

**MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**Toronto, Ontario
March 22 and 27, 2007**

MINUTES

Present

President Paul Stewart, President-elect Gail Berenson, Immediate Past President Phyllis Pieffer, Vice President Martha Hilley, Executive Director Gary Ingle (ex officio without vote), Kenneth Christensen, Diane Higgins, Deborah Martin, Mary Ellen Moore, Ruth Pitts, Carmen Shaw

Absent: Secretary/Treasurer Kathleen Rountree

Staff Present

Deputy Executive Director Marge Bengel; Chief Information Officer Julianne Miranda

CALL TO ORDER

MTNA President Paul Stewart called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on March 22, 2007.

MINUTES

The minutes of the December 2006 Board meeting were approved as submitted.

REPORTS

National Officer Reports

Written reports were received from the following elected officers: President Paul Stewart, President-elect Gail Berenson, Immediate Past President Phyllis Pieffer, Vice President Martha Hilley and Secretary/Treasurer Kathleen Rountree.

President Stewart reported that 1,932 members (8.39%) of eligible members voted in the 2007 National Officer Election with 87% of those votes received online. The results were as follows: President-elect Ann Gipson, Vice President Janice Wenger, and Secretary/Treasurer Judith Price.

President-elect Gail Berenson reported that she and Executive Director Gary Ingle attended an ASAE symposium on shared leadership in February 2007. As a result of that meeting, Berenson and Ingle will look at the current meeting structure to determine if there should be changes in how future Board meetings are conducted. She reported that the recipient of the 2007 MTNA Collegiate Chapter of the Year is the University of Oklahoma .

In the absence of the Secretary/Treasurer, Executive Director Gary Ingle led a review of the January 31, 2007 financial statements. MTNA has current assets of \$2,897,736.81 with liabilities of \$40,256.09 and unrestricted net assets of \$2,857,480.72. Income is \$2,004,531.63 with expenses of \$1,271,278.31.

Current assets of the MTNA Certification Program are \$76,252.67 with liabilities of \$2,579.81 and unrestricted net assets of \$73,672.86. Current income is \$36,306.26 with expenses of \$10,816.01.

Division Presidents Report

Written reports were received from directors of all divisions: East Central (Carmen Shaw). Eastern (Deborah Martin), Northwest (Kenneth Christensen), South Central (Ruth Pitts), Southern (Diane Higgins), Southwest (Cheryl Pachak-Brooks) and West Central (Mary Ellen Moore).

National Program Chairs

Written reports were received from the Composer Commissioning Program (Chair Ann Witherspoon) and the 2007 Conference Steering Committee (Co-chair Paul Stewart).

Other Standing Committees

Written reports from the following Standing Committees were reviewed: AMT Editorial Committee (Chair William Westney), Finance (Chair Kathleen Rountree), Membership (Chair Gail Berenson), Summit for MTNA Leadership Planning Committee (Chair Gail Berenson) and the State President's Advisory Council (Chair Darlene Vlasek).

The Board welcomed the following new affiliates:

Collegiate Chapters

University of Missouri – Kansas City, Diane Petrella, January 2007

Corporate Members

Eye Quest Inc., Mississauga ON, November 2006
Get LessonsNow.com, Rockville MD, October 2006
Longbow Publishing Ltd, Surrey BC, October 2006

Institutional Members

Mozart School of Music, Birnaby BC, October 2006

Ad Hoc Committees

Written reports from the following Ad Hoc Committees were reviewed: Autism Task Force (Chair Scott Price) and the Collegiate Chapter Enhancement Task Force (Chair Martha Hilley).

The Autism Task Force's report and recommendations follow:

Members of the Committee: Cynthia Benson, Bowling Green State University
Christopher Fisher, Ohio University

Charge

The charge of the MTNA Autism Teacher Resource Task Force was "to brainstorm and create proposals for the Board of Director's consideration". We were also charged with exploring "ideas for creating a centralized location for resources and for ways to communicate this information".

