

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

**New York, New York  
July 10 – 11, 2008**

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES**

**Present**

President Gail Berenson, President-elect Ann Gipson, Vice President Janice Wenger, Secretary/Treasurer Judith Price, Executive Director/CEO Gary Ingle (ex officio without vote), Fay Adams, Lezlee Bishop, Thomas Ediger, Ellen Flint, Debra Florian, Karen Thickstun

**Absent**

Immediate Past President Paul Stewart, Celinda Hallbauer

**Staff Present**

Senior Deputy Executive Director Marge Bengel, Deputy Executive Director/COO Brian Shepard

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Gail Berenson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday July 10, 2008 and welcomed the new directors to the Board.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the March 2008 Board meeting were approved with the following correction: Page 12, Conference meeting dates should read “March 13 – 17, 2010 and March 20 – 24, 2010.

**Motion (Flint) and second (Bishop) to approve the minutes of the March 2008 meeting as corrected.**

**PASSED Unanimous**

**Motion (Flint) and second (Adams) to approve the minutes of the April 2008 meeting as submitted.**

**PASSED Unanimous**

## **STRATEGIC PLAN**

MTNA President Gail Berenson and Executive Director/CEO Gary Ingle led the Board in an extensive review of the MTNA Strategic Plan and updated the Board on the status of its implementation and fulfillment.

The meeting was recessed at 12:15 pm and reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

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## **REPORTS**

### **National Officer Reports**

Written reports were received from the following National Officers: President Gail Berenson, President-elect Ann Gipson, Vice President Janice Wenger and Secretary/Treasurer Judith Price.

Executive Director Ingle reviewed the current MTNA financial reports as of May 31, 2008. He reported current Assets of MTNA are \$2,763,752.62 with liabilities of \$711,669.51 and income of \$2,261,467.20 with expenses of \$2,293,853.19. Unrestricted long-term investments are \$785,000.12. The Foundation Fund Endowment Account has assets of \$727,145.39 and the McHose Trust has assets of \$619,613.03.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

By general consent, the Board went into Executive Session without the Executive Director or staff to prepare the annual review documents of the Executive Director.

The President declared the Board out of Executive Session at 5:00 p.m. and recessed the meeting.

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The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on July 11, 2008.

By general consent, the Board went into Executive Session with the Executive Director present to perform the annual review of the Executive Director.

The President declared the Board out of Executive Session at 9:45 a.m.

### **Division Director Reports**

Written reports were received from the following Divisions: East Central (Karen Thickstun), Northwest (Debra Florian), South Central (Celinda Hallbauer), Southern (Fay Adams), Southwest (Lezlee Bishop) and West Central (Thomas Ediger). There was no report from Eastern (Ellen Flint).

## National Forums

Written reports were received from all 2007-2008 Forum chairs: Arts Awareness and Advocacy (Carmen Shaw), Collaborative Performance (Kenneth Christensen), College Faculty (Celinda Hallbauer), Collegiate Chapters (Ruth Pitts), Independent Music Teachers (Mary Ellen Moore) and Local Associations (Diane Higgins).

The Arts Awareness and Advocacy Forum proposed the following ideas and suggested actions:

1. MTNA should continue to advocate for music in the schools - perhaps with a support packet of materials (in collaboration with MENC?).
2. Continue to support grants for Arts Advocacy projects.
3. In addition to the Forum discussion boards, maintain a chain of communication between national and state chairs, to share information and generate action.
4. Make full use of the Collegiate Chapters and the VCCI to promote Arts Advocacy among the student population.
5. Publish articles of research, with statistics, on the subject of Arts Advocacy (not just the “Music makes you smarter” argument).
6. Go global, continuing to expand beyond our borders. MTNA already has collaborated with European and Canadian teachers. Some work has begun between teachers in Texas and Mexico. Perhaps this could be expanded and formalized.
7. Carry the MTNA 2008 Conference theme of *Collaboration* into Arts Advocacy efforts. Join forces with other groups and entities, and form coalitions to help achieve our goals.

The Collaborative Performance Forum suggested the following ideas:

1. Consider a “track” at the MTNA National Conference for Collaborative Performance, parallel to the Technology Track or the RMM Track.
2. Allow sessions at the MTNA National Conference that pertain to “hands on” presentations such as coaching a chamber music ensemble on stage. This was accomplished at the MTNA Washington DC Conference with great success.
3. Consider the possibility of master classes at the MTNA National Conference that would include elementary/intermediate chamber music ensembles.

The College Faculty Forum discussed the following ideas:

1. Starting a list serve or discussion board for college faculty. It was noted that these are in the process of being set up on the MTNA website;
2. College Faculty should encourage all students to be certified—everyone—all instruments; Becoming Certified as a College Faculty is easier once again—transcripts, etc. and letter from chair/dean; To assist Certification applicants—place portfolios on line—can students get a reduced fee?
3. Scales on piano proficiency—to have or not—hands alone or together? Emphasize improvisation and sight-reading more; Memorized repertoire or not?
4. Connecting the theory program to piano proficiencies; one text mentioned-Koskapy-Theory.

