, Sandra Statz and Mary Anne Olvera are giving a presentation at the October 2022 Conference on "Everything you need to know about WMTA Auditions." The presentation will update membership on changes to Auditions as well as helpful practices for preparing their students to participate in Auditions.

College Faculty Representative

Nick Phillips, NCTM

I am glad to be back on the board serving WMTA in this position. I joined a little too late to get involved in having representation at the 2022 State Conference (by way of a collegiate poster session, for example), but plan to communicate with collegiate faculty about that moving forward. I would like to find ways to continue to engage with collegiate faculty and collegiate members, as well as expanding collegiate membership. In addition, I would welcome ideas on how this position can best serve WMTA.

Nick asked for Board feedback to help improve the position. Mickey mentioned a disconnect between collegiate members and IMTF's could be addressed. Other ideas discussed: teacher observation; feedback from collegiate-level teachers to pre-collegiate teachers – are there gaps in learning? Where are these gaps being seen.

District Auditions

Sandra Statz, NCTM

Let's give a huge shout out to our 7/14 new DC's who worked closely with veteran DC's to have a successful 2022 Audition season! Thank you! Thank you to all teachers who lent the helping hands where needed. We also have the DC Google group where every DC can chime in and ask for help at any time. For the 2023 season, we will have 2 Districts with new DC's. Thank you to all who make auditions successful!

Most changes to our audition fees, etc, were printed in the **August '22 newsletter**. The website has had a lot of updates, along with an easy-to-follow flow chart to help teacher understand the various tracks and their requirements.

-2023 auditions will be IN PERSON. Theory exams will be held on a District-to-District basis. Some districts will test in person on the day of auditions and others will hold their theory testing online. **All questions about auditions repertoire** should be directed toward your District Chair. Teachers should collect fees from their students and then **write one check for the total of their entries made payable to WMTA**. Payments for entry fees must be submitted to the district chairperson via regular postal mail, or in person, before the application due date for your district. *There is no option for online payments.*

Current WMTA teachers who plan to enter students in the 2022 district auditions should have renewed their MTNA/WMTA membership before October 15. Meaning that MTNA should have had record of your payment by that date – it shouldn't just be getting in the mail on Oct. 15. If you missed that deadline, you can still enter students by renewing your membership now and including a \$150 late/renewal fee (written to WMTA) and sent to Sandra Statz (contact me for the address).

Independent Music Teachers Forum

Tricia Marton

During 2022—2023, the two projects that I took on as IMTF Chair for WMTA is participating in The Gathering, a consortium of music educators from eastern Wisconsin. The Gathering is planning a Collaborative Project on the 19th Century for Saturday, November 5, 2022, at UW-Green Bay's main campus. Students of all ages and their teachers are able to perform, attend workshops and a recital, all FREE. The Gathering also collects and distributes event details from multiple organizations to encourage participation in music events throughout Wisconsin.

I also organized a conference session for independent music teachers, Ask the Teacher. Three independent music teachers (Gail Heywood, Mickey Lytle and Tricia Marton) will answer questions submitted by teachers who attend the conference. This will give conference attendees different perspectives from teachers familiar with various Wisconsin markets on the issues most important to them.

Local Associations

Catherine Walby, NCTM

We have 13 local associations throughout the state of Wisconsin. SPAMTA (Stevens Point) and WAMTA (Wausau) are struggling with leadership and involvement from members. Both organizations have active district auditions which keep members engaged during specific times of the year.

10 LAs applied for the \$100 local association grant that is available to all LAs to support general programming or specific projects.

7 LAs nominated a member of the year, to be honored at the banquet during the 2022 state conference.

LA presidents met during the June board meetings and had a fruitful conversation on various topics. This included discussion about several arts projects happening in La Crosse and Madison that are bringing excitement to those communities.

Catherine also discussed the challenges presented by the current and past public health concerns regarding local association membership; local associations support state association.

Standing/Special Committees

Finance

Sydney Alexander

Nothing to report.

Old Business

Slingshot database

Mickey & Rachel

Work continues on Cadence. The District Chairs will have access to the system prior to full membership access.

Background checks/communication

Rachel

WMTA has been informed that for the 2023 audition year and moving forward UW will ask for a proof of background check. WMTA has been working to implement a policy for conducting background checks. Fritz met with three companies regarding background checks: Sterling Volunteers, BIB, and SafeHiring. She is recommending that BIB be used for the following reasons:

- a. It is being used by school districts in Wisconsin
- b. Completely online with monthly invoicing.
- c. It was the most cost-effective.

Motion by Phillips to accept the proposal with BIB, Krueger seconded. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Fritz clarified that these background checks will only be able to be used by WMTA.