Focus

While the focus of the MTNA Autism Teacher Resource Task Force was to concentrate on issues surrounding autism and piano teaching, the members hoped that the ideas proposed in this report would serve as a template for creating resources for approaching and serving teachers and students working with related and differing disabilities.

Observations

There are many teachers teaching one, or a very limited number, of students with autism and other disabilities throughout the United States. Very few individuals have any significant and substantive levels of experience. There is currently a lack of bibliographic resources, published material on autism and piano teaching, centralized resource sites, workshops and training opportunities for teachers, and general communication and cooperation between individual teachers at the local, regional and national levels of professional organization. To remedy this observation, the members of the task force suggest an action plan to address these problems.

Action Plan

In addressing the observations of the task force members, a four-fold action approach is suggested including, but not limited to:

- 1) Collection of information
- 2) Advocacy and dissemination of information
- 3) Creation of teacher resources
- 4) Collaboration

The following existing resources for piano teachers may easily be adapted or used to address the issue.

1) Collection of Information

The American Music Teacher

- Creation of a bibliography similar to the Music and Wellness bibliography published in earlier issues
- Limited-run or dedicated column on autism and issues related to piano teaching
- Series of articles on autism and piano teaching

2) Advocacy and Dissemination of Information

MTNA National Convention and regional, state and local association meetings

- Encouraged submission of proposals and/or dedicated number of poster sessions
- Encouraged submission of proposals and/or dedicated number of sessions/workshops
- Dedicated information dissemination to state president meetings
- List of clinicians available to present to regional, state and local organizations and active advocacy and promotion of these workshops and events by the national body and state presidents

3) Teacher Resources

MTNA Website

- All print materials to be developed made available to teachers in PDF file format
- Possible future inclusion of video demonstration clips and/or lesson/workshop podcasts available on the MTNA website

MTNA Website Existing Resources

Adapting use of the MTNA.org website may facilitate teacher interaction, communication and collaboration. Use of the website may also provide opportunities for parents/caregivers to find teachers with specializations in their residential areas.

- “Find a Music Teacher” Link
- “Online Communities” Link
- “Education Hotline” Link

Independent Studio Support

- Appointment of a committee to create studio guidelines and studio policies/procedures for the inclusion of disabled/autistic students and education and advancement of independent music teachers who wish to serve this student population (similar to the Teacher Self-Assessment Instrument developed by Phyllis Pieffer)
- Possible options for teacher education in the MTNA Teacher Certification Program

4) Collaboration

Many of the experienced piano teachers currently active in teaching students with autism and other disabilities serve on multiple committees with other organizations. This would suggest opportunities for collaboration between MTNA and its sister organizations in addressing the issue. These organizations may include but not be limited to:

- The National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy (Committee on Special Needs Students)
- The National Group Piano/Piano Pedagogy Forum Convention (GP3)
- The Music Educators National Conference
- The Music Therapy Association
- Government Agencies, Health and Human Service Agencies, Research/Professional Organizations, Private Organizations

Motion (Pieffer) and Second (Berenson) to accept the report, to dissolve the Autism Task Force, and to thank the committee members for their excellent work and their thoroughness in this crucial area.

PASSED

Executive Director Report

The written report of the Executive Director was reviewed. The following activities were highlighted:

1. In January, the first cut of MTNA's segment in the *Profile Series* cable program was delivered to the headquarters. We were quite pleased with the quality and content of the piece. It is scheduled to be shown at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, March 27, 2007.
2. The Sky Radio interview was recorded in January. The three-minute broadcast will air on Northwest Airlines flights in April 2007. In addition, we accepted the opportunity to have the interview rebroadcast on both Northwest and American Airlines in June 2007. This will boost the number of potential listeners to 6,400,000 on 40,800 flights. The MTNA logo and contact information will be placed in the in-flight magazines.
3. The Fisher-Price "I Can Play Piano" toy was well-received by the public and the toy industry. In fact, it garnered a great deal of press including several articles in the *New York Times* and *Parade Magazine*. It also received a nomination for Educational Toy of the Year by the Toy Industry Association of America. It was also voted Dr. Toy's 100 Best Toys of the Year and one of the best interactive games by *Child Magazine*. So, despite our concerns regarding the wording of the MTNA quote on the packaging, MTNA received a great deal of important press throughout the world. I wrote Fisher-Price of the Board's