The Collegiate Chapters Forum discussed the following ideas:

1. Why join MTNA as a college member?
2. Why is the new VCCI being used so little?
3. How do we get more collegiate members to attend the national conference?
4. How can we pull in more non-piano majors?
5. How can peer-recruiting be accomplished?
6. What do you do at chapter meetings?

The Independent Music Teachers Forum considered the following topics:

1. Concerns about the affordability of the national conference for the IMT
2. Keeping costs of state conferences in check so that they remain affordable
3. Repertoire requirements for MTNA competitions
4. Ideas for state IMTF chairs regarding activities and responsibilities
5. Reaching out to isolated IMT's with information on making a living as an independent teacher

The Local Association Forum discussed a wide range of topics including membership, programs, communications, projects and fund raisers, competitions and certification.

### **National Program Chairs**

A written report was received from the Composer Commissioning chair (Ann Witherspoon).

### **Standing and Special Committees**

Written reports from the following standing and special committees were reviewed: *AMT* Editorial Committee (William Westney), 2009 Conference Planning Committee (Kenneth Christensen), Finance Committee (Judith Price), Foundation Fund Development Committee (Brian Chung), 2009 Pedagogy Saturday Committee (Barbara English Maris), Membership Committee (Ann Gipson), Nominating Committee (Paul Stewart), MTNA Partnership Review Committee (Ann Gipson), MTNA State Presidents Advisory Council (Martha Thomas) and the Summit for MTNA Leadership Planning Committee (Ann Gipson).

The 2009 MTNA National Conference will be held, March 28–April 1, at the Westin Peachtree Plaza and the AmericasMart in downtown Atlanta, Georgia.

The theme of Pedagogy Saturday is: Music for a Lifetime: Learning and Teaching Strategies for Adult Students. The focus will cover a wide span of ages (from early 20s through +90s). At Pedagogy Saturday, “adult students” will not be limited to beginning students over the age of 55 or to retirees. The committee plans to provide an update on activities related to Recreational Music Making [NOTE: 4 RMM sessions have been scheduled as part of the MTNA Conference itself] and to report on the new piano curriculum that has been developed for Kindermusik Adults. Also the program will consider adults who are continuing studies they began in their earlier years, adults who can deal with piano repertoire of various levels of difficulty and diverse pianistic styles, as well as adults who are involved with keyboard ensembles and chamber music.

The Nominating Committee reported the following nominees for office for the 2009-2011 biennium:

**President-Elect**

Ben Caton  
Kenneth Christensen

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Ginger Hwalek  
Cheryl Pachak-Brooks

**Vice-President**

Sigrid Luther  
Kenneth Williams

**Ad Hoc Committees**

Written reports from the following ad hoc committees were received: Community Outreach Task Force (Stoloff) and Student Artwork (Higgins).

President Berenson informed the Board that Betty Stoloff would provide a how-to manual on planning Performathons, concerts, etc. for charitable endeavors in the local communities and which could be put on the MTNA website.

A recommendation to establish a Community Outreach column in The American Music Teacher was referred to the Editorial Committee for its consideration.

**Motion (Price) and second (Adams) to accept the report of the Community Outreach Task Force and to dissolve this task force with the Board's gratitude for its work in this area.**

**PASSED Unanimous**

**Executive Director/CEO Report**

A written report was received from Executive Director/CEO Gary Ingle. In addition to his report, he informed the Board of a competitions issue related to a state charging students an additional fee to enter. The Board deferred taking any action on the issue.

Ingle also discussed the idea of holding the 2011 MTNA National Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii. Invitations would be made to music teachers along the Pacific Rim to attend and make it a truly international conference. The Hawaii Convention Center has offered a \$175,000 incentive to MTNA. The Board had no objection to pursue "pursuing" the idea. Ingle will move ahead with the idea and develop a proposal for the Board's consideration if he believes it is feasible.

