

**MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
December 1-2, 2017**

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES**

**Present**

President-elect Martha Hilley, Vice President Peter Mack, Secretary-Treasurer Debra Florian, Immediate Past President Rebecca Johnson, Kevin Chance (Southern Division), Sue Field (Southwest Division), Sherry Frush (South Central Division), Christopher Hahn (Northwest Division), Ginger Hwalek (Eastern Division), Beth Klingenstein (West Central Division), Christine Steiner (East Central Division), and Executive Director & CEO Gary Ingle (ex officio without vote)

**Absent**

President Scott McBride Smith, who joined the meeting via conference call on Saturday, December 2, 2017.

**Staff Present**

COO Brian Shepard

**CALL TO ORDER**

In accordance with MTNA Bylaws, Article V Section 1.b., the meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. on December 1, 2017, by President-elect Martha Hilley, standing in for President Scott McBride Smith who was absent due to illness.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the July 2017 meeting of the Board were entered into the record, the documents having been approved unanimously as submitted via email vote on August 16, 2017.

Minutes were also submitted from electronic meetings on September 28, 2017. Those minutes were approved as distributed.

## **OFFICER REPORTS**

Written reports were received from the following National Officers: President Scott McBride Smith, President-elect Martha Hilley, Vice President Peter Mack, Secretary-Treasurer Debra Florian, and Immediate Past President Rebecca Johnson.

Secretary-Treasurer Debra Florian recognized Executive Director & CEO Gary Ingle to present an overview of the October 31, 2017 financial reports. Assets of MTNA are \$4,926,290.64 with liabilities of \$176,400.89. Income is \$1,802,508.61 with expenses of \$680,369.56. The balance of the MTNA Trust account is \$857,896.72. The Foundation Fund Endowment account has assets of \$1,582,117.93 and the McHose Trust has assets of \$632,465.09. Ingle's presentation included his financial projections for the fiscal year end.

## **DIRECTORS REPORTS**

Written reports from all seven Division Directors were reviewed: Christine Steiner (East Central Division), Ginger Hwalek (Eastern Division), Christopher Hahn (Northwest Division), Sherry Frush (South Central Division), Kevin Chance (Southern Division), Sue Field (Southwest Division), and Beth Klingenstein (West Central Division).

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CEO REPORT**

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

### **Federal Trade Commission**

- MTNA continues to comply with all the terms and specific actions required by the FTC Decision and Order (Consent Decree). A presentation was conducted at the Summit for MTNA Leadership on September 10, 2017 that summarized national, state, and local obligations under this order. Each state president was provided a hard copy of the MTNA Antitrust Compliance Guide for reference in their efforts to comply with the antitrust laws at all of their associational meetings and in all publications. The MTNA website continues to include links to the Code of Ethics, the FTC press release and FTC Settlement Statements. These same documents were reprinted in the August/September issue of the AMT. All new and renewing members of MTNA received a copy of the FTC Settlement Statement.

### **Conferences and Meetings**

- The Summit for MTNA Leadership was held on September 8-10, 2017, in the beautiful Hall of Mirrors of the Hilton Netherland Hotel in Cincinnati. The setting complemented the incredible recital by Vice President Peter Mack. The Summit also incorporated the revised processes for selecting the State Affiliate of the Year and the Local Association of the Year awards. Most of the new challenges were handled skillfully by the division directors. Excellent slates of nominees for both awards were produced for the Board's consideration at the December 2017 meeting. The States-by-Size and Division meetings reports provided an opportunity for all of the attendees to be informed of issues and activities throughout the entire association. As always, the presentations and breakout sessions led to many lively dialogues, debates, discussions, and solutions. The state

presidents continually remark about the Summit's value to their work. Next year's Summit will be September 7-9, 2018.

