

ASMTA Board Meeting
Sunday, November 17, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom

Mary Chung, President of ASMTA, presiding

Attendees: Leisa Arnett, Dr. Mary Chung, Gjergji Gaqi, Shiloh Jones, Dr. Tomoko Kashiwagi, Trudy Kincade, Dr. Marika Kyriakos, Lisa Miller, Miroslava Panayotova, Alline Phillips, Linda Rogers, Dr. Chris Thompson, Dr. Paul Whitley, and Dr. Xiting Yang

Meeting commenced at 1:33 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the board meeting at the conference in June was made by Paul Whitley and Lauren Schack Clark. The motion carried with all in favor.

ASMTA Officer Reports

Mary Chung, President

Mary Chung shared that one of the reasons she took the presidency was to get to know everyone better. She enjoyed her second Leadership Summit, which both proved to be very intense. The new leaders are very energetic and working with great vision. They are wanting to include all generations. Plans were discussed to collaborate with other non-profit organizations in order to recruit/connect further. Retention was also a topic of conversation. Most interesting was news on the various sizes of the divisions and regions. There are 6 tiers. Arkansas is in tier 5. Some states not having conferences anymore. Those that are quite poorly attended have gone virtual (e.g. South Dakota). Meetings occur by division and region. Our division meetings can be awkward since it includes Texas and they are so large. The idea of an Escape Theory Room was reported with a lot of success. Louisiana has engaged in activities named after the Olympics. Louisiana and Iowa in particular were very impressive with their innovative ideas. Most states have a newsletter. Lauren Schack Clark did a fine job with our newsletters in the past and Mary Chung would like to revive that practice.

Naoki Hakutani, First Vice President

Mary Chung provided the report in the absence of First Vice President, Naoki Hakutani. The next ASMTA Conference will be at Arkansas Tech University. Tim Smith will host with the assistance of Mary Trotter as both are on the faculty there. The dates are the first weekend of June (June 6 & 7, 2025). Helen Marlais and her husband, Arthur Campbell will be the guest artists. They were here over ten years ago and did a wonderful job.

Xiting Yang, Second Vice President

Xiting Yang is in her second year at the University of Arkansas – Fayetteville. Mary Chung and she will be meeting to discuss her responsibilities as Second Vice President.

Kristin Duckworth, Treasurer

Treasurer’s Report (provided to the board via email by Mary Chung):
Prepared by Kristin Duckworth

Regions Bank Account #XXXXXX5614

\$34,134.98

Deposits	\$2,200.00	Festival Profits
	\$2,159.00	Membership Dues
	\$882.00	On-site Registrations/Meals
	\$790.00 MTNA	State Competition Rebate
	\$100.00	Return Petty Cash
Subtotal	\$6,131.00	
Expenses	\$1,704.82	Conference Artist/Presenter – travel expenses
	\$1,500.00	Conference Artist
	\$1,500.00	Conference Presenter
	\$1,220.93	State Conference Catering
	\$875.00	MTNA State Competition Judging
	\$490.81	Website Domain Renewal and WordPress Renewal (3 yrs)
	\$479.54	ASMTA Booklet Printing and Postage
	\$470.60	State Audition Judging and Expenses
	\$300.00	MTNA National Competition Travel Expense (Sinclair)
	\$299.25	Teacher of the Year Expenses
	\$248.70	State Audition Lunches/Hospitality
	\$215.60	Supplies
	\$106.85	MTNA State Competition Lunches/Hospitality
	\$3.00	Bank Fee
Subtotal	\$9,415.10	

\$37,419.08	Balance as of June 7, 2024
\$6,131.00	Deposits
(\$9,415.10)	Expenses

\$34,134.98 **Balance as of November 17, 2024**

Certificate of Deposit #XXXXXX6788, Regions Bank (renewed on 6/18/2024 for 18 months at 0.03%; previous rate was 0.03%)

\$15,663.47

\$15,661.14	Value as of June 7, 2024
\$1.15	Interest earned – June 17, 2024
\$1.18	Interest earned – September 17, 2024
\$15,663.47	Current Value (next payment date, December 17, 2024)

Mary Chung discussed the report in the absence of Kristin Duckworth, Treasurer. ASMTA is doing well financially; however, there are more expenses than the intake. The CD is maturing but it is not available without penalty for another 18 months. There are other CDs that will generate more interest. Since the current balance is about \$34,000, perhaps about \$20,000 could be invested in order to increase benefit.

Tomoko Kashiwagi mentioned that she had spoken with Tim Smith about changing the bank. The location has been convenient, but now that banking can be accomplished online, physical location is not as important. Another bank may yield more interest.

Kristin Duckworth had requested moving to a digital format for finances and offered to convert past records. Lauren Schack Clark made a motion to that effect, which was seconded Marika Kyriakos. A decision as to what records are not needed and how they will be disposed will be discussed at a later meeting. Kristin also has records (e.g. programs) that are more appropriate for the historian, so they will be passed on to Linda Rogers.

Lisa Miller, Independent Music Teachers Forum

Lisa Miller tried to open a new checking account since the old one was in her mother’s name. The new account needed to be set up with the ASMTA ID number. For the short term, Lisa ordered checks in her name.

Regarding festival winner requirements, Bill and Pat Medley had joined ASMTA from Iowa. They wrote the curriculum for repertoire and instilled the policy of one winner for every 10 students. Clarification is needed. See discussion under “New Business.”

Shiloh Jones, Membership Chair

Shiloh Jones reported that ASMTA membership numbers totaled to 114 at the end of October 114. That was down 3 from last year. As of last week for November, membership is up to 121; however, the email portal shows 115 members. Recruiting must be an ongoing focus. Invite potential members to join, explaining the attraction and benefits of the organization. Sharon Ard shared that the South Arkansas Music Teachers Association is online (SAMTA-online). It is the new local association that started this school year. Membership is open to anyone who wishes to join. SAMTA is hosting Helen Chao-Casano, National Certification Chair, Friday, February 14 at 11:00. That particular meeting will be for anyone in the state who wants more information about certification. All will be sent an invitation.

Sharon Ard, Certification

Reports from Sharon Ard (provided to the board via email by Mary Chung):

Report from the local association chairs

NAMTA – *Laura Wilkins and Shiloh Jones*

- *We started actively recruiting new members and are up to 53 paid and active music teachers in our association.*
- *We created a local website with information about our association and a link for parents to find teachers. <https://nwamusicteachers.org/>*
- *We just completed our 30th annual Sonata/Sonatina Celebration and we had 233 students from grades 1-12 and earn awards.*
- *We consistently have over 130 students participate in the ASMTA Region 1 Festival.*
- *We have an educational program each month at our meeting. I think you might be attending one of ours in the spring!*
- *Older members mentor our newer members.*

We have had a full year already! We have a record number of 53 members and kicked off our year with our first meeting and potluck in August. One member is in the process of reinstating her NCTM certification. In September we had an Idea Share where each member brought ideas that have transformed their studios or helped motivate their students in a significant way. In October we were delighted to have Linda Rogers and Mark Smidt present on the topic of "Teaching Technique & Ornamentation", held at the Steinway Gallery in Fayetteville. And finally, on Saturday, November 9th we had our 27th Annual Sonata-Sonatina Celebration at Central United Methodist Church in Fayetteville. 222 piano students performed either one fast Sonata movement or two Sonatina movements by memory, in mini-recitals, for family and friends. Three performance spaces ran simultaneously all day from 8 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Thank you to our amazing Sonatina Committee-Alene Astel, Shiloh Jones, Alline Phillips, Linda Rogers and Laura Wilkins.

MTACA – *Scott Carrell*
Playathon

SAMTA – *Sharon Ard*

*SAMTA is meeting online. Since we are online any member in the state without a local association can easily attend. We studied *The Mindful Musician* by Vanessa Cornett. We have guest presenters scheduled for the spring including Sarah Rushing, Marina Bengoa-Roldan, Lauren Schack Clark, and Gjergji Gaqi.*

For certification: Helen Cao-Casano, national chair of certification, will give an informational presentation of certification for SAMTA February 14 at 11:00. All interested ASMTA members are invited. They just need to let me know they want an invitation.

Leisa Arnett, Elected Board Member from Region F

Leisa Arnett provided news of some great events held recently in Texarkana with a music organization not associated with SAMTA, ASMTA, or MTNA; however, they are excellent activities to consider.

On Saturday, November 17 Texarkana Music Teachers' Association and Texarkana College sponsored the James Herrin Piano Festival in honor of Herrin who was on faculty at Texarkana College and organist at First Baptist Church for many years.