**BUSINESS**

**Presidential Appointments**

**Motion (Flint) and second (Price) to ratify the following appointments:**

**Poster Session Chair - 2009**

Michelle Conda          Ohio

**Exhibitor Committee – 2008-2010**

So Young Lee          Rocky Ridge Music Center at  
Estes Park, CO

Jan Keyser          Harmony Road Music Courses  
Clackamas, OR

**Pedagogy Saturday – 2009**

Brenda Dillon          Texas

Michelle Conda          Ohio

Rebecca Johnson          Ohio

Pete Jutras          Georgia

**Partnership Review Committee 2008-2009**

Debra Florian          Washington

Lezlee Bishop          Utah

**AMT Editorial Committee for 2009-2011**

**Reappointments:**

William Westney, chair	Texas Tech University
Jim Litzelman, piano	IMT and Catholic University of America
Scott Conklin, violin	University of Iowa
Dylan Savage, piano	UNC-Charlotte
Jessica Johnson, piano	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Patricia Powell, piano	West Chester University

**New Members**

Mario Ajero, piano, technology	Stephen F. Austin State University
Tony Caramia, piano, jazz	Eastman School of Music
Geri Cheney, piano	IMT
Jacqueline Herbein, piano	IMT
Karen Peeler, voice	Ohio State University
Debra Perez, piano, RMM	IMT
Carolyn True, piano	Trinity University

**PASSED unanimous**

### **Review of Partnerships**

As required in the *Guidelines for Relationships of Outside Organizations with Music Teachers National Association*, Executive Director Ingle reviewed a current list of partnering organizations.

### **Review of Current Financial Policies**

Executive Director Ingle led the Board through a review of the current financial and investment policies.

**Motion from the Finance Committee that no changes be made to the current financial policies.**

**PASSED Unanimous**

### **FY 2009 Budget Proposal**

Executive Director Ingle, on behalf of the Finance Committee, made a presentation of the FY 2009 MTNA budget. The proposed budget projected income of \$2,481,575.00 and expenses of \$2,437,855.00, including among other things, the \$2.00 active membership dues increase effective July 1, 2008.

**Motion from the Finance Committee that the Board approve the FY 2009 budget as presented.**

**PASSED Unanimous**

### **Audit**

**Motion from the Finance Committee that the Board approve Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co. as the auditors for FY 2008.**

**PASSED Unanimous**

### **2008 Achievement Award**

President Berenson submitted the name of Marvin Blickenstaff as the recipient of the 2009 MTNA Achievement Award. This award is given to an individual who has made significant and lasting contributions to music teaching. A longtime member of MTNA, Blickenstaff has established an international reputation as an outstanding musician/pedagogue and is clearly deserving of the award.

**Motion (Flint) and second (Adams) to confer upon Marvin Blickenstaff the 2009 MTNA Achievement Award.**

**PASSED Unanimous**

### **2008 Distinguished Service Award**

President Berenson submitted the name of Wayne Gibson as the recipient of the 2009 MTNA Distinguished Service Award. This award is given to an individual who has made significant and lasting contributions to MTNA through service to the national association. A longtime and dedicated member of MTNA, Dr. Gibson has an extensive history of leadership in the organization at all levels. In addition to being president of MTNA, he is a 2002 MTNA Fellow and a member of the MTNA Legacy Society.

**Motion (Adams) and second (Price) to confer upon Wayne Gibson the 2009 MTNA Distinguished Service Award.**

**PASSED**

### **Promotion of Collaborative Performance**

Vice President Wenger presented an agenda item to promote Collaborative Performance more vigorously, with a goal of attracting more current and new members to participation. She proposed the creation of strong alliances with other professional organizations, particularly those with individual instrumental or vocal emphasis (National Association of Teachers of Singing, International Clarinet Association, American String Teachers Association, American Viola Society, National Flute Association, Percussive Arts Society, International Double Reed Society, American Choral Directors Association, etc.). Perhaps MTNA could become the “home” organization to a larger alliance, like the airlines

Wenger recommended that MTNA offer to provide collaborative session(s) to their national conferences. Target specific topics, presented by our members (and perhaps travel funded by MTNA), to make the members of their associations aware of our expertise and interest.

**Motion (Adams) and second (Florian) to authorize Janice Wenger to put together a proposal for submission to Chamber Music America.**

**PASSED Unanimous**

Wenger proposed the exploration of membership benefits between organizations, such as:

1. MTNA membership discount to those with full membership in other organization
2. Conference registration at members’ rate to those in “alliance”
3. AMT article(s) offered to their journals and vice versa

**These ideas will be referred to the Membership Committee for consideration.**

Wenger further proposed:

1. The pursuit of joint projects or themes with other organizations. Jean Barr has promoted a “Year of Chamber Music” that would involve many organizations and activities, with combined publicity. The National Anthem Project of MENC would be a model to study. Continue the joint/parallel meeting offerings with NATS, and

- perhaps consider additional ones to have more instrumentalists aware of our conference. She feels MTNA must distinguish its offerings from Chamber Music America. If an alliance with them would be beneficial, we should pursue one. Our main difference is student competitions, so we might want to consider adding Piano Duet to Young Artist and Chamber Music at the Senior level in the future.
2. The creation of a Collaborative Performance Track at the MTNA national conference, similar to the Technology track and the Recreational Music Making tracks.
  3. That MTNA suggest or request that exhibitors include Collaborative repertoire in their displays. Publishers would be specifically targeted to provide at least a portion of their inventory in ensemble scores, especially new releases.
  4. That MTNA suggest to states that they appoint a Collaborative Performance chair, parallel to the IMTF and Foundation chairs.