- The seventh MTNA Collegiate Chapters Piano Pedagogy Symposium, scheduled for January 12-13, 2018, at the University of Texas. Austin, is a month-and-a-half away. The event brings together collegiate chapter members and their advisors in an intimate setting to build bridges of communication through collegiate-led sessions and dialogues. The sessions have been curated and invitations to attend have been emailed. This Symposium promises to be another wonderful event for learning and fellowship with and among our collegiate members from all around the country.
- The 2018 National Conference at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Florida remains the primary focus of our attention. The Conference Planning Committee, chaired by Pete Jutras, has assembled a strong program. The conference will feature over 100 sessions, showcases, teaching demonstrations and master classes on topics ranging from teaching methods, literature, and performance to entrepreneurship, studio management and business practices. An extensive Exhibit Hall of print music, instruments, software and pedagogical materials; the MTNA Student Competitions; and Pedagogy Saturday round out the event. The internationally-renowned pianist, Jeremy Denk, and the YouTube sensation, Time for Three, will highlight the evening recitals. The conference keynote address will be given by noted neurologist and flautist, Dr. Eckart Altenmuller, chair and director of the Institute of Music Physiology and Musicians' Medicine at Hanover University in Hanover, Germany. Master classes will be led by well-known pedagogues Pavlina Dokovska of the Mannes School and Fei Xu, an independent teacher who specializes in teaching middle school students. As a new aspect of our marketing efforts, MTNA is giving three MTNA members, who "like" and "share" our national conference post on Facebook, a set of two complimentary one-day Walt Disney World theme park tickets. The contest ended on November 30, 2017, and the winners will be announced on December 6, 2017.
- Brian Shepard and Ingle conducted a site visit to the Hilton Atlanta Hotel to finalize the contract for the 2021 MTNA National Conference. Both are confident in its ability to host the conference. The contract is now in effect.

### **Foundation Fund**

- As of October 31, 2017, \$36,628.14 has been contributed to the MTNA Benevolence Fund as a result of the three hurricanes this fall. The contributions came from 23 state and local affiliates, 318 members and nonmembers, and 1 Collegiate Chapter. A total of \$27,400 has been distributed to 30 recipients from Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico.
- MTNA participated again this year on Tuesday, November 28, in [#GivingTuesday](#), a global day of giving utilizing the power of social media and collaboration. Observed on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, #GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving. Since its inaugural year in 2012, #GivingTuesday has become a movement that celebrates and supports giving and philanthropy with events throughout the year and a growing catalog of resources. MTNA has invited its members to participate by making online donations to the MTNA Foundation Fund.

## **International**

- MTNA China was officially chartered in Shanghai on October 12, 2017, at a banquet attended by approximately 120 Chinese music teachers. The bylaws were approved and the officers were elected. The president is Wu Bin, Secretary General of the China Society for Music Education and the Peoples Music Publishing House. The vice president is Yang Ming, Professor of Piano at the Central Conservatory of Music and Dean of the Central Conservatory Piano Academy at Gulangyu. The Executive Director is MTNA member Jie Bu, Director of Nevada Arts Academy in Las Vegas. In a formal ceremony, President Scott McBride Smith and Ingle, along with Mr. Bin, Mr. Ming, and Mr. Bu, signed the Licensing and Participation Agreement granting MTNA China a contingent, non-transferrable, and personal license to use the MTNA name and logo in exchange for its members becoming MTNA International Members and other considerations. The event was in conjunction with Music China, the largest music trade show in the world. MTNA and MTNA China had an exhibit booth located within the United States Music Certification Examination (USMCE) program booth.
- Ingle attended and brought greetings from MTNA at the First International Piano Education Conference and International Music Association Leadership Summit in Qingdao, China, on July 24, 2017.
- From Qingdao, Ingle traveled to Baku, Azerbaijan on July 26, 2017, to meet with the Board of Directors of the International Society for Music Education. As chair of the ISME Forum for Instrumental and Vocal Teaching, Ingle is responsible for curating the sessions for the Forum at the ISME World Conference next July 15-20, 2018 in Baku. The meeting enabled him to see the facilities and address logistical issues related to the Forum.
- On November 21-23, 2017, Ingle represented the Music Council of the Three Americas at the Executive Board Meeting of the International Music Council in Paris, France. He attended in lieu of the Council's president who lives in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and was unable to attend due to Hurricane Maria.

## **Legal and Ethics**

- Ingle assisted four state affiliates in dealing with legal and ethical issues arising from members and nonmembers. One involved an allegation of child abuse (Washington State MTA), another one involved an allegation of assault and battery (Missouri MTA), another one involved an allegation of a conflict of interest (Illinois State MTA), and another one involved a membership termination issue (Maryland State MTA).
- The Illinois State Music Teacher Association successfully revised its Bylaws with substantial assistance from Diana Viltrakis and Ingle.

## **Strategic Partnerships and Advocacy**

- The three-year negotiation and due diligence process for MTNA to assume the management and governance functions of the American Classical Music Hall of Fame has concluded with a proposed Affiliation Agreement. Approved by the American Classical Music Hall of Fame Board of Trustees on November 17, 2017, the ultimate decision is now the responsibility of the MTNA Board of Directors. The affiliation is necessary to ensure the future of the Hall of Fame.

- As President and Chairman of the Board of the National Music Council, Ingle was involved in the NMC American Eagle Awards. These awards are given annually to individuals and organizations that have provided significant and lasting contributions to American music. This year's event was held in conjunction with the Opening Night festivities of the Summer NAMM Show in Nashville, Tennessee on July 13, 2017. The recipients were Crystal Gayle, Patty Smith, and Harry Shearer.
- The National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy, held July 27-29, 2017, was the first since it was reestablished in 2001 not to have an MTNA Recital on opening night. The leaders of NCKP believed it was time to innovate its programming and experiment with some new ideas. Ingle doesn't believe the partnership has been diminished, and both organizations will look for new and creative possibilities for taking the partnership to even greater levels.
- The Republican Tax Plan has been introduced, and several arts groups along with other charitable foundations and associations are already coming out in opposition to the plan. The controversial aspect is a proposed increase of the standard deduction from \$6,350 to \$12,000 for singles and married couples filing separately and from \$12,700 to \$24,000 for married couples filing jointly. The concern is that these substantial increases in the standard deductions will reduce the number of individuals who itemize their deductions, thus reducing the number of individuals who will need the tax deduction for charitable giving, thus reducing the number of individuals who will contribute to arts organizations (or any other charities for that matter). Congress is only now beginning to consider the details of the plan, so it is likely that many things will change before it is submitted for a vote. There is nothing the MTNA Board needs to address at this point. However, if the tax law is changed to substantially increase the standard deduction, the MTNA Foundation Fund could conceivably be negatively impacted.
- Following is the list of MTNA partnerships/relationships maintained by the staff and provided for your review:

Partnerships		
Organization	Affiliation Description	Written Agreement
Amazon.com	.5% royalty given to MTNA on purchases made by using www.smile.amazon.com and naming MTNA as their charity of choice	no
American Speech-Language Hearing Association	MTNA promotes ASHA's Listen to Your Buds campaign to its members to prevent hearing loss	yes
Arthur J. Gallagher	Discount program on travel, prescriptions and office supplies	yes
Arts Advocacy Day	National co-sponsor of Arts Advocacy Day in Washington D.C.	no
Athletes and the Arts	Initiative focused on linking the athletic and performing arts communities through collaborative	yes

	exchange and application of wellness, training and performance research and initiatives	
Better Practice App	Practice app with 30-day free trial for MTNA members	no
Collabra Music	60-day free trial for up to 10 students and waived the setup fee for any organizations that are affiliated of MTNA.	no
Elavon	Credit card processing service for members and affiliates at a discounted rate	yes
I.C. System, Inc.	Member benefit program to assist teachers in collecting outstanding fees	yes
Joytunes	MTNA Certified Teacher Directory linked in Joytunes app	no
Make Music Magazine	\$4 discount off subscription price to MTNA members	no
Musical America	10% discount off subscription price to MTNA members and collaboration on Musical America directories	yes
Music Teachers Helper NAMM Foundation (Formerly SupportMusic.com)	10% discount off subscription price to MTNA members	no
National Piano Foundation	Music advocacy	no
Oxford University Press Performing Arts Medicine Association	Partnership to present Pedagogy Saturday RMM Track and RMM Scholarship	no
Piano Buyer	Portal for MTNA members to receive discounts off certain publications	no
Piano Technicians Guild	To work with MTNA to promote wellness in schools of music	no
Pizzicato Bradley Sowash Online Creativity Courses	27% discount for MTNA members to advertise	no
Steinway & Sons	Certified Teacher Scholarships in the amount of \$1,750	no
	Educational theory software program discounted for educators	no
	MTNA members receive \$50 discount	no
	Steinway provided Model S grand piano to MTNA for its recital room	yes

	with a renewable year to year contract	
Taxbot	MTNA members receive a free two-week trial on an app that helps small businesses track expenses	yes
Woodsongs	MTNA publicizes this public radio program, free teachers' resources and workshops in exchange for logo and partnership credit	no
Yamaha Corporation of America	Yamaha provided a DC3X Disklavier to MTNA for its recital room	yes
Your Mechanic	MTNA members receive a \$10 discount for at home car repairs booked through Your Mechanic	no
<b>Event Sponsorships</b>		
Piano Technicians Guild	Certified Teacher Reception Sponsorship in the amount of \$2,000	no
<b>MTNA Competition Sponsorships</b>		
Chopin Foundation of the United States	Prizes awarded for best Chopin performance; Junior: \$500; Senior \$1,000 scholarship	yes
Kawai America Corp	Junior Piano Competition; \$7,400	yes
Iris Manus	Elementary and Junior Composition Competitions; \$2,650	yes
James Norden	Chamber Music String First and Third Place Awards; \$4,000	yes
Stecher & Horowitz	Two piano competition awards; \$10,000	yes
Steinway & Sons	Young Artist Piano Competition; \$15,000	yes
Dallas Weekley & Nancy Arganbright	Senior Piano Duet Competition: \$3,000	yes
Yamaha Corporation of America	Junior Strings/Senior Piano Competitions; \$11,900	no

**Programs**

- The MTNA Webinars continue to be enthusiastically-received by our members. The webinars have been coordinated by Chan Kiat Lim since June 2016.
- Implementation of the eFestival program continues to progress, however, with little success at this point in time. Only 5 individuals have taken advantage of the program so far. Certainly, it will take time and money for the program to establish itself. Ingle believes the program will be successful, so patience is necessary over the coming months.
- The MTNA National Student Competitions experienced another record year. Following 2015's record 2210 applications, 2016's record of 2213, this year's record of 2384

represents an increase of 171 entrants or 8% over last year. Congratulations to Linda Stump and her committee.

- Following the Summit for MTNA Leadership, Ingle contacted Stecher and Horowitz expressing the concerns of the state presidents regarding the memorization requirement for the competitors. Melvin and Norman were agreeable with eliminating the requirement. Subsequently, the MTNA--Stecher and Horowitz Two Piano Competition was inaugurated in late September with an email announcement to all members, a personal appeal by Stecher and Horowitz themselves, and a request to state presidents asking for their help in promoting the competition. In addition, Melvin and Norman produced a video sharing their personal motivation for establishing the competition. A link to the video was provided in the email announcement. In addition, we asked for the assistance of several music industry partners to get the word out about the competition. The request included an "out-of-the-box" promotional tool to simplify their involvement, requiring only that they "copy, paste, and post" it on Facebook and Twitter.

### **State and Local Affiliates**

- Due to Hurricane Irma, the Florida State Music Teachers Association had to cancel its annual conference scheduled for September 8-10, 2017 at the Biltmore Hotel. As a result, the vote to amend its Bylaws to repeal the membership restriction requiring a music degree was postponed to next year's conference. Florida State MTA is the only state affiliate with membership restrictions.
- As mentioned at the Summit for MTNA Leadership, abuse and misconduct insurance is unavailable as a stand-alone product and adding a blanket abuse coverage to the existing General Liability Insurance for all of our state and local affiliates remains elusive. The sheer number of individuals involved in MTNA-related events, the number and variety of the types of events held by our affiliates, and other unknowns and unforeseeable circumstances, make it incredibly difficult for an insurance company to make a risk assessment in order to balance their profitability with the potential number of claims on the policy. Following the Summit, we met again with our brokers to reemphasize our need and desire for such coverage. We gave them as many concrete numbers as we could about the number of affiliates, members, festivals, competitions, and meetings involved throughout the entire national, state, and local organization. The information is now being relayed to Lloyds of London for its consideration.
- On November 9-11, 2017, Ingle attended the Professional Music Teachers of New Mexico state conference in Albuquerque. Ingle gave the concluding keynote for the Music and Wellness Symposium that began the conference. The keynote was entitled, "Does Music Heal the Heart and Mind?" In addition, Ingle led a roundtable discussion on the benefits of membership in MTNA. This was his 92nd state conference.

### **Staff and Headquarters**

- On August 15, 2017, the new and improved MTNA Website was unveiled. In addition to an aesthetically-enhanced design, several new functions were included in the update. First, a Member Portal enables our members to access most everything they need related to event registration, membership dues, and much more. The new "Find a Teacher" service is now available to all members, not just Certified members. Finally, everything is responsive, meaning the site will adjust the page appropriately to your device, computer,



phone, and tablet. We hope our members find the new website much more useful and easier to use in accessing important membership information.

## **Travel and Meetings**

### **July**

Jul 13-14, 2017	National Music Council Eagle Awards	Nashville, TN
Jul 20-25, 2017	International Piano Education Conference and International Music Association Leadership Conference	Qingdao, China
Jul 26-29, 2017	International Society for Music Education Board Meeting	Baku, Azerbaijan

### **August**

Aug 14-15, 2017	2021 MTNA Conference Site Visit	Atlanta, GA
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### **September**

Sep 08-10, 2017	Summit for MTNA Leadership	Cincinnati, OH
Sep 28, 2017	National Music Council Board Meeting	New York, NY

### **October**

Oct 04-16, 2017	Music China and MTNA China	Shanghai, China
Oct 25-28, 2017	College Music Society Conference	San Antonio, TX

### **November**

Nov 08-11, 2017	Professional Music Teachers of New Mexico Conference	Albuquerque, NM
Nov 12-14, 2017	National Association for Music Education In-Service Conference	Dallas, TX
Nov 20-24, 2017	International Music Council Board Meeting	Paris, France

### **December**

Dec 01-03, 2017	MTNA Board of Directors Meeting	Cincinnati, OH
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## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Written reports were received from the Nominating Committee (Rebecca Johnson), Finance Committee (Debra Florian), State Presidents Advisory Council (Rick Valentine), 2018 National Group Piano/Piano Pedagogy Forum (Tom Pearsall), 2018 Conference Planning Committee (Pete Jutras), 2018 Collegiate Chapters Piano Pedagogy Symposium (Katherine Chandler), *AMT* Editorial Committee (James Litzelman), eJournal Editorial Committee (Linda Cockey), Foundation Fund Development Committee (Brian Chung), Membership Committee (Peter Mack), Select Committee on Collegiate and Young Professional Development (Scott McBride Smith), Global Initiatives Task Force (Scott McBride Smith), Composer Commissioning Program (Ann Witherspoon).

## **BUSINESS**

### **Review of Investments**

The Board of Directors welcomed Howard Kaplan, Senior Vice President/Investments at Kaplan, Litwin, Kaplan & Associates, for a presentation on the MTNA Investment portfolio. Kaplan reviewed the various investment accounts and the investment policy. Kaplan recommended a change to the MTNA Investment Policy Statement (IPS). Currently the IPS states the international allocation should be between 10-20%. Kaplan recommended changing the range to 10-25%.

**Motion and second to change the MTNA Investment Policy (IPS) range of permissible international allocation from 10-20% to 10-25%.**

**PASSED**

### **Mid-Year Review of the MTNA Strategic Plan**

Executive Director & CEO Gary Ingle led a discussion on the current MTNA Strategic Plan.

### **FY 2017 MTNA Audit Approval**

The results of the FY 2017 Audit as performed by Clark, Schafer, Hackett & Co. were reported to the Board and state presidents by head auditor and President Kerry Roe at the 2017 Summit for MTNA Leadership on September 9, 2017. The Board received and reviewed the printed copy of the audit results.

**Motion from the Finance Committee that the Board approve the FY 2017 audit as presented by Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co.**

**PASSED**

### **Forum State Chair Job Descriptions**

The Board of Directors discussed a proposal to develop sample state Forum Chair descriptions, as it relates to each Forum.

**Motion and second to clarify the role of the Forums and to develop and post on the MTNA website a list of possibilities to be used, as needed, by State and Local Forum Chairs.**

**PASSED**

### **FY 2019 Dues Adjustment**

The current policy for setting the annual active member dues is for an automatic adjustment based on the average CPI of the previous year rounded up to the nearest dollar. In addition, the Board may adjust it further as appropriate and necessary. MTNA active dues are currently \$77.00, and the average CPI to date is +2.0. On the basis of this ratio, the automatic dues adjustment for FY 2019 would be \$2.00.

After discussion, the Board felt the automatic adjustment was sufficient. Active member dues for FY 2019 (July 1, 2018- June 30, 2019) will be \$79.00.

### **Summit Reimbursement Proposal**

The MTNA Board of Directors discussed a proposal to reimburse travel to and from the airport in Cincinnati for Summit for MTNA Leadership attendees.

**Motion and second to approve reimbursing Summit attendee ground transportation from the Cincinnati Northern Kentucky International Airport to the Summit hotel, up to the rate of a round trip shuttle.**

**PASSED**

### **2018 Local Association of the Year Selection**

The Board of Directors reviewed the seven nominations for the *2018 Local Association of the Year*. The nominees were:

1. **Central Oklahoma Music Teachers Association**  
Oklahoma Music Teachers Association/ South Central Division
2. **Columbia Music Teachers Association**  
South Carolina Music Teachers Association/ Southern Division
3. **Huntington Music Teachers Association**  
West Virginia Music Teachers Association/ Eastern Division
4. **Laramie Music Teachers Association**  
Wyoming Music Teachers Association/ Northwest Division
5. **Midland Music Teachers Association**  
Michigan Music Teachers Association/ East Central Division
6. **Omaha Music Teachers Association**  
Nebraska Music Teachers Association/ West Central Division

**7. Toole Chapter, Utah**

Utah Music Teachers Association/ Southwest Division

**Motion and second to approve the Laramie (WY) Music Teachers Association as the 2018 MTNA Local Association of the Year.**

**PASSED**

**2018 State Affiliate of the Year Selection**

The Board of Directors reviewed the seven nominations for the 2018 MTNA State Affiliate of the Year Award. The nominees were:

1. **California Association of Professional Music Teachers**  
Southwest Division
2. **Georgia Music Teachers Association**  
Southern Division
3. **Louisiana Music Teachers Association**  
South Central Division
4. **Nebraska Music Teachers Association**  
West Central Division
5. **New Jersey Music Teachers Association**  
Eastern Division
6. **North Dakota Music Teachers Association**  
West Central Division
7. **Wyoming Music Teachers Association**  
Northwest Division

**Motion and second to approve the Louisiana Music Teachers Association as the 2018 MTNA State Affiliate of the Year.**

**PASSED**

**2018 Frances Clark Keyboard Pedagogy Award Ratification**

The Board of Directors of the Frances Clark Center for Keyboard Pedagogy recommended the book series "*Piano Adventures*," written by Randall and Nancy Faber, as the recipient of the 2018 Frances Clark Keyboard Pedagogy Award.

**Motion and second that the MTNA Board of Directors ratify the book series "*Piano Adventures*," written by Randall and Nancy Faber, as the recipient of the 2018 Frances Clark Keyboard Pedagogy Award.**

**PASSED**

**Additional Recognition of Members Proposal**

The Board of Directors discussed a proposal to recognize members in additional ways. The MTNA staff will develop and implement a plan to better recognize membership anniversaries in meaningful ways and report back in March, 2018.

The meeting was recessed at 3:23 p.m. on Friday, December 1, 2017, and was reconvened at 9:16 a.m. on December 2, 2017 with President Scott McBride Smith participating via conference call.

**American Classical Music Hall of Fame Acquisition**

The Board of Directors discussed a proposal for MTNA to acquire the American Classical Music Hall of Fame as a wholly owned subsidiary, managed by MTNA. The MTNA Executive Director would serve as President of the American Classical Music Hall of Fame and the MTNA President would serve on its Board of Trustees. The Board reviewed the proposed Affiliation Agreement, the Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Hall of Fame, and the new Hall of Fame Code of Regulations (Bylaws), which were developed by MTNA attorney Scott Gilligan and Hall of Fame attorney Douglas Thomson of the Cincinnati firm Frost Brown Todd. The Board of Trustees of the American Classical Music Hall of Fame approved the Affiliation Agreement on November 17, 2017.

**Motion and second to approve affiliation with the American Classical Music Hall of Fame and to authorize MTNA Executive Director & CEO Gary Ingle to execute the Affiliation Agreement and any and all documents required for the affiliation to be consummated.**

**PASSED**

**Division Competition Proposal**

The Board of Directors discussed a proposal from the MTNA Competitions Committee to move to an online-only Division Competition round. In recent times MTNA has demonstrated that it is an organization that is extremely sensitive to the needs of its members as well as ensuring that it has met the demands of current technology in an ever-increasing technologically based global society. MTNA has been at the forefront of technology with its website, which has included outstanding innovations such as the state and division portals, electronic voting, payment for membership, Foundation giving and online applications for all of its competitions.

With this in mind, the Competitions Committee believes it is time for MTNA to look seriously at the substantial opportunities that are now in place for the organization to be at the forefront of technology regarding its performance competitions. Many similar competitions throughout the country already make use of these many innovations that are readily available to the average person at minimal expense.

Over the years, the existing three-tiered MTNA Competition process has presented increasing financial and logistical challenges for MTNA, the students, their families and teachers, particularly at the Division Level. It seems that MTNA is poised to make use of the latest technology to address these problems. By eliminating on-site performances at the Division Level, MTNA would be preserving the tradition of live performances that would still take place at the state and national levels, yet addressing the substantial financial outlay for the organization and students, as well as a multitude of logistical challenges.

The Competitions Committee feels that the Board needs to discuss possible changes to the structure of the division competitions since division competitions continue to pose problems for competition officials and students.

1. Division competitions are very expensive for both MTNA and for the students. Travel/hotel expenses are very high for MTNA and the students, possibly making our competitions available to only students who can afford the extra expenses for division competitions. Each year there are students who are unable to go to the division round for various reasons (other commitments, unforeseen circumstances, etc.) The unforeseen circumstances could easily be attributed to the costs, and the students may want to avoid admitting this problem. In fact, there are multiple college students who have told us they do not enter the competitions because they would not be able to afford to travel to the division competitions and then the national finals. Official accompanists would not be needed at the division level, which is another saving for the students. Tuning services, custodial services, and hospitality costs would be eliminated.
2. It is becoming more difficult to find universities to serve as hosts, especially those close to a major airport. Many universities now charge an exorbitant fee to use their facilities. Many universities are now requiring background checks on everyone who interacts with the students, regardless of the scope of their roles in the competition. In the near future, all competition officials and judges may have to submit to police background checks. Also, some universities are already requiring that everyone involved with the competitions take a sexual abuse training course prior to the competition, and MTNA will have to certify that all competition officials and judges have met the requirements. This poses multiple problems, not just for these individuals, but especially for any officials or judges who engage in the competition at the last minute as a replacement for, say, an ill judge or a competition official who cannot attend due to unanticipated circumstances that prevents them from attending. Beyond the logistical nightmare, it is certainly the possibility of costs involved with any of this training or securing the background checks.
3. It is becoming more and more difficult to find MTNA members willing to serve as competition officials due to the time commitment required to run the competitions. With online division competitions, it is possible that only two competition officials would be needed for each Division: a Chair and a Composition Coordinator.

4. The uncertainty of the weather in January, especially in the more Northern areas, poses multiple challenges for the Division competitions. The ever-changing forecasts and weather conditions make any decision to continue or cancel the competition subject to challenge by entrants who are already at the competition site or who choose not to attempt a trip due to the adverse conditions. In addition to the problems of rescheduling a postponed competition, there are the safety concerns for both students and officials as well as liability issues in the event of an accident caused by the inclement weather.
5. Most other national and international competitions, including the Chopin Competitions, Gina Bachauer, and Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition, have had video rounds for many years, so students are already accustomed to this practice.

**Motion and second to approve implementation of an online-only Division Competition round beginning with the 2018-2019 competition year.**

**PASSED**

**Awards Processes Discussion**

President-elect Martha Hilley led a discussion and evaluation of the new award selection processes based on the feedback received from Board Directors and Directors-elect.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be March 16, 2018 at the MTNA National Conference in Lake Buena Vista, Florida.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President-elect Hilley adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m. on December 2, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Florian  
Secretary-Treasurer