

**MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
San Antonio, Texas  
April 1, 2016**

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES**

**Present**

President Rebecca Johnson, Vice President Karen Thickstun, President-elect Scott McBride Smith, Secretary-Treasurer Sylvia Coats, Immediate Past President Kenneth Christensen, Grace McFarlane (Eastern Division), Gail Heywood (East Central Division), Jani Peterson (Northwest Division), Sharon Ard (South Central Division), Marc Hebda (Southern Division), Helen Chao-Casano (Southwest Division), and Suzanne Torkelson (West Central Division), and Executive Director & CEO Gary Ingle (ex officio without vote)

**Staff Present**

COO Brian Shepard and Executive Coordinator to the CEO Diana Viltrakis

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Rebecca Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. on April 1, 2016.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the December 2015 meeting were entered into the record, the document having been approved unanimously as submitted via email vote on January 4, 2016.

On January 15, 2016 via electronic means, all Board members by unanimous consent approved the following presidential appointments to the 2017 Conference Planning Committee:

- Serap Bastep-Grey, Johns Hopkins University
- Erin Bennett, University of North Florida
- Alan Huckleberry, University of Iowa
- Chan Kiat Lim, University of Louisiana-Lafayette
- Stephen Pierce, University of Southern California
- Wendy Stevens, Independent Music Teacher, Wichita, Kansas

They are duly appointed.

On February 19, 2016 via electronic means, all Board members by unanimous consent approved the following presidential appointments as 2017 Pedagogy Saturday chairs:

- Gail Berenson (Ohio): Wellness
- Linda Christensen (Nebraska): Technology
- Irene Peery-Fox (Utah): Artistry
- Erin Peyer (Wisconsin): Young Professionals
- Richard Rejino (Texas): Recreational Music Making

They are duly appointed.

### **National Officer Reports**

Written reports were received from the following National Officers: President Rebecca Johnson, President-elect Scott McBride Smith, Vice President Karen Thickett, Secretary-Treasurer Sylvia Coats, and Immediate Past President Kenneth Christensen.

Secretary-Treasurer Sylvia Coats asked Executive Director Gary Ingle to lead a review of the February 29, 2016 MTNA financial reports. He reported MTNA assets to be \$3,886,418.72 with liabilities of \$138,742.26. Income is \$2,145,631.79 with expenses of \$1,366,464.94. The balance of the MTNA Trust account is \$847,546.00. The Foundation Fund Endowment account has assets of \$1,070,102.73 and the McHose Trust has assets of \$582,063.13. Ingle's presentation included his financial projections for the fiscal year end on June 30.

### **Division Director Reports**

Written reports from all seven Division Directors were reviewed: Gail Heywood (East Central Division), Grace McFarlane (Eastern Division), Jani Peterson (Northwest Division), Sharon Ard (South Central Division), Marc Hebda (Southern Division), Helen Chao-Casano (Southwest Division), and Suzanne Torkelson (West Central Division).

### **Executive Director & CEO Report**

Executive Director & CEO Gary Ingle reviewed his written report as follows:

#### **Federal Trade Commission**

The Two Year Compliance Report for filing with the FTC has been written and submitted to the FTC on April 1, 2016. The report included information as required by the Consent Decree.

#### **Conferences and Meetings**

- The 2016 MTNA National Conference in San Antonio has been planned, prepared, and now awaits execution. Pre-registration has been quite strong, so the attendance should be very good. On January 1, 2016, the state of Texas legalized Open Carry, making it one of 45 states that allow citizens to openly carry a firearm in public. MTNA has had conferences over the years in several of the other 44 states that allow open carry without incident. However, the immense publicity of the Texas adoption and its timing relative to

the MTNA conference have made it necessary for our association to give attention to the issue. MTNA legal counsel, Scott Gilligan, was asked to research the issue and prepare a statement for MTNA on the issue. In summary, his legal opinion was that imposing gun restrictions is problematic for associations like MTNA that hold meetings and conferences across the country and therefore MTNA should not restrict the carrying of weapons in San Antonio.