**All of these proposals will be further pursued and worked out by President Berenson, Executive Director Ingle, Vice President Wenger and members of the staff.**

### **Letter from North Carolina Board**

The following letter was received from Dr. Frank Pittman on behalf of the North Carolina Board of Directors.

July 1,2008

MTNA Board of Directors  
Gail Berenson, president  
MTNA National Headquarters  
441 Vine St, Ste 3100  
Cincinnati, OH 45202-3004

Dear President Berenson and the MTNA Board of Directors,

We, the Executive Board members of the North Carolina Music Teachers Association (NCMTA), wish to officially file this letter of grievance to indicate our deep concern over recent actions taken by the Music Teachers National Association Board of Directors which we feel violated our rights as members of MTNA to vote on governance issues.

We refer specifically to the actions of the MTNA BOD in December of 2007 when the title of our organization's *Executive Director* was "revised and updated" to that of *Executive Director and CEO*. Whether or not this change of title was either warranted or appropriate is not the thrust of this communication. Of much greater concern to us was the means by which this executive motion was made.

MTNA is an organization which is run in accordance with a set of bylaws carefully devised and approved, by vote, by the general membership. While we understand that making changes which require a vote by the membership is often an unwieldy vehicle, we feel that the BOD cannot circumvent this process when it desires, no matter what the reasons. We contend that the board does not have the authority to

change the title of any officer but must, instead, follow proper protocol as required in Article XVI of the MTNA bylaws, and we strenuously insist that this protocol be followed.

We counter the advice of MTNA lawyer, Scott Gilligan, with several other legal opinions which maintain that the change of title must be a bylaws amendment, and we demand that immediate action of rescission be taken by the MTNA Board. Until such time as due process is followed in this matter, we find the referenced action of the board to be non-binding and we will not officially recognize the resulting title change.

Dr. Frank D. Pittman, NCTM  
President, North Carolina Music Teachers Association

Cc: Dr. Gary L. Ingle, MTNA Executive Director  
State Presidents

The Board of Directors discussed the issue at length.

**Motion (Florian) and second (Adams) to reaffirm the decision of the prior Board to update and revise the title of the Executive Director to Chief Executive Officer and to affirm the decision of the State Presidents Advisory Council in March 2008 which also supported the prior Board's decision.**

**PASSED Unanimous**

President Berenson presented a proposed letter of response from her to Pittman and the North Carolina Board. The letter was discussed and one suggestion was made in wording. The board gave unanimous consent for the letter to be sent. The letter is as follows:

Dr. Frank D. Pittman, NCTM  
President, North Carolina Music Teachers Association  
4532 Shady Side Lane  
Durham, NC 27713-3127

Dear Dr. Pittman:

I received your letter of July 1, 2008 protesting the decision of the MTNA Board of Directors to modify Dr. Ingle's title from "Executive Director" to "Executive Director and CEO". You have expressed your opinion that the title of the executive director could only be modified by an amendment of the MTNA Bylaws as opposed to the vote of the Board of Directors.

Prior to the Board of Directors' approval of the resolution modifying the title, we had MTNA's attorney do extensive research on the issue of whether the modification could be made by Board resolution or whether a Bylaws amendment was required. After examining Ohio corporate law, the MTNA Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws and past practices of MTNA with regard to updating titles, our attorney advised the Board that they had the authority to

modify the title without the need to amend the Bylaws. Relying on that opinion, the Board approved the modification to the title in December 2007.

At the State Presidents Advisory Council meeting held on March 31, 2008, you sponsored a resolution asking the Council to go on record recommending that the Board of Directors rescind and nullify its actions in regard to the addition of "CEO" to the title of the Executive Director. Following a detailed discussion of the merits, the Council rejected your resolution by a decisive vote. Therefore, the State Presidents, as well as the Board of Directors, disagree with your position concerning the necessity of a Bylaws amendment.

While the Board is certainly free to review its prior action in modifying the title, I have not received any indication from a Board member that this issue should be revisited. In fact, the new Board of Directors reaffirmed the decision of the past Board as well as the vote of the State Presidents Advisory Council in March. Therefore, the Board's decision to modify the title to Executive Director and CEO remains the established policy of MTNA. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Gail Berenson, President

### **Bylaws Review**

Motion (Price) to form a committee to revise and update the Bylaws to make them current. Without a second, the motion was not considered.

### **Announcements**

The winter board meeting may be held in Honolulu, HI and pending additional information needed, exact dates are not available. However, the meeting will be held approximately December 4-7, 2008.

The Finance Committee will meet on March 26, 2009 and the Board of Directors on March 27, 2009 in Atlanta, Georgia.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m. on July 11, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Price  
Secretary/Treasurer