

ASMTA Board Meeting
State Conference at Arkansas State University
June 7, 2024 at Noon – Grand Hall

Paul Whitley, President of ASMTA, presiding

Attendees: Sharon Ard, Nakira Bates, Dr. Mary Chung, Dianne Cox, Dr. Lauren Schack Clark, Kristin Duckworth, Holly Farrah, Christine Franklin, Nancy Griffin, Dr. Naoki Hakutani, Christy Huskey, Shiloh Jones, Trudy Kincade, Dr. Marika Kyriakos, Dr. Tomoko Kashiwagi, Amber Van Leeuwen, Kay Lindley, David Mach, Sherry Mashburn, Naoma McCartney, Lisa Miller, Kevin Olson, Brenda Parker, Alline Phillips, Linda Rogers, Carolyn Setliff, Mark Smidt, Dr. Tim Smith, Dr. Chris Thompson, Dr. Paul Whitley, Dr. Mimi Zhang

Meeting commenced at 12:21 p.m.

Lauren Schack Clark moved that the minutes for the 12 November 2023 meeting be approved. Tim Smith seconded the motion. Minutes from the 2 June 2023 meeting will be approved at a later date. One correction needed for the 12 November 2023 minutes includes *Melody* Bober (not Mary).

Treasurer’s Report (prepared by Tim Smith)

Regions Bank Account #XXXXXX5614

\$37,419.08

Deposits

\$585.00	Membership Dues
\$1000.00	Christine (Wang) Piano Scholarship Donation
\$169.62	Ad Payment - U of A (Stripe Transfer)
\$52.50	Credit from uncashed check #1100
\$210.00	Reconcile ledger with bank statement
\$225.00	Ad Payments - ASU and WBU
\$1450.00	State Audition Fees
\$975.00	Conference Registrations
\$168.00	Conference Lunches
\$320.00	Conference Banquet

Subtotal \$5155.12

Expenses

\$100.00	Petty Cash
\$425.00	MTNA Conf. Registration for state president
\$541.19	Airfare for state president to attend conference
\$885.08	MTNA Conf. Hotel for state president
\$13.60	USPS - stamps
\$130.00	State Conference (ASU) parking permits

	\$40.16	Name badges for State Conference
Subtotal	\$2135.03	
	\$34,398.99	Balance as of November 12, 2023
	\$5155.12	Deposits
	\$2135.03	Expenditures
	\$37,419.08	Balance as of June 7, 2024

#XXXXXX6788, Regions Bank, Russellville AR, (renewed on 12/20/2022 for 18 months at 0.03%; previous rate was 0.03%)

\$15,661.14

\$15,658.80	Value as of November 12, 2023
\$1.17	Interest earned – December 20, 2023
\$1.17	Interest earned – March 20, 2024

\$15,661.14 **Current Value**

A decision will need to be made regarding the CD which will mature on June 18, 2024.

Committee Reports from Chairs

MTNA Competitions – Lauren Schack Clark

Naoki Hakutani’s student, Thomas Sinclair, who won the region, state and division levels, advanced to win 2nd place in the national competition. Congratulations!

The MTNA Competition in the fall will be at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Tentative dates are November 2nd or 9th. This needs to be posted by July 1st.

Membership Committee – Sharon Ard

Currently membership is 133 which has increased by 4 from last year.

New Business

Forms

It is recommended that student age be required on each Festival Registration Form. This will avoid disqualification at the last moment. All were in favor. The State Audition Registration Form will need to be updated this coming year. They will no longer to be mailed to Tim Smith, and the deadline needs to be updated. Tim Smith was thanked for his work with the registration forms and also as treasurer.

Regarding festival judging forms, the question was raised: Should the section be deleted in which the judge recommends what piece a student performs at State Auditions?

Linda Rogers moved for deletion. The recommended change of “suggested but not required” was made to advance to the next level. Hopefully this would not raise questions of entrants not having to play either piece.

Festival Procedures

This was the first year that adults were allowed the fine opportunity to participate at the region level for evaluative remarks only. For those who entered, the experience was positive. None participated in Region II.

Questions were raised regarding region boundaries.

- Should festival region boundaries be enforced, therefore not allowing teachers to register students in regions other than their own?
- Could this result in the unintended consequence of having students not participate in festival?
- Should Regions be redrawn or put together?

The rules are clear that teachers must enter students in the region where the teacher lives. Enforcing this rule may help regions with low participation rates. Trudy Kincade mentioned that there may be an issue of not having enough students to populate a festival. Sharon Ard commented that when the boundaries were made, the cities were not as connected as they are now. Lisa Miller stated that making a decision specifically for Regions V and VI may be needed, but students cannot be allowed to go wherever they want. To discuss these challenges further, a committee will be formed with representatives from regions throughout the state.

