

**MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Las Vegas, Nevada
March 20, 2015**

MINUTES

ATTENDEES

Present

President Kenneth Christensen, President-elect Rebecca Johnson, Vice President Debra Florian, Secretary-Treasurer Karen Thickstun, Immediate Past President Benjamin Caton, 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), Helen Chao-Casano (Southwest 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 Kenneth Christensen called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m. March 20, 2015.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the December 2014 meeting were entered into the record, the document having been approved unanimously as submitted via email vote on December 23, 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.

Executive Director Gary Ingle presented an overview of the February 28, 2015 financial reports. Assets of MTNA are \$3,960,987.77 with liabilities of \$51,572.17. Income is \$2,223,978.14 with expenses of \$1,281,435.78. The balance of the MTNA Trust account is \$894,695.90. The Foundation Fund Endowment account has assets of \$1,098,797.60 and the McHose Trust has assets of \$643,621.50. Ingle also provided fiscal year-end financial projections based on the February 2015 reports.

Division Directors

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

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

Federal Trade Commission

The number of MTNA compliance activities has diminished significantly over the past three months. The information sent to affiliates continues to generate questions from leadership and members, although the amount is much less. We have responded to each question as quickly as possible and have provided correct and pertinent information. Three new local associations were added to MTNA: Greater Pasadena MTA, Santa Clarita Valley/Ventura, San Fernando Valley. Each received the required information regarding compliance. The next compliance report, our first bona fide “Annual Report,” is due on April 3, 2015.

MTNA Election of 2015-2017 Officers

The election process for the 2015-2017 MTNA officers was successfully implemented, with few operational problems or glitches. A total of 2,194 votes were cast, a 76% increase over the last officer election in 2013 that produced 1,245 votes. Of the 2,194 votes, 2,040 or 93% were cast online. The officers elected were: Scott McBride Smith, president-elect; Karen Thickestun, Vice President; and Sylvia Coats, Secretary-Treasurer.

Conferences and Meetings

The *MTNA Collegiate Piano Pedagogy Symposium* was held January 17-18, 2015 at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. It had a remarkable program and stellar attendance. In four years, it has grown from approximately 50 attendees to almost 120 in Dallas. There is an energy within the collegiate membership today that did not exist even five years ago. As a result of events like the symposium, I believe that collegiate students are finding MTNA valuable. They find MTNA valuable because the leadership of MTNA is aware that times and methods have changed and is committed to new and creative ways of meeting their needs in the present and for the future.

Foundation Fund

The Foundation Fund continues to make significant strides. There will be 37 new Foundation Fellows inducted at the Las Vegas conference, bringing the total to 325 since its inception in 2000. I am pleased to announce two new Legacy Society members, Celinda Hallbauer and Suzanne Torkelson. In addition, the *Brian K. Chung Endowment Fund* has been established, increasing the number of named endowments to 33.

Legal and Ethics

The recent news reporting of the measles outbreak and non-vaccinated children led to some of our members questioning if they can require all of their students to be vaccinated and if they can be held liable if a student contracts a disease from another student in their studio. Our legal counsel Scott Gilligan was asked to provide an opinion on these issues.

On the immunization issue, none of the music teacher studios would have to have a studio policy that required all of the students to be immunized. Gilligan attached a listing of the 50 state laws regarding immunization that appears on the National Conference of State Legislatures website. All 50 states have a law in place. However, the particular laws apply to elementary and secondary schools for the most part. Some states also include high school or licensed day care centers. However, none of the state laws would be applicable to a private teacher's studio.

Since there is no duty under the state statute for a music teacher to exclude children without the immunizations from his or her studio, there would be no liability for a teacher that allows non-immunized children to be taught at the studio. Therefore, teachers should not adopt these policies out of fear of being sued.

Gilligan called our attention to an interesting point regarding the state laws in that 48 of the 50 states require schools to accept non-immunized children if the parents choose not to immunize on religious grounds (Mississippi and West Virginia are the lone holdouts). In addition 20 states allow a parent to opt out of the required immunization if they have personal reasons for opposing immunization. Therefore, if one of our members were to adopt a policy that they will not allow non-immunized children into their studios, they may want to allow at least a religious exception so as to avoid a claim that they are discriminating against a particular religious sect.

We were contacted by a parent in Pennsylvania who wanted to file an ethics complaint against a member/teacher. Since MTNA's current ethics policy does not provide for MTNA to accept a complaint from a non-member against an MTNA member, Gilligan was asked for an opinion. He recommended that MTNA not establish a procedure to mediate or decide ethics complaints by non-members against members, especially given the recent developments with the FTC and MTNA's renewed effort to make the Code of Ethics aspirational rather than enforceable.

State and Local Affiliates

The national staff assisted the Oregon Music Teachers Association in solving a problem in processing new memberships. OMTA is one of two states for which MTNA does not process new member applications due to the requirement of a music degree. As a result the process was unwieldy and cumbersome and not in keeping with the demands of younger teachers today for simplicity and immediate feedback. After many discussions of potential solutions, OMTA recognized that the solution to the problem was to assimilate into the MTNA online application process. OMTA's new members now join by applying on the MTNA website in the same manner as 48 other state affiliates.

International

A funding proposal for \$5,000 was received from the *Consejo de la Musica de las Tres Americas* (The Music Council of the Three Americas) and approved. The grant provides financial capacity for the organization to build a solid foundation, credentials, network, and capability to seek out

external funding. The grant was a superb example of the kind of projects MTNA wants and needs to fund in order to have our name and logo associated with important events and organizations in much the same way as NAMM and NAFME are with so much of their financial support of outside projects and organizations.

