

NCMTA Board Meeting
October 27, 2011
Salem College
Rondthaler–Gramley House

President Liz LaBelle called the meeting to order at 7:24 pm. The president thanked Thomas Swenson, Diane Blanchard, and all in attendance. She introduced and welcomed Lindsay Brooks, composition chair, and Fabian Lopez, the new strings chair. She thanked editor Annette Shaw for the conference program. The minutes from the May board meeting were approved as they stand.

Treasurer Denise Clauhs announced there is \$39,072.49 in general checking and \$6489.49 in the Morgan Stanley account. The President announced that the Alabama Music Teachers Association (AMTA) has written a thank you note to the NCMTA for its \$1000 contribution toward tornado disaster relief.

Reports

President-Elect Diane Blanchard and Thomas Swenson made the conference report. Kerry Karlin, MTNA Competitions Chair, reported that there were 57 entries this year. Vice-President for Membership Thomas Swenson provided a printed report, and highlighted that as of October 24 there are 523 members in NCMTA. Vice-President for Foundation Tonya Kirk reported \$730 already received in donations. Scholarship Fund Chair Diane Higgins provided a printed report. Total disbursements this year have totaled over \$5000.

Paul Stewart, Piano Teachers Chair, provided a printed report, and announced that the fall piano workshops were a success. Attendance was up in Charlotte. He thanked the clinicians and the venues which hosted the workshop. The President thanked Paul Stewart and Tom Lohr for their work in planning workshops. Piano Contest Directors Anne Scoggin and Kathleen Vockeroth reported 94 Superiors at the state level this year, and 75 students expected to perform in the three recitals this weekend. The President thanked Anne and Kathleen for their work. Fabian Lopez, Strings Teachers Chair, reported there is considerable interest in MTNA among strings students, primarily because of the MTNA competitions. He is considering ways to provide workshops and other events for strings students outside the yearly conference.

Composition Chair Lindsay Brooks included her report in the packet handout. There were 22 entries in the Young Composers Competition and 8 entries in the MTNA Composition Competition. She noted that the current deadline has made it difficult for winners to find available performers for the conference recital.

NC Music Teacher Editor Annette Shaw had conference programs available for board members. She announced that envelopes are also available.

The President reported that the website has been redesigned and Carolyn Bryan is the new

webmaster. Planning Senate Chair Kerry Henry invited all past presidents to a lunch meeting on Saturday. The president announced that Anne Scoggin will be the new Independent Music Teachers chair. Certification Chair Vicky Fischer-Faw announced that 3 newly certified members will be honored during the conference banquet on Friday. Historian Ellen Scott requested a conference bulletin for the archives, and two programs from each recital. The Student Activities Chair reported 10 student members are attending the conference this year. Organ/Harpsichord Teachers Chair, Mary Lou Peebles, invited everybody to attend the organ sessions on Friday.

Unfinished Business

The ejournal committee made their report. A sample ejournal was sent out to the board recently via email. Annette Shaw estimates that the cost of an ejournal issue would range from \$750–1000. Karen Beres compiled a brief questionnaire for the presidents of seven other state associations, similar in size to the NCMTA. All responded. Karen included a summary of their responses in the packet handout. Most states are in the process of transitioning between hard copies and ejournals. They reported the primary difficulty of transitioning to an ejournal is keeping email lists up to date, which is done through the MTNA website.

Karen Beres made the following motion: “That NCMTA make the transition to an ejournal beginning 2012.” The motion was seconded, voted on, and passed. It was later agreed that the NCMTA will try the ejournal for a year and see how it works. (No motion was made.)

Extensive discussion followed about the transition process. Suggestions included sending out postcard reminders to the general membership, announcing the change in the May 2012 printed journal, and asking local associations to remind members to update their email addresses via the MTNA website. Further suggestions included making conference registration forms available in May rather than September, in order to smooth the transition between paper forms and online forms. Hard copies will be offered to teachers by special request, but these will be photocopies only.

The president asked Annette Shaw to research postage costs for sending out postcards in bulk, and to present her findings at the January meeting. She also requested Annette to make early conference registration forms available in the May journal, which will be the last hard copy.

New Business

First Item: The president passed around a letter drafted by Frank Pittman on behalf of the president and the NCMTA board, to protest the recent decision by the MTNA to eliminate all non-piano competitions beginning in 2012. The president announced that all state presidents have been invited to participate in an online conference during early December to discuss this motion. Extensive discussion followed among the board members. Many members expressed personal distress and indignation at this decision by the national board.

Paul Stewart made the following motion: “That the NCMTA board send a letter to the MTNA

National Board requesting rescindment of their July 2011 decision to eliminate competitions in brass, strings, voice, and woodwinds.” The motion was seconded, voted on, and passed unanimously. It was agreed during discussion that the letter should be kept short and simple, and focus on expressing a unanimous protest. Longer and more detailed letters should be sent by individual members. Anne Scoggin made a further motion: “that the board prepare a second letter of protest, to be presented for approval during the general membership meeting on Friday, made available to the entire NCMTA membership for signatures, then sent to the MTNA board.” The motion was seconded, voted on, and passed unanimously. President Liz LaBelle undertook to oversee the drafting of both letters, which will be made available for signatures throughout the conference weekend.

Second Item: Don Oehler, on behalf of UNC-CH, has proposed UNC as next year’s conference site. He proposed two sets of dates, October 18-21 or November 1-4. Thomas Swenson made a motion “that the 2012 NCMTA conference be held Nov. 1-4 at UNC-Chapel Hill.” The motion was seconded. It was voted on and passed.

Third Item: The President-Elect will send out notifications via email regarding date and location for the board meeting in January.

There were no announcement. The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 pm by President Liz LaBelle.

Submitted by Karoline Strickland