concern about the wording. Fortunately, Fisher-Price responded positively. We came up with a new phrase that is acceptable to both MTNA and Fisher-Price: “This is a valuable introduction to piano.” The phrase eliminates any reference to “teaching” or “tool.” It just describes the reality of the toy: it “introduces” the child to piano. No claims about piano teaching or that it is useful as a tool are attributed to MTNA. Our brochure will still be included inside the packaging. The toy remains an incredible opportunity for MTNA to advance the value of music study to society.

4. Gibson/Baldwin has changed its website to the following statement: “A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the following charitable music education organizations. The Grammy Foundation, MTNA, VH1 Save the Music Foundation, NFAA, MENC.” The wording on the packaging now says: “We help music thrive. A portion of the proceeds from your purchase will be donated to the following music charities. The Grammy Foundation, MTNA, VH1 Save the Music Foundation, NFAA, MENC.” There is no reference to any involvement in “marketing events” or the like. Given the changes made by Gibson/Baldwin and the delicate relationship we have with Baldwin as sponsor of the Junior Piano Competition (it has taken us years to get prompt payment from Baldwin), a letter to Henry Juskiewicz was not sent. In addition, we now have a written policy for dissemination to Gibson/Baldwin and any other organization for future partnerships.

5. The Recreational Music Making Project with PMAI, PTG, and RPMDA is moving forward. Four workshops are being scheduled around the country to train teachers in RMM materials and methods:

June 30 – July 1	Madison, WI
July 14 – 15	Seattle, WA
July 28 – 29	Harrisburg, PA
August 11 – 12	Raleigh-Durham, NC

The clinicians are Brenda Dillon (Project Manger), Autumn Keller, and Debra Perez.

6. The Chinese pianist Lang Lang has been schedule as the artist for the 2008 Conference in Denver.
7. MTNA was again a co-sponsor with Americans for the Arts for the Arts Advocacy Day in Washington D.C. on March 12 – 13, 2007.
8. MTNA will again partner with the International Association for Jazz Education to sponsor the piano track of the IAJE Teacher Training Institute held on June 22 – 24, 2007 in Newark, Delaware. The piano clinician is Tony Caramia.
9. Plans continue for an MTNA-Steinway event at Carnegie Hall in September 2007, featuring the past winners of the MTNA-Steinway Young Artist Piano Competition.

The report was concluded with a presentation by Julianne Miranda on MTNA technology projects, including the new web site, Association in a Box, and the Virtual Collegiate Chapter Initiatives.

BUSINESS

Presidential Appointments

Motion and Second to ratify the following appointments:

Ann Rivers Witherspoon: Composer Commissioning Chair Reappointment 2007-09

Nancy Kaesler, Colorado MTA President : 2008 Conference Planning Committee

PASSED

AMT Covers

The Board discussed a proposal to create an opportunity for MTNA members and their students to submit an original design or photo for the cover of the *American Music Teacher*.

This agenda item had also been submitted to the Board at the July 2006 meeting and was referred at that time to the AMT Editorial Committee. The proposal is on the Editorial Committee's agenda during its meeting at the conference. The Board will wait for a recommendation from the Editorial Committee before taking any action.

National Student Awards Program

The Board discussed a proposal to create a MTNA Student Musician Award Program, which could promote student activity within the community and complement the MTNA national student award program. The rationale acknowledged the current MTNA Music for Everyone Program. After lengthy discussion, the Board referred this proposal to the staff for incorporation into the proper program area.

Children Helping Children

The Board discussed a project called Children Helping Children Performathon. This will be presented at the State President's Advisory Council on Tuesday, March 27 by New Jersey state president Betty Stoloff. The Board determined that no consideration would be made until after the presentation by Stoloff to the SPAC.