- Preparations continue for the 2016 National Group Piano and Piano Pedagogy Forum, scheduled for August 5-6, 2016, at Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio.
- The Fourth MTNA Collegiate Chapters Piano Pedagogy Symposium took place January 15-17, 2016 at the University of South Carolina and was a huge success.
- Plans for the 2017 National Conference in Baltimore, Maryland are well underway. Leon Fleisher and Katherine Jacobson will be the featured artists along with the comic duo team of Igudesman (violin) & Joo (piano). David Cutler, author of *The Savvy Music Teacher* and *The Savvy Musician* will deliver a keynote address on business and entrepreneurial skills needed by today's music teachers. 2017 marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the MTNA Collaborative Conference in Toronto, Ontario. The collaboration will be commemorated at this conference, at which the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers Associations will join us. The commemoration will be low-key and consist mainly of special events throughout the conference during the Opening and Closing Sessions. Given the proximity of the Peabody Conservatory, discussions are underway to utilize its resources during the conference.
- The contracts for the 2019 MTNA National Conference in Spokane, Washington were signed on December 21, 2015.

### **Foundation Fund**

- The Texas Music Teachers Association has fully funded and established a Texas state endowment in the MTNA Foundation Fund. The grants from this fund will be directed to members from the South Central Division to attend the MTNA national conferences. This is the first time a state MTA has funded an endowment, and it is hoped it will be the first of many. Another endowment has been established in memory of the pioneering piano pedagogue Guy Duckworth. These two endowments increase the number of endowments to 35.
- Three new members are being added to the MTNA Legacy Society: Sharon Callahan of Texas, Lynd Corley of Illinois, and Mary Sallee, former Board member from Oklahoma.
- At the conference Gala, 34 new recipients will be inducted as MTNA Foundation Fellows, bringing the total number to 325.

### **International**

- The U.S. Department of Commerce provides assistance to businesses and organizations like MTNA who are interested in establishing a presence in foreign countries. On March

9, Ingle visited with Scott Tatlock, Executive Director for China, Global Markets, International Trade Commission; and William Bobseine, International Trade Specialist, Office of China and Mongolia. China is the focal point for extending the MTNA mission internationally. Their extensive expertise of China, especially its culture, legal, and business environments will be beneficial as we develop our strategy for moving forward.

- Our legal counsel, Scott Gilligan, continues to pursue getting MTNA trademarked in China, an important first step in our strategy.

### **Strategic Partnerships and Advocacy**

- An exciting new partnership is developing with the American Psychoanalytic Association (ApsaA). This partnership is an extension of our long-standing partnership with the Performing Arts Medicine Association (PAMA). PAMA focuses mainly on physical issues related to performance injury, rehabilitation, and prevention. ApsaA delves deeper into the mental, psychological and emotional issues of performance, personal issues, and interpersonal relationships. MTNA member and psychoanalyst Julie Nagel spearheaded this partnership, which has led to an entire day focused on these issues on Pedagogy Saturday in San Antonio. This past January, Nagel, Gail Berenson, and I attended the national conference of ApsaA in New York City during which we presented a session entitled *Psychoanalytic Perspectives on Music: More Than the Right Notes*. The session was well-attended, positively-received and featured remarks by Seymour Bernstein.
- As part of Arts Advocacy Day in Washington D.C. on March 8, Ingle was invited and attended a White House Briefing on Arts Policy. At the meeting, representatives from the National Endowment for the Arts, and other senior level officials representing the White House domestic and economic councils and federal agencies discussed how the arts are being incorporated into their respective agendas. Featured speakers were Robert Rodriguez, White House Education Advisor to the President; Commerce Department Assistant Secretary Jay Williams; NEA Chief of Staff Bill O'Brien; Sara Kass of the Healing Arts Initiative; and Tara McGuinness, Executive Director of Community Solutions Team and Senior Advisor, Office of Management and Budget.
- As a member of the Music Education Policy Roundtable, MTNA joined with other music education organizations to commend the members of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the leadership of both the House Education and the Workforce Committees and the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee for prioritizing music and arts programs in the "Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015" and to encourage and support its passage. The bill includes music and the arts in the "Well-Rounded Education" provision. The bill was passed and the Department of Education is currently in the process of developing guidelines for implementing the legislation.
- MTNA also supported the "Joint Statement on the Profession of Teaching" issued by the Trust for Insuring Educators in December 2015. The statement addresses the key challenges facing education today such as standardized testing, teacher evaluations, inequality, and poverty.

- In January, Ingle was re-elected by acclamation as Chairman of the Board of the National Music Council for another two-year term.