In December 2014, I was appointed to serve on the International Society for Music Education (ISME) Constitution, Bylaws and Policy Working Committee. The purpose of the committee is to review the current ISME constitution, bylaws and operational policies and recommend updates and revisions to the Board of Directors.

Strategic Partnerships

Thanks in part to a generous grant from the NAMM Foundation, the National Piano Foundation continues to offer a limited number of scholarships from \$500 to \$1,000 to MTNA member piano teachers who are interested in and committed to learning more about Recreational Music Making (RMM), and developing an RMM group program for their studio and/or their community. These scholarships are to be used for travel, lodging, membership and registration fees and other costs associated with attending MTNA's 2015 "Pedagogy Saturday RMM Track" event on March 21, 2015, in Las Vegas.

MTNA will be a National Co-Sponsor for the Annual Arts Advocacy Day on March 23-24, 2015 in Washington DC. The event is sponsored by the Americans for the Arts and focuses on advancing the arts agenda with Congress.

As a member of the Music Education Policy Roundtable, a coalition of organizations advocating for high quality music education in America's schools, MTNA joined in identifying the Roundtable's agenda for the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). On January 13, 2015, the Roundtable outlined its priorities to Congress in an effort to create both a policy and teaching environment that is more conducive to the importance of providing all students with access to a well-rounded education that includes high quality instruction in music education.

Staff and Headquarters

The long anticipated MTNA Members-only section of our website was formally unveiled on December 23, 2014. The section will include publications, legal documents, and other content especially for our membership.

Travel and Meetings

January

Jan 11-13, 2015	ASAE CEO Symposium	Fort Myers, FL
Jan 16-19, 2015	Collegiate Piano Ped Symposium	Dallas, TX
Jan 20-25, 2015	NAMM Show	Anaheim, CA

February

Feb 27-Mar 2, 2015	US National Chopin Competition	Miami, FL
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March

Committee Reports

Written reports were received from the Nominating Committee (Benjamin Caton), Finance Committee (Karen Thickstun), Membership for All Committee (Debra Florian), Partnership Review Committee (Rebecca Johnson), State Presidents Advisory Council (Alan Huckleberry), *AMT* Editorial Committee (James Litzelman), MTNA e-Journal Editorial Committee (Andrew Hisey), Composer Commissioning Program (Ann Witherspoon), 2015 Conference Planning Committee (Martha Hilley), National Group Piano/Piano Pedagogy Forum (Michelle Conda), and the 2016 Collegiate Chapters Piano Pedagogy Symposium (Ryan Greene).

No report was received from the Foundation Fund Development Committee (Brian Chung).

BUSINESS

By General Consent, the Board went into Executive Session at 11:04 a.m. President Christensen declared the Board out of Executive Session at 1:45 p.m.

Presidential Appointments

Motion and second to ratify the following committee appointments by President-elect Rebecca Johnson for the 2015-2017 biennium:

Committee Appointments 2015-2017	
2016 Conference Planning Committee	
Jane Magrath	University of Oklahoma
Kassandra Keeling	University of Texas San Antonio
Robert Vandall	Ohio, IMT/Composer
Diane Hidy	California, IMT/Blogger/Composer
Christie Sowby	University of Utah Doctoral Student and IMT
2016 Pedagogy Saturday	Track
Richard Rejjino	RMM
Andy Villemez (Univ. Cincinnati)	Young Professionals
Gail Berenson	Musicians Wellness Co-Chair
Julie Nagel	Musicians Wellness Co-Chair
Lois Svard	Learning Theory
Robert Weirich	Artistry
Poster Session	
Linda Cockey	

Affiliate Grants	
Kate Young	chair
Cynthia Epperson	
David French	
Collegiate Chapter of the Year	
Jody Graves	chair
Lori Rhoden	
Henning Vauth	
Collegiate Grants	
Michael Benson	chair
Melody Ng	
Hilary Demske	
Local Association of the Year	
Catherine Walby	chair
Richard Shuster	
Elizabeth Blakeslee	
State Affiliate of the Year	
Kirsten Levorson	chair
Debra Hadfield	
Dawn McCord	
Studio Teacher Fellowship	
Cynthia Caruth	chair
Amy Maier	
Terri Hlubek	
Teacher Enrichment Grant	
Linda Christensen	chair
Stephen Pierce	
Terry McRoberts	
Teacher of the Year	
Coila Robinson	chair
Debra Ronning	
Phyllis Pieffer	
Development Committee	
Celinda Hallbauer	
Collegiate Symposium Committee	
Jovanni Rey De Pedro	chair
Ryan Greene	
Desiree Gonzales	
Zachary Lopes	
Philip Castro, USC Site Person	

PASSED

Election of Nominating Committee Representatives

Motion and second to elect Grace McFarlane and Suzanne Torkelson as Board representatives to the 2015-2017 Nominating Committee.

PASSED

FY 2016 Dues Adjustment

Executive Director Ingle informed the Finance Committee of the dues adjustment of \$1.00 for the 2015-2016 membership year, commencing July 1, 2015. Pursuant to Board policy, the dues adjustment is automatic and is determined by multiplying the current active dues amount (\$70.00) by the average Consumer Price Index (CPI) rate of inflation for 2014 and rounding to the nearest dollar. The average annual CPI through December 2014 is 1.6% or \$1.12.

MTNA 2020 National Conference

Executive Director Ingle presented an offer from the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