Last year members voted that regions not cover teachers' lunches at region festivals. Should ASMTA still pay for judges' lunches at region festivals? In the past, the local organization has covered the judges. This could come from the state. A suggestion was made to raise the stipend for the judges. Lisa Miller moved that the local organization cover the judges' lunches if they chose to do so. Marika Kyriakos seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The Aural Skills tests took too long to administer in Region I, perhaps because they were all done individually. Lisa Miller reported that Region II did the tests in groups, which was the intent. There were no issues with test length. For individualized testing, giving fewer than 3 hearings may be helpful, when possible.

Sharon Ard asked if there were plans for more study material regarding the theory. Clearer instruction for Keyboard Skills especially is necessary. Lauren Schack Clark responded that she would check with OMTA. They have been working on a final version.

Officers

Tomoko Kashiwagi is immediate Past President and has been working on a slate of new officers. The following is a listing of officers moving forward. The new officers announced by Tomoko Kashiwagi are in italics. It was noted that Shiloh Jones has been doing a fantastic job with membership in Northwest Arkansas. Officers will be formally approved at the Saturday meeting, June 8.

ASMTA Officers

Mary Chung, President
Naoki Hakutani, First Vice President
Xiting Yang, Second Vice President
Marika Kyriakos, Secretary
Kristin Duckworth, Treasurer
Lisa Miller, IMTF
Shiloh Jones, Membership Chair
Sharon Ard, Foundation Fund Chair
Alline Phillips, Webmaster

Elected Board Members

Region A: Alline Phillips
~~Region B: Kristin Smith~~ (a new board member is needed)
Region C: Chris Thompson
Region D: Lowella Jean Cherry
Region E: Trudy Kincade
Region F: Leisa Arnett
Region G: Sharon Ard

Standing Committees

Sharon Ard, Certification
Lauren Schack Clark, Collegiate Chapters
Tomoko Kashiwagi, College Faculty Forum
Naoki Hakutani, Arts Advocacy & Awareness
Linda Rogers, Historian
Lisa Miller, Independent Music Teachers Forum
Mark Smidt, Local Associations
Shiloh Jones, Membership
Lauren Schack Clark, MTNA Competitions Chair
Lauren Schack Clark, MTNA Young Artist Competitions
Lauren Schack Clark, MTNA Senior Competitions
Lauren Schack Clark, MTNA Junior Competitions
Lauren Schack Clark, MTNA Chamber Music Competitions
Gjergji Gaji, MTNA Composition Competitions
Sharon Ard, MTNA Foundation Fund
Naoki Hakutani, Publicity
Lauren Schack Clark, Chris Thompson, State Auditions

Chris Thompson, Teacher of the Year Award
Lisa Miller, Festivals
Miroslava Panayotova, Composer Commissioning Chair
Tomoko Kashiwagi, Collaborative Performance
Lauren Schack Clark, Chamber Music Co-Chair
Mary Trotter, Wellness
Alline Fulton Phillips & Paul Whitley, Webmaster

Miscellaneous

It would be cost effective for ASMTA to stop printing hard copies of the conference directory booklet and send digital copies instead. Expenses to bring artists/presenters to conferences, and to send the ASMTA president to the leadership summit and the MTNA conference are all getting higher. A poll was taken regarding hard copies of the booklet vs. electronic. The results were about even. Diane Cox commented that those wanting hard copies could pay a minimal fee. Naoki Hakutani mentioned that printing could continue with less waste. Paul Whitley suggested that a charge was not necessary at this point. Lisa Miller pointed out that printing could occur every other year with the change of officers. The membership preferred the booklet to be updated every year.

At the national conference, MTNA leadership reached out to Paul Whitley regarding the lack of teacher certifications lately. Especially college teachers need to do this, as the process is not difficult. Perhaps Zoom meetings may encourage people to apply. Numbers are going up but certifications are going down.

A request was made to move from paying so frequently by check, to paying online. Comments included issues with officers tracking digital records, but also those who would prefer no checks. The process will be investigated further, and an update will be given in the fall.

Marika Kyriakos asked about adding something to the festival judge's evaluative form to clarify what entrants are eligible for state regarding their performance. For instance, if you have someone who "wins" due to their performance, but does not advance because of the test scores, another student must qualify based on their playing as well as their scores. Chris Thompson agreed that this needed clarification.

Lisa Miller commented that festival checks need to be written in a timely manner. Also, Chris Thompson and Lauren Schack Clark need to be notified of region winners who cannot attend the state conference.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:08 p.m.
Respectfully submitted, Marika Kyriakos, Secretary