Composition Competition Fees

The Board considered a proposal 1) to reduce the MTNA Composition Competition fees so that they are more in line with the competition fee amounts of other national composition competitions and 2) to reduce the awards for the same reason.

Motion (Berenson) and Second (Pachak-Brooks) to postpone discussion of this item to the June 2007 Board meeting.

PASSED

Staff for Competitions

The Board discussed a proposal to provide more staff resources for the competitions in order to reduce the burden on volunteers and for the Competitions committee to explore ways to provide more administrative assistance to competition officials. These recommendations were referred to the Competitions Committee for its consideration and follow through.

Strategic Plan

The Board discussed a proposal on the possibility of developing a five or ten year strategic plan. The President and the Executive Director will be developing a biennium agenda for presentation at the June 2007 Board meeting. Further discussion on this issue will take place at that time.

Trust for Insuring Educators

The Board discussed a proposal regarding the Trust for Insuring Educators (TIE). This organization is a group of 62 national education association that have come together into a single trust to provide insurance products to their respective members. Only one association from each educational area is allowed membership, and each association must be voted in by a 2/3 majority of the other members. The reason for these restrictions is that the trust provides competitive insurance rates for the member associations' membership and thus provides a competitive advantage for attracting members to the association itself.

The trust provides 11 insurance products, including comprehensive health plans, disability, professional liability, auto, ID theft, and life. The benefits to MTNA include 1) competitive, comprehensive programs designed specifically for educator associations like MTNA, and 2) MTNA has a say in the direction of the trust to enhance the value of membership in our association.

Motion (Christensen) and Second (Hilley) to authorize Executive Director Ingle to apply for MTNA membership in the "Trust for Insuring Educators" (TIE) to provide insurance products for our membership.

PASSED

Recognition Award

The Piano Technician Guild (PTG) is celebrating its 50th anniversary at its 2007 National Convention in Kansas City, June 20 – 24, 2007. Given the important interrelationships between music teachers and piano technicians, it is appropriate and desirable for MTNA to recognize and honor the contributions of the piano technicians to our profession. The award would be presented at the PTG Convention.

Motion (Christensen) and second (Berenson) to confer an MTNA Recognition Award on the Piano Technicians Guild for its 50th Anniversary.

PASSED

Election of Nominating Committee Members

Motion and Second to elect by acclamation Mary Ellen Moore and Ruth Pitts to the 2007-2009 Nominating Committee.

PASSED

The Board discussed the issue of the appropriateness and desirability of members serving on the Nominating Committee being nominated for office. The MTNA parliamentary authority Roberts' Rules of Order allows persons serving on the Nominating Committee to be nominated for office. The MTNA attorney, Scott Gilligan, also indicated that any prohibition for such must be in the Bylaws. No action was taken.

Travel Funds and Honoraria for Commissioned Composer Performers

The Board discussed a proposal to approve travel funds and honoraria for Commissioned Composer performers at the MTNA conference as follows:

1. a maximum of \$500 per performer (up to 5 performers) for airfare and hotel
2. an honorarium of \$200 per performer (up to 5 performers) for the performance

No action was taken.

Recognition of Outgoing Officers

Motion (Christensen) and second (Berenson) for the Board to express its profound gratitude and appreciation to the following officers for their service to the association 2005-2007:

Paul B. Stewart, President
Gail Berenson, President-elect
Phyllis Pieffer, Immediate Past President
Martha Hilley, Vice President

Kathleen Rountree, Secretary/Treasurer

PASSED

Lifetime Membership for President Stewart

Motion and Second that the Board confer MTNA Lifetime Membership status on Paul Stewart in honor of his outstanding leadership and dedicated service to the association as MTNA President 2005-2007.

PASSED

Immediate Past President Pieffer presented President Stewart with a gift of engraved crystal bookends from the Board as an expression of its gratitude.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m. on March 22, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary L. Ingle
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer