

**Arts and Advocacy Forum Meeting**  
**Sunday, March 19, 2017**  
**2:15-3:15 MTNA Conference-Baltimore, Maryland**

Presiding: Christine Steiner, NCTM: East Central Division Director

Recording Secretary: Jill Hanrahan, NCTM: West Central Director-Elect

Attendees: (21)

Branner, Eric  
Burns, Elaine  
Campo, Karen  
Cathcart, Cynthia  
Donica, Drew  
Field, Sue  
Hanrahan, Jill  
Janatova, Hana  
King, Ann  
Klingenstein, Beth  
McAllister, Lesley  
Menard, Tonya  
Millington, Michele  
Mortensen, Kathy  
Paisley, Jennifer  
Savage, Dylan  
Smith, Heather  
Smith, Janice  
Snyder, Linda  
Steiner, Christine  
Stoloff, Betty

The meeting was called to order at 2:15pm. Christine stated the purpose of the forum meetings as an opportunity for attendees to share ideas, concerns and ask questions. She shared the report from last year:

Attendees wanted:

- 1) More information about getting grants and money. Christine noted that there was a session on Monday at 2:15 about grant writing.
- 2) To know about success stories: Information about Utah MTA and their advocacy program and job descriptions were passed out.
- 3) To be alerted to communications affecting global arts and advocacy issues. Currently, President Trump proposed eliminating NEA\* and NEH\*. MTNA co-sponsors advocacy in Washington, D.C.

Christine opened the floor to the attendees.

**SHARING:**

- **“Arts” Artist Concert** Teacher shared her idea to have a concert with “Arts” artists on Facebook and got great response including a congressman and a concert master. Her mission was “Arts Awareness” because the budget is going away. All funds raised will be donated to non-profits. Twelve to twenty people donated their time and talent towards a successful event: computer specialist, musical director, publicity director, artist (did all the visual arts), ticket seller.

- “Artists” Concert This event was described as a big event for students involving artists from different genres: tattoo artist, 2-D/3-D Artist, musicians, and theater. Grants were written for funds. The concert creates advocacy for teaching and community outreach.
- Impact of music in rural areas ArtsAmerica.org has programs all over America: theatre, classical music, jazz and multi-cultural. Each state has a website and list information on how they support the arts. Create projects you are passionate about and they will be successful. Consider partnering with the city and/or a library to start music education programs.
- National Endowment for the Arts
  - It is a misconception that only large venues like the Kennedy Center get money from the NEA budget.
    - Forty percent (40%) of the NEA\* budget goes to states
    - Each state has an annual report about Arts budget and spending.
    - States must match the funds given to them by the NEA\*.
    - States delegate funds to applicants.
  - Each states’ Art Council can be googled to find out budget and funding information.
- Presidential Budget Cut Discussion
  - It is important for independent music teachers to connect with their local arts community.
  - Do one small action every day and it will add up to make a difference: make a phone call, write a letter, make a donation.
  - The 2016 Congressional Report Card is on the AFTA\* website.
- Create a template for volunteers to contact representatives with numbers & figures
  - Talk to the legislator about what impacts them:
    - Economics: losing music jobs. There are more music jobs than in agriculture and transportation
    - Discuss the revenue being generated through Arts events: food, shopping, tourism
    - Health impact
    - Discuss what art is: their kids pictures on the fridge, the shape of a bottle in a store.
  - Keep it short – no more than 2 paragraphs.
    - Have a short opening.
    - Write a short personal paragraph about how it impacts you/
    - Summarize your points
  - Utah MTA has a pdf with 10 tips on how to write an advocacy letter.
  - NASAA\* website has important information about NEA
- Create an advocacy kit
  - Show the value of music lessons and art
  - Reach out to the community
  - Show how to support the community
  - Links:
    - Kennedy Center.org
    - Performing Arts Alliance
    - NAMM
- Join an Advocacy Alliance to benefit from membership
- Share information about importance of the arts so it ripples out:
  - State Associations communicate to Local Associations to students to parents to community
- Make “Arts & Advocacy Day” in Washington, D.C. a known event. Attend if you can
- Have parents and students perform at nursing homes and hospitals.

- The Utah Arts Council had to create a project that would support the community.
  - Problem: find a venue for recital space
  - Solution:
    - They fund raised in the name of a popular teacher, and contacted her past students and parents.
    - They asked the Art Loft if space could be rented if fund raising was provided.
    - They created a video to explain the process, raised \$200,000 and purchased 2 Steinway pianos. Bountiful D Arts Center BDAC.org

Action Item(s)

- Create an MTNA Community Arts & Advocacy Service Award
- Suggest that State Associations create a Community Arts & Advocacy Service Award for their local associations.

Submitted,

Jill G. Hanrahan, NCTM

West Central Division Director-Elect

- \* AFTA – Americans for the Arts
- \* NASAA – National Assembly of State Arts Agencies
- \* NEA – National Endowment for the Arts
- \* NEH – National Endowment for the Humanities