



WMTA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Virtual Zoom Meeting

February 23, 2025

Present: Mary Tollefson, Mickey Lytle, Stacey Kraus, Justin Krueger, Rachel Fritz, Mary Anne Olvera, Opala Bilhorn, Roberta Grube, Catherine Walby, and Katie Butler.

- I. Call to Order/Welcome: 6:30pm
- II. Adoption of Agenda: Roberta Grube motioned. Catherine Walby seconded. Approved by Consensus
- III. Approval of Minutes from October 2024 meeting: Approved by Consensus
- IV. Reports of Officers
 - a. President: Mary Tollefson, NCTM – See attached report. Many local association presidents were for the changes.
 - b. Immediate Past President: Mickey Lytle, NCTM – See attached report.
 - c. 1st VP-Conference: Stacey Kraus, NCTM – See attached report. Catherine Walby and Kayme Hinkle met to choose the proposals and Stacey Krause will be in touch with them soon. Madison is the location we may currently be planning on for 2026 as it aligns with potential themes and speakers opportunities available to WMTA. We have currently decided on five session to go along with the two sessions and master class session from the featured artists. The sessions are only about 50% piano focused this year with more diversity.
 - d. 2nd VP-Membership: Justin Krueger, NCTM – See attached report. MTNA has been sending out renewal notices already. Watch for those and reach out to fellow LA members with reminders when it is appropriate. Current membership is at similar numbers as the previous year.
 - e. Treasurer: Rachel Fritz – See attached report. The transition between treasurers has been completed. The finance committee will begin meeting in March to better put together an association operating budget for proposal to the board. When you review financial data, remember that our fiscal year starts on July 1st and checks sometimes wait to be cut when we have available cash flow.
- V. Reports of Program Chairs
 - a. Regional & State Keyboard Competition: Mary Anne Olvera, NCTM – See attached report. Mary Anne Olvera does have one empty judge chair, but the situation is being handled.
 - b. Regional Vocal/Instrumental: Opala Bilhorn, NCTM – See attached report.
 - c. College Faculty Representative: Nick Phillips, NCTM – Not Present. Nothing to Report
 - d. District Auditions: Roberta Grube – See attached report. There have been a few minor issues that have all been handled well thanks to a great group of District Chairs. A question came up about allowing Kindergartners to register. This isn't currently allowed in the rules. The board discussed the potential of the balance between additional challenges, additional cash flow, and the educational impact to the children. Other aspects of the WMTA programs also have to be considered. There might be another time for this change in the future, but the board agreed that this wasn't the time for it and no changes were proposed.
 - e. Independent Music Teachers Forum: Margaret Burton – See attached report.
 - f. Local Associations: Catherine Walby, NCTM – See attached report.

- VI. Standing/Special Committees
 - a. Finance - Report
 - i. Plan for a 25-26 WMTA Budget – The finance committee will be meeting to make a plan for the new budget, and this will be proposed to the board in the future.
 - ii. The committee will also be doing a rubric review for college grants.
 - b. Nominating – No report.
- VII. Old Business
 - a. Self-published compositions policy, Mary Tollefson: More and more publishers, including well knows individuals, are self-publishing on their own websites. We don't currently have a rule for this, so a clear policy is needed. The board discussed how we recognizing self-published compositions and what our framework should be for website self-published pieces. (Tabled)
 - b. Compilation of Reference Documents
 - i. Handbook of policies, procedures, Mickey Lytle: (Tabled)
- VIII. New Business
 - a. Ad hoc Committee: Reviewing How to Track Points for WMTA Teachers – Members have now gone back to spreadsheets for tracking their students points. It created the question about whether we want to look into a program that would track this information. Our association has so many rules and points calculating mechanisms that cause a great deal of work and complication each year. Their has been an expressed desire from many that we streamline the policies. The District Audition Chairs met and put this back onto the teachers to track if points were important to them and their students. Many members believe this low-tech and simple system is working fine. Teachers don't have to track points if they aren't interested. No committee was created.
 - b. Virtual Association – This idea was discussed in previous meetings with some additional questions that needed to be considered before moving forward. Further research is still pending so this subject will remain on the agenda for a future meeting.
- IX. Announcements
 - a. June Executive Board meeting tentatively set for Friday, June 13, 2025
- X. Adjournment: 7:38pm. Catherine Walby Motioned to adjourn. Mickey Lytle seconded.

President: Mary Tollefson, NCTM

New appointments:

None

Vacancies: None (thank you Mickey and WMTA!)

Summary:

- Cadence (Slingshot) is officially cancelled. I have not heard from Wayne Muelver since he suggested that WMTA pay for another extension on the current contract, and I told him it was not necessary since we no longer would be considering Cadence.
- I will be attending the 2025 MTNA National Conference in Minneapolis and will attend the Foundation Gala where Rachel Fritz will be recognized. I will attend the State Presidents' Meeting and the East Central Division meeting.
- I sent an email to LA Presidents reminding them to promote the 50% discounted membership that MTNA offers for January through June. If there are any potential members, this would be a time to try out MTNA.

Thanks, Mary

Immediate Past President: Mickey Lytle, NCTM

Since October, I have been doing lots of invisible work. I continue to help with finishing up the onboarding process of our new president, help with social media posts, alert Katie if I see website fixes, and answer questions from LA presidents and DCs. I finished my background check system training and Rachel Fritz is training me so I can begin taking on that position. After audition season, it will be onto the membership survey and the leadership policies document. I look forward to the upcoming national conference and time with many colleagues near and far!