New Business

CD Maturity/Investment options

Sydney

Investment Options

Account Balances (as of 9/30/22)

Checking: \$14,790

Money Market: \$19,657

CD: \$135,598 (60 month, 3.922%, matures 11/28/22)

CD Rates (BMO Harris Bank, as of 10/1/22)

13 month: 2.50%

25 month: 2.75%

35 month: 3.00%

45 month: 3.25%

59 month: 3.50%

Proposal

- Allocation of current CD funds upon maturity
 - \$100,000 into a “Long-Term” 59-month CD (maturing Oct 2027)
 - Remaining balance (~\$35,000) into a “Mid-Term” 35-month CD (maturing Oct 2025)
- Close Money Market account and reallocate funds:
 - \$10,000 into a “Short-Term” 13-month CD (maturing Dec 2023)
 - Transfer remaining balance (\$9,657) to Checking

Reasoning: Money Market account earns next to nothing with current interest rates; these short-term savings could be allocated more advantageously in a CD. Maintaining a slightly higher checking account balance (~\$25,000) should be sufficient to cover any unanticipated expenses throughout the year. As CD funds become available, they will be reallocated with Board approval according to WMTA's current needs and goals.

Catherine made a motion to approve the Investment Report, Nick seconded the motion; approval by consensus.

Submitted by:

Sydney Alexander, Treasurer

State dues for 2023-24

Mickey

Mickey prepared a projected price increase based upon the Consumer Price Index. Catherine suggested that a slight price increase from \$25 to \$30 to reflect the CPI is reasonable.

Rachel made a motion to raise the current price to \$32 and that the dues are revisited annually to reflect the current CPI of a given year; Catherine seconded; opened for discussion. Collegiate rate should stay the same at \$5; senior rates should be raised from \$18 to \$20, raised by CPI. This discussion should be added to the October Board Meeting, perpetually. Rachel made a revised motion to reflect the discussion; Justin seconded. The motion passed with a consensus.

Reimbursements/Expenditures over \$500 Mickey

Nick initially made a motion that all expenditures and reimbursements over \$500 be approved by the finance committee; Catherine seconded the motion. Motion passed with a consensus. Sydney clarified terms and the Board approved the clarifications. Nick then rescinded the motion to read that the Finance Committee approve any invoiced expenses *prior* to the expenditure; Catherine seconded the amended motion. Motion remained on the table for further discussion. Motion then carried with consensus.

Conference presenter compensation

Hector & Sydney

WMTA currently pays non-member Conference presenters a stipend of \$250; however, member presenters do not receive any compensation. This policy poses the question "who gets paid?" and is problematic for a number of reasons:

- Instead of demonstrating our appreciation for their dedication to WMTA, we are essentially penalizing presenters for being WMTA members.
 - Members: \$131 dues + \$85 registration = **\$216 paid**
 - Non-members: \$250 stipend + \$85 registration = **\$165 received**
- It is difficult for the Conference Chair to determine which presenters have renewed or will renew their membership.
- Individuals who are invited to present may be discouraged from renewing their membership upon becoming aware of this policy.

Currently, if a presenter is asked to present, they receive a stipend; if a presenter volunteers, they do not receive a stipend.

Proposal: All WMTA Conference presenters are to be paid a stipend of \$250 regardless of membership status.

Submitted by:

Hector Landa, VP-Conference

Sydney Alexander, Treasurer

Hector suggested a lowered honorarium across the board. Rachel concurred. Justin suggested a lowered honorarium for panel discussion presenters.

Nick proposed tabling this discussion until after the conference to give people time to think about it. Mickey suggested a special meeting just to discuss conference compensation, to be revisited in December 2022.

Discussion then occurred to address concerns that reimbursement isn't covering the costs that judges are incurring. The reimbursement is meant to defray costs but not cover the expense in its entirety. Nick moved to make an amendment to raise the cap of miles incurred by judges for MTNA and True State events; Catherine seconded. Motion carried with consensus.

Policy on listing teacher names next to student names Mickey

The discussion listed the merits of listing only the names of the students to prevent potential issues of poaching. Nick made a motion that teacher names not be posted on websites and in newsletters *next* to student names for events, but should still include both names separately; Rachel seconded the motion. Table was opened to discussion. Additionally, Sandra suggested not *announcing* the teachers' names after students' names after competitions. The teachers' names would still be honored or announced, just not in direct conjunction with their students' names. Motion passed unanimously.

June 2023 meeting input

Mickey

Discussion included leadership development, guest speaker, centralized location, possible group activity following the meeting. Catherine offered to work with Mickey on potential speaker idea.

Sponsors/advertising committee

Mickey

Mickey asked the board to consider ideas for advertisers and sponsors throughout the state for WMTA state events. Consider forming a committee to solicit sponsors/advertisers; will revisit.

Announcements

Introducing presenters at conference

Board members were assigned to introduce guest presenters

Next Executive Board meeting: Sunday, February 12 or Friday, February 10, 2023? Discuss.

Next Executive Board Meeting (Zoom): Sunday, February 5, 2023, at 7pm

Next Executive Board and Administrative Council Meetings are tentatively set for Friday, June 16, 2023. Approved.

Adjournment: Nick made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Hector seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:18pm.

Respectfully submitted by Genia Allard, NCTM