## **Programs**

- The cancellation and rescheduling of the Eastern Division Competitions on January 22, 2016 was an unprecedented occurrence, which required an inordinate amount of time and energy from our competition leadership. Linda Stump, Grace McFarlane, Millie Eban, Vivian Tsang, Ann McCandliss, and Brian Shepard are to be commended for their dedicated work under very taxing and time-consuming circumstances. The cancellation was the right thing to do under the circumstances. The potential for tragedy was too great for those who might attempt to travel, and the possibility of dozens of students getting stuck in New Jersey for several days was probable. Proceeding would not only have been unethical, it could have subjected MTNA to serious legal liability. As a result of this experience, the Competitions Committee is reviewing our policies and procedures to make a recommendation to the Board for improving and codifying our policy.
- The new MTNA Webinars have been enthusiastically received by our members. Three webinars have been completed, one of which had to be rescheduled because of technical issues. Overall, we are very pleased with the quality of the sessions, and the number of members who take advantage of them.
- MTNA has a strong presence on Facebook. MTNA now shows up in the newsfeeds of potential members and others interested in music teaching.
- Along with the National Piano Foundation, MTNA has submitted another grant proposal to NAMM for funding of the RMM partnership and the scholarship program provided. We will be notified later in the year of the decisions.
- In order to engage the membership in the process of revising the MTNA website, MTNA has contracted with *Color Nine*, a Cincinnati marketing agency. *Color Nine* will gather research from our members and other audiences in a variety of ways including surveys, focus groups, and interviews at the national conference.
- During the voting process for the Directors-elect in early February, an issue in the on-line voting that allowed members to vote in two divisions was communicated to us. The problem was fixed promptly and the 13 invalid votes resulting from the issue were removed. At no time was the accuracy of the votes ever compromised as safeguards have been built into the system to ensure accuracy and validity of votes.

## **Travel and Meetings**

### **December**

Dec 22, 2015	Meeting with American Pianists Assn	Cincinnati, OH
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### **January**

Jan 13-15, 2016	American Psychoanalytic Assn Conf.	New York City
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Jan 16-17, 2016	MTNA Collegiate Symposium	Columbia, SC
Jan 21-25, 2016	NAMM Show	Anaheim, CA
Jan 29-31, 2016	Morty Manus Memorial	Los Angeles, CA

**February**

Feb 01, 2016	Morty Manus Memorial	Los Angeles, CA
Feb 29, 2016	National Music Council Board Meeting	New York City

**March**

Mar 01, 2016	Meeting with Steinway	New York City
Mar 14, 2016	Steinway Hall Opening Gala	New York City
Mar 15-16, 2016	Meeting with Peabody Conservatory	Baltimore, MD
Mar 22-23, 2016	Citation Presentation to Frank Hackinson	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Mar 30-31, 2016	MTNA National Conference	San Antonio, TX

**April**

Apr 01-07, 2016	MTNA National Conference	San Antonio, TX
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**Committee Reports**

Written reports were received from the 2016 Conference Planning Committee (Jane Magrath), 2016 Collegiate Chapters Piano Pedagogy Symposium (Philip Castro), 2016 National Group Piano/Piano Pedagogy Forum (Lisa Zdechlik), *AMT* Editorial Committee (James Litzelman), Composer Commissioning Program (Ann Witherspoon), eFestival Task Force (Scott McBride Smith), e-Journal Editorial Committee (Andrew Hisey), Finance Committee (Sylvia Coats), Membership Committee (Karen Thickstun), Nominating Committee (Kenneth Christensen), and the State Presidents Advisory Council (Cindy Peterson-Peart). There was no report from the Foundation Fund Development Committee (Brian Chung).

**BUSINESS**

**Presidential Appointments**

President Rebecca Johnson submitted the following resolution:

**Motion and second to ratify the appointment of Timothy Blair and Benjamin Caton to the MTNA Foundation Fund Development Committee for 2016-2019.**

**PASSED**

**Motion and second to ratify the appointment of Katherine Chandler to the 2016 Collegiate Chapters Piano Pedagogy Symposium committee.**

**PASSED**

### **Recommendation of the eFestival Task Force**

The final reports and recommendations of the eFestival Task Force were presented by President-elect Scott McBride Smith, who served as chair. The members of the task force were Alex Bauer (Missouri), Elizabeth Blakeslee (Virginia), Jani Peterson (Washington state), and Lynda Lybeck Robinson (Alaska). Smith led the Board in a point-by-point discussion of the various issues found in the report.

The Board agreed with the task force's recommendation of no age or repertoire requirements. The Board also agreed to issue entrants a Certificate of Participation, appoint a volunteer coordinator, and utilize the services of *Accept'd*.