-end of report-

1st VP Conference: Stacey Kraus

The 2025 Conference planning is well underway. We have secured Christopher Fischer as our guest artist and clinician. He has several wonderful presentations for us to choose from. The one I selected, because it fits our theme, is *Lessons from a Tiger: The Parental Role in Piano Study* but it has evolved into a different workshop title listed as *The Secret Ingredient for Piano Teaching Success: the Powerful Role of Parents*. Other topics can be found here <http://www.chrisfisherpiano.com/workshops--lectures.html>, feel free to email me and weigh in, as he is open to using any of them. His wife Katherine is also coming courtesy of Piano Safari to showcase the method series and present on rote teaching. Together the Fishers will provide three sessions, a masterclass and evening recital. Piano rental and tuning will be donated by Dave Hulbert and we're just waiting on a contract for the moving fee. We're also waiting on the audio video proposal through Encore, the Osthoff's outsourced provider.

Fourteen session proposals were submitted. The committee received the proposals for deliberation and will have made selections by tonight's meeting. There is also a proposed idea for 2026 that will have been discussed by tonight's meeting. If it is agreed upon, we will have dates, a location (city only), a theme, and a guest artist in the works.

2nd VP Membership: Justin Krueger

A reminder to renew! I know many of us like to wait until the last minute, but often that last minute is in the summer when vacation is on our minds. Please don't forget to renew membership before July 1 - it makes the process so much easier for things to come throughout the year!

Treasurer: Rachel Fritz

WMTA Treasurer Report – February 2025

Statement of Financial Position: 2/14/25		Statement of Activities: 2/14/25		
ASSETS			2025 YTD	FY 2024
Checking	1906.66	INCOME		
Square	0			
CD 2597 (4.50%, 10/28/27)	109,180	Donations & Grants	1,060	335
CD 2363 (4.00%, 10/30/25)	40,454	Membership	3,916	13,133
Undeposited Funds	0	Conference	8,933	10,300
Prepayments	0	District Auditions	0	37,180
Total Assets	\$ 151,540.66	Regional Keyboard	0	9,000
LIABILITIES		State Keyboard	0	1,315
Outstanding Checks	\$880	State VIE	0	1,010
Total Liabilities	\$880	Composition Festival	865	1,385
NET ASSETS		MTNA Competitions	530	1,120
FY 2024	158,133	Advertising	475	1,125
YTD Net Income	• 7,259	Interest	3,180	6,135
Total Net Assets	\$ 150,875	Other	0	416
		Total Income	\$18,959	\$ 82,454
		EXPENSES		
		Wages	5,919	29,085
		Contractor Expenses	311	9,319
		Facilities	5,100	17,383
		Technology	7,481	7,160
		Printing & Publication	66	892
		Postage & Shipping	104	586
		Supplies	83	584
		Awards	2,276	5,138
		Background Checks	186	1,744
		Grants	2,500	7,315
		Meetings & Travel	1,910	3,689
		Legal	0	101
		Insurance	589	3,228
		Other	0	26
		Total Expenses	\$ 26,525	\$ 86,250
		Net Income	\$ -7,566	\$ -3,797

In March the budget process for the 2025-2026 year will begin with the Finance Committee. This is a new process, and we are looking forward to sharing a budget for approval at the June Executive committee meeting.

Submitted by: Rachel Fritz, Treasurer

WMTA Regional and State Keyboard Chair Report

REGIONAL EVENTS – STATE EVENT

All events, venues and dates, are on the calendar and moving forward. All judges are on board. I will be in touch with all of the site liaisons, and I'm finalizing getting site chairs for each of the venues.

Medals and State trophies will be ordered within the month.

State event is moving forward, no hitches to date, with no expectation for hitches....

*Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Olvera, NCTM
WMTA Regional and State Keyboard Chair*

State Vocal|Instrumental|Ensemble

State VIE Registration Deadline: April 9, 2025

State VIE Competition: May 10, 2025

Location: UW Oshkosh

Preparations for the State VIE Competition are on track:

- Judges are in the process of being secured
- Trophies will be ordered soon
- Certificates will be prepared
- An informational email for DCs to share with teachers of qualified students will be shared

Website updates and corrections are an ongoing activity.

Submitted:

Opala Bilhorn, NCTM

WMTA Vocal|Instrumental|Ensemble Chair

College Faculty Representative: Nick Phillips: Nothing to report.

District Auditions: Roberta Grube

It has been a busy few months as District Auditions Chair. This year's registrations are being completed by spreadsheet. There have been a few minor corrections to the spreadsheet and summary fee sheet during the registration period.

The District Chairs have an opportunity to meet via zoom weekly where we address concerns and questions. A recent question was why Kindergarteners are not allowed to enter auditions. The consensus was to allow them to enter the 2026 auditions with board approval to the suggested change. This change may generate more revenue in the future. The 12-year award would remain for students who participated in grades 1-12.

Another topic of discussion was the possibility to enter students by age and not grade level. This was brought up due to the increasing number of home schoolers. I stated that this change would take a complete restructuring of our audition system.

District Chairs have been making it clear that teachers are expected to keep track of total points and awards earned by their students. The District Chairs will continue to inform teachers of the points and awards that their students earned at the completion of each level of auditions. District Chairs will still order and distribute awards to the teachers.

I am looking forward to the 2025 auditions. WMTA has a great group of dedicated District Chairs, and I appreciate their loyalty to our organization.

Roberta Grube, WMTA District Auditions Chair

IMTF: Margaret Burton: I'll be at the MTNA National conference and hope to find new ideas on how to

engage Independent Music Teachers through WMTA articles, programs and conferences. Always open to the board's feedback and input. - Respectfully Submitted,
Margaret Burton, IMTF Chair

Local Associations: Catherine Walby: For LA, I have nothing to report. We haven't been an active bunch lately but I'll ramp that up prior to our June meeting.