There are five categories:

- 1. Student plays one piano piece in its original form from memory and gets a ribbon, certificate, and judge evaluation*
- 2. Same as 1 except student plays 2 pieces*
- 3. Student plays sacred arrangement or hymn for certificate, ribbon, and evaluation*
- 4. Junior high students (grades 5-8) play two contrasting piano pieces from memory competing for 1st (\$100), 2nd (\$50), and 3rd (\$25) place*
- 5. Same as category 4 but for high school students (grades 9-12) and 1st place is (\$200), 2nd place is (\$100), and 3rd is (\$50).*

In October an event called Piano, Pipes, and Pizza was held at First United Methodist Church. Piano students played music and theory games, enjoyed an introduction to handbells, the harpsichord, the pipe organ (which included a tour of the chamber), and pizza.

New Business

Selecting Festival Winners

Paul Whitley sought advice from Linda Rogers and Eileen Philips regarding the selection of festival winners as to the history and also, how to proceed.

For region festival winners, the rule currently reads:

SELECTING REGION WINNERS AND ALTERNATES:

- *PRIMARY A – Level 5: select ONE winner and ONE alternate for each 10 entered*
- *Levels 6 – 10: select ONE winner and ONE alternate for each 5 entered*

Splitting levels between judges is not allowed at Region or State Auditions. This is necessary for a fair process.

Note: All alternates from Levels 6-10 will be invited to participate at the State Level during Conference.

The wording of the rule is ambiguous. To use “Primary A through level 5” as an example, which of the following formulas should be used when deciding the number of winners and alternates?

Option 1

- 1-10 students entered = One winner and one alternate
- 11-20 students entered = Add a second winner and a second alternate
- 21-30 students entered = Add a third winner and a third alternate

For example:

- 9 students entered = One winner and one alternate
- 14 students entered = Two winners and two alternates
- 25 students entered = Three winners and three alternates

OR

Option 2:

- 1-19 students entered = One winner and one alternate
- 20-29 students entered = Add a second winner and a second alternate
- 30-39 students entered = Add a third winner and a third alternate

OR

Option 3:

- 1-10 students entered = One winner and one alternate
- 20 students entered = Add a second winner and a second alternate
- 30 students entered = Add a third winner and a third alternate

Existing practices and possible solutions were discussed. Lisa Miller shared that the practice with state festivals is inconsistent. According to state festivals, 1-10 is 1 winner, and 11-20 is another; however, some don't award a second winner if you have 11 or more, but less than 20. Shiloh Jones also confirmed that she interpreted that to be 20 students were needed for a second winner. Sharon Ard's area had not been doing it that way. For Level 6-10, winners and alternates go to state because less students participate. That could be changed to every 5 participants getting a winner.

Board members were in favor of Option 1, but felt a vote via email within the next two weeks would be best. Consistency among the regions is ideal. In addition to Options 1 through 3, other possibilities may be considered:

- Some levels could have winners for every 5 students, and some, every 10. It may be wise to keep the practice of one winner for every 5 students in Levels 6 – 10 since there are less participants.
- If a winner is chosen for every 5 students, would there be an alternate also chosen? If so, would they also advance?

Other “New Business” involved questions about tests, practice tests and keys for the answers. Lisa Miller was wondering if there would be new tests. The answer is yes, and Lauren Schack Clark will check records from the Oklahoma Music Teachers Association. It is possible that they already exist, and Marika Kyriakos will simply need to convert them. Practice tests online will remain the same. There will also be new Keyboard tests. Uniformity for fingering charts for scales and arpeggios was mentioned briefly and requires further discussion.

Facebook

Historian, Linda Rogers, needs access to FaceBook. Newsletters and pictures may be posted.

Announcements

- Congratulations to all ASMTA competition winners.
- Thanks to Naoki for hosting and Lauren for organizing the state competition.
- SAMTA will host a Zoom session about the certification on February 14, 2025 (Helen Cao-Casano, National Chair of Certification) All members are welcome.
- MTNA National Conference: Minneapolis, MN, March 15-19, 2024
- TEMPO, online piano pedagogy conference: April 25-26, 2025

Items on the agenda to be tabled:

- Elected board members – Paul Whitley
- Competition for college students/instrumental students

The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m.???

Respectfully submitted, Marika Kyriakos, Secretary