The task force reached no conclusions regarding time limit, rankings, adjudicator criteria, or participation and adjudicator fees. The Board deferred decisions on any time limit, adjudicator criteria, and participation and adjudicator fees until later in the program development process. The Board was in agreement that there should be no rankings or scoring system, at least initially. This issue may be reconsidered after the program is well-established.

**Motion and second that the Board establish the MTNA eFestival as an official MTNA program.**

**PASSED**

**Motion and second that the Board discharge the eFestival Task Force and to express its deepest gratitude for the excellent work of the group and each member of it.**

**PASSED**

### **Proposal to Revise the Nominating Committee Timeline**

Executive Director Gary Ingle presented a proposal to revise the Nominating Committee process and timeline to eliminate the burden of a new Nominating Committee having to submit a slate of Division Directors-elect within a two month period. The plan presented a detailed rationale and timeline to make the transition to the new process within four years.

**Motion and second that the Board of Directors approve the new process and timeline for the work of the Nominating Committee as presented and designate the 2017-2019 Nominating Committee, to be chaired by Rebecca Grooms Johnson, as the transitional committee.**

**PASSED**

### **Proposal to Review the Studio Teacher Fellowship Award**

Division Director Suzanne Torkelson presented a recommendation that the maximum age for the MarySue Harris Studio Fellowship Award be extended from age 26 to age 30. Today many

students finish graduate school prior to establishing a music teaching studio. By the time graduate degrees are completed, many students are over the current age limit of 26. By extending the age requirement, the award would be available to many more applicants. During its discussion, the Board questioned the need for any age limit as long as the applicant was establishing a new studio. The Board also questioned the necessity of the location requirements and other random aspects of the regulations.

**Motion and second to remove the age, graduation, and location requirements along with the words “been a teaching professional” from the application process of the MarySue Harris Studio Teacher Fellowship Award.**

**PASSED**

### **Community Engagement and Outreach Grant Program**

President Johnson informed the Board that the Finance Committee had discussed two related proposals submitted by Vice President Karen Thickstun: (1) to establish a Community Engagement and Outreach Grant program, and (2) to discuss the topic of collegiate awards, especially in relation to their naming rights and endowment funding. Following an extended discussion, the committee felt that a broader review should be made of all existing grants and awards as well as the procedures related to solicitation, processing, selection, notification, and presentation.

Following the Finance Committee meeting, a proposal was written to establish a “Grants and Awards Revision Task Force” to perform this review. The proposal was distributed along with President Johnson’s appointments to the task force.

**Motion and second that the Board ratify the establishment of a “Grants and Awards Revision Task Force,” whose charge is:**

- 1. To study all current grants and awards;**
- 2. To determine the need for and/or desirability of either continuing any specific grant or award in its present form, revising the grant or award as to the purpose, recipients, and amount of grant or award; or eliminating the grant or award altogether;**
- 3. To consider the possibility of any new grants or awards that may be desirable, and, if so, developing their purpose, audience, and amount of the awards (if any);**
- 4. To review the procedures by which (a) proposals are solicited and processed, (b) recipients are selected and notified, and (c) awards are presented; and**
- 5. To make its recommendation to the Board at the July 2016 meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio.**

**PASSED**

**Motion and second to ratify the appointment of Karen Thickstun as chair of the task force and Sylvia Coats and Brian Chung as members.**

**PASSED**

The Board concluded at 4:05 p.m. on April 1, 2016

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The Board reconvened at 9:32 a.m. on April 6, 2016

**Chamber Music Competition**

The Board discussed a proposal to approve a revision to the Collegiate String Chamber Music Awards. Currently, the first place string award is \$3,000, the second place award is \$1,500, and the third is \$300. MTNA Past-President James Norden currently sponsors the first place award. He would like to increase the second and third place awards to make them more attractive to string ensembles. Norden has agreed to contribute an additional \$1,000 for the third place award, provided the second place award is increased to \$2,000. This could be accomplished with an additional \$200 from MTNA. The increase in these awards, especially the third prize from \$300 to \$1,000, would be much more motivating for ensembles who must divide the award among multiple players.

**Motion and second that the Board of Directors approve a revision to the Collegiate String Chamber Music award, increasing the second place award to \$2,000 and the third place award to \$1,000.**

**PASSED**

**Resolution of Appreciation**

**Motion and second that the Board of Directors express its profound gratitude and appreciation to the following Division Directors for their four-year service to the association.**

**2012-2014 Division Directors-elect**

**2014-2016 Division Directors**

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

**PASSED**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Johnson adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m. on April 1, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Coats  
Secretary-Treasurer