

**MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Chicago, Illinois
March 21, 2014**

MINUTES

ATTENDEES

Present

President Kenneth Christensen, President-elect Rebecca Johnson, Vice President Debra Florian, Secretary-Treasurer Karen Thickstun, Scott Beard (Eastern Division), Timothy Shook (West Central Division), Gerardo Ascheri (East Central Division), Cheryl Norman (Southwest Division), David French (Northwest Division), Mary Sallee (South Central Division), Martha Thomas (Southern Division), and Executive Director & CEO Gary Ingle (ex officio without vote)

Absent

Immediate Past President Benjamin Caton

Staff Present

COO Brian Shepard and Executive Coordinator to the CEO Diana Viltrakis

CALL TO ORDER

President Kenneth Christensen called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. March 21, 2014.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the December 2013 meetings were entered into the record, both documents having been approved unanimously as submitted via email votes on December 17, 2013.

A minor correction was made to reflect the end date of the MTNA Carew Tower lease. It was incorrectly listed as October 31, 2014 and should be listed as November 30, 2014.

REPORTS

National Officers

Written reports were received from the following National Officers: President Kenneth Christensen, President-elect Rebecca Johnson, Vice President Debra Florian, Secretary-Treasurer Karen Thickstun, and Immediate Past President Benjamin Caton.

Secretary-Treasurer Karen Thickstun presented an overview of the February 28, 2014 financial reports. Assets of MTNA are \$3,863,141.53 with liabilities of \$55,013.75, and income of \$2,313,284.89 with expenses of \$1,245,846.01. The balance of the MTNA Trust account is \$852,936.36. The Foundation Fund Endowment account has assets of \$1,023,482.50 and the McHose Trust has assets of \$642,544.22.

Division Directors

Written reports from all seven Division Directors were reviewed: East Central (Gerardo Ascheri), Eastern (Scott Beard), Northwest (David French), South Central (Mary Sallee), Southern (Martha Thomas), Southwest (Cheryl Norman) and West Central (Tim Shook).

Executive Director & CEO

A written report was received from Executive Director & CEO Gary Ingle. His written report focused on the following items:

Ohio Attorney General's Investigation

In early January, MTNA legal counsel Scott Gilligan was informed by the Ohio Attorney General's Office that the investigation of MTNA has been concluded and that MTNA has been fully exonerated of the baseless complaints. A notice written by Mr. Gilligan, summarizing the situation and the Attorney General's actions was distributed to MTNA state presidents and other leaders in MTNA. Although MTNA was fully exonerated, the matter consumed a great deal of valuable staff time and monetary resources.

Federal Trade Commission Investigation

On December 15, 2013, a thirty-day public comment on the proposed "FTC Consent Decree and Order" with MTNA began. It concluded on January 15, 2014. It is unknown the number, scope, or content of any comments. Following the comment period, the next and final step is for the four FTC Commissioners to vote to approve, reject, or modify the decree. It has been over a month since the conclusion of the comment period. Unfortunately, MTNA has received nothing from the FTC. We still await the decision and have no clue when it may arrive. Once the Consent Decree is approved and we know exactly what is required, the national headquarters will provide our state and local affiliates with everything they need to know and do in order to fulfill their obligations in the compliance process.

Finance

The CPI increased 1.6 percent during 2013. The automatic dues adjustment will be \$1.00, increasing the active member dues for 2014-15 from \$69 to \$70.

Foundation Fund

In January, the MTNA Foundation Fund portfolio of investments topped \$1Million for the first time. The fund continues to grow steadily and serves the music teaching profession in significant ways.

Michael and Christine Bates are the newest members of the Legacy Society.

The MarySue Harris endowment has grown to the point that it now provides the total funding for the *MTNA Studio Teacher Fellowship Award*. Henceforth, the award will be known as the “*MarySue Harris Studio Teacher Fellowship Award*.”

Joyce Anderson, a member of MTNA since 1955, passed away in October 2013. Her daughter, Ronelle Armstrong, recently established an MTNA endowment in her name.

Although it was established last year, due to timing the Joe and Laurel Ince Endowment Fund could not be announced. It will be announced at the Gala this year.

This is the 15th year of the Foundation Fellow program. This year 37 fellows will be added, bringing the total of Foundation Fellows to 325 recipients since 2000.

Legal and Ethics

The Bylaws update continues to move forward. On March 10, the proposed bylaws were distributed to the membership via email.

Membership

RMM Teaching Fellowship Awards

The National Piano Foundation, in collaboration with Kawai and Yamaha, established the National Piano Foundation Recreational Music Making (RMM) Teaching Fellowship Award. The Teaching Fellowship Award will be given annually to two deserving candidates who demonstrate a passion and aptitude for RMM teaching and who are starting (or expanding) their careers as independent piano teachers. Thanks to generous donations from Kawai and Yamaha, the recipients of the Teaching Fellowship Award will receive up to four entry-level digital pianos to help them establish RMM programs. In addition, the recipients will be assigned to an RMM teacher/trainer who will be available to them for consultation in all facets of starting, developing and teaching an RMM program. The recipients of the awards will be announced at the MTNA National Conference in Chicago.

Many efforts are underway to extend MTNA presence to non-piano organizations. Last year, MTNA sponsored a \$500 competition award for the International Society of Bassists. This year, MTNA is sponsoring a \$500 competition award for the International Clarinet Association.

The Yehudi Menuhin International Violin Competition was held for the first time in the United States at the University of Texas Butler School of Music on February 21-March 3. MTNA was the Piano Accompanist Sponsor (their term, not ours) in the amount of \$5,000. Past MTNA Vice President Martha Hilley and Ingle attended the finals and several of the social events.

On March 5-6, Ingle attended the American String Teachers Association annual conference in Louisville, Kentucky and had the opportunity to network with string teachers from across the country.

International

The ASEAN Partnership to establish MTNA in Southeast Asia has been a low priority over the past months, as the focus had to be on the national conference. However, communication continues with Dr. Mimi Chan, and the idea will become a priority following the conference.

Staff and Headquarters

The current headquarters lease in the Carew Tower expires on November 30, 2014. Brian Shepard and Ingle have been working with our lease broker to negotiate a new lease with Carew Tower as well as to identify, explore, and negotiate potential new space in downtown Cincinnati to fulfill the process of due diligence. The management of Carew Tower has not produced an attractive future lease, so it is becoming increasingly possible that MTNA will move to a new location at the conclusion of the current lease. As of today, the most attractive offer is from 4th and Vine (PNC Bank Building) directly across 4th Street from the Carew Tower.

Following Elaine Donaldson's retirement on January 31, the MTNA staff was restructured to better reflect the current needs within the office. Most of Elaine's responsibilities are now being shared by Melissa Curtice, whose title was changed to Membership Processing and Certification Manager; Tonya Schauer, whose title was changed to Meetings and Member Services Manager; and a newly created position of Office Assistant, who will also serve as receptionist and provide administrative support for projects. The new Office Assistant is Sandra Greeb, who begins the position on April 1. Sandra comes to MTNA from a similar position with the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Music Degree from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

The Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) established comprehensive health insurance reforms. Over a four-year period that commenced in March 2010, several new features are being rolled out such as the Patient's Bill of Rights and other consumer protections, improving quality and lowering costs, and the Health Insurance Marketplace. As an employer, MTNA is required to pay an Affordable Care Act Tax in addition to the insurance coverage we provide to our staff. The ACA Taxes include (1) Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institution tax, (2) reinsurance tax, and (3) market share tax. These taxes total \$15.44 per employee per month. Rather than

requiring the employees to pay these taxes, MTNA is absorbing the costs into its employee benefits.

Many MTNA staff members worked diligently on taking extra steps to manage their health and wellness. Our health insurance provider Humana has established the “Humana Vitality” program that provides a ten percent reduction on the premiums MTNA pays on staff members who complete online health assessments during the calendar year. I congratulate Jenny Thomason, Marcie Lindsey, Teasha O’Connell, and Tonya Schauer for achieving silver status with the Humana Vitality program, which resulted in the ten percent reduction on the premiums MTNA pays on their health insurance. In addition to the gift cards that they earned through Humana Vitality, MTNA also gave them a \$100 Target gift card as thanks for going above and beyond the call of duty. All staff members are being encouraged to enroll...for the savings in premiums, the gift cards, but most importantly, the better health that follows.

COO Brian Shepard was elected President of the American Classical Music Hall of Fame, which is located in Cincinnati. Brian will be an excellent president of this organization.

Partnerships

MTNA is a co-sponsor of Arts Advocacy Day on March 25, 2014, in Washington DC. Hosted by Americans for the Arts and co-sponsored by more than 85 other national arts organizations, AA Day is the largest gathering of its kind, bringing together a broad cross section of America’s cultural and civic organizations. Advocates from across the country go to Washington DC to meet with their members of Congress in support of issues like arts education policy, the charitable tax deduction, and funding for the National Endowment of the Arts.

On February 21, the National Association for Music Education formally launched a new advocacy campaign called *Broader Minded: Think Beyond the Bubbles*. The concept is that music not only impacts academic achievement, it also shapes the way our students understand themselves and the world around them. As a member of the Music Education Policy Roundtable and supporter of music education advocacy efforts, MTNA endorses the effort and our name and logo can be found on the landing page at www.broaderminded.com.

A partnership was established with JoyTunes, a company that develops apps for music education. The app, Piano Maestro, is used by more than 2.5 million students and over 10,000 teachers. It won the NAMM Best Tools for Schools Award for the Best Teaching Tool for Young/Elementary Students category. Dana Messina, former CEO of Steinway Inc. serves on its Advisory Board. The app and the subscription to Piano Maestro may be appealing to many of our members. For each subscription sold to our members (\$50), JoyTunes will contribute \$10 to the MTNA Foundation Fund.

As chair of the Forum for Instrumental and Vocal Teaching of the International Society for Music Education (ISME), Ingle selected the sessions for this forum that will be presented at the ISME World Conference in Porto Alegre, Brazil on July 20-25, 2014. This forum fosters a closer relationship between the public school teachers and the private teachers around the world.

After completing 5 years as Co-President of the Music Council of the Three Americas (COMTA), Ingle was elected as one of three Vice Presidents for this regional organization of the International Music Council.

Board

The voting for the new Directors-elect went quite smoothly as expected. There were 21,635 members eligible to vote. Of that number, 1,378 voted (6%) with 1,270 votes cast online (92%). In 2012, there were 1,530 votes cast with 1,361 cast online (89%).

Ingle expressed his personal gratitude to all of the out-going Directors: Gerardo, Scott, David, Cheryl, Mary, Tim, and Martha, for the privilege to serve with and for them.

In addition to his written report, Ingle informed the Board that he met with Sir James and Lady Jeanne Galway for an interview on March 13, 2014 to be published in a future issue of the *American Music Teacher* magazine. Sir James expressed interest in performing at the 2015 National Conference.

Committees

Written reports were received from the Nominating Committee (Benjamin Caton), Finance Committee (Karen Thickstun), Membership Committee (Lezlee Bishop), Strategic Plan Committee (Rebecca Johnson), Foundation Fund Development Committee (Brian Chung/Thomas Ediger), Partnership Review Committee (Rebecca Johnson), State Presidents Advisory Council (Catherine Walby), *AMT* Editorial Committee (James Litzelman), MTNA e-Journal Editorial Committee (Andrew Hisey), Composer Commissioning Program (Ann Witherspoon), 2014 Conference Planning Committee (Peter Mack), National Group Piano/Piano Pedagogy Forum (Michelle Conda), and the One for All Committee (Debra Florian).

BUSINESS

Presidential Appointments

President Kenneth Christensen submitted the following appointments for ratification:

2015 Conference Planning Committee

Hanah Shields, Nevada
Lucia Unrau, Ohio
Desiree Gonzalez, Utah
Allen Henderson, Georgia
Sally O'Reilly, Minnesota
Catherine Walby, Wisconsin

2015 Pedagogy Saturday Chairs

Gail Berenson	Wellness Track
Kathleen Riley	Wellness Track

Zachary Lopes	Young Professional Track
Ka Man Ng	Young Professional Track
Jovanni Rey de Pedro	Young Professional Track
Richard Rejino	RMM Track
Angela Cheng and Alvin Chow	Artistry Track

Motion and second to ratify the appointments.

PASSED (Unanimously)

Bylaws Update Review

The Board of Directors had a final review of the bylaws update being submitted to the membership at the Annual Meeting. Following the conference, the bylaws will be sent to the membership for approval.

FTC Update

Executive Director Ingle updated the Board on the current status of the FTC Consent Decree and Order. His report was unchanged from his earlier written report. He informed the Board that he had been interviewed by John Stossel for his program on Fox Business News. The interview, which took place on March 19, centered on the FTC allegations of anticompetitive behavior of music teachers.

Office Lease Update

Executive Director Ingle reported that the headquarters lease in the Carew Tower expires on November 30, 2014. Ingle and COO Brian Shepard have been working with a lease broker to negotiate a new lease with Carew Tower as well as to identify, explore, and negotiate potential new space in downtown Cincinnati to fulfill the process of due diligence. The selections were narrowed down to two properties: the Carew Tower and 4th & Vine. The Board was presented proposals from the Carew Tower and Central Trust Tower Associates (4th & Vine). Following the Board's discussion, the Finance Committee recommended the lease proposal from Central Trust Tower Associates.

The Finance Committee recommends that the Board of Directors accept the Revised Lease Proposal – Option A from Central Trust Tower Associates and authorize the Executive Director to enter into a ten year nine month lease, effective December 1, 2014, for 8,462 sq. ft. of office space in the 4th and Vine Tower in Cincinnati, Ohio.

PASSED (Unanimously)

Collegiate Chapter Project Grant Proposal

The Board discussed a proposal from Secretary-Treasurer Karen Thickstun to establish a "Collegiate Chapter Project Grant" program, to parallel the existing Affiliate Grant program. The

proposal contained guidelines, evaluation criteria, and application. Following the Board's discussion, the Finance Committee made a recommendation.

The Finance Committee recommends that the Board of Directors establish a Collegiate Chapter Project Grant program.

PASSED (Unanimously)

Collegiate Enrichment Grant Proposal

The Board discussed a proposal from Secretary-Treasurer Karen Thickstun to establish a "Collegiate Enrichment Grant" program, similar to the existing Teacher Enrichment Grant program. The proposal contained guidelines, evaluation criteria, and application. Following the Board's discussion, the Finance Committee presented its recommendation.

The Finance Committee recommends that the Board of Directors establish a Collegiate Enrichment Grant Program.

PASSED (Unanimously)

Competition Prize Proposal

The Board of Directors discussed a proposal from Director of Competitions, Linda Stump to provide funding for third place prize winners starting in the 2014-2015 competition season. After discussion, the Board took no action on the proposal and referred the issue of third place awards back to the Competitions Committee.

State Competition Costs Update

The Board of Directors reviewed data on the State Competition Costs that was compiled from the financial reports submitted by the states. All states that held competitions submitted financial reports this year in response to discussion at the Summit for MTNA Leadership.

The meeting was recessed at 3:34 p.m. on March 21, 2014.

The meeting resumed at 9:17 a.m. on March 26, 2014 with the incoming Division Directors in attendance.

Grace McFarlane (Eastern Division), Marc Hebda (Southern Division), Gail Heywood (East Central Division), Suzanne Torkelson (West Central Division), Sharon Ard (South Central Division), Jani Peterson (Northwest Division), and Helen Chao-Casano (Southwest Division)

Bylaws

The Board discussed the presentation of the updated MTNA bylaws that had taken place at the Annual meeting. The vote on the proposed update of the bylaws by the membership will be done primarily via email. Members without email will be sent a hard copy ballot.

Appreciation Resolution

President Kenneth Christensen moved that the Board of Directors express its profound gratitude and appreciation to the following Division Directors for their four-year service to the association.

**Scott Beard, Eastern Division Director
Martha Thomas, Southern Division Director
Gerardo Ascheri, East Central Division Director
Timothy Shook, West Central Division Director
Mary Sallee, South Central Division Director
David French, Northwest Division Director
Cheryl Norman, Southwest Division Director**

PASSED (unanimously)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be July 10-13, 2014 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

ADJOURNMENT

President Christensen adjourned the meeting at 9:58 a.m. on March 26, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Thickstun
Secretary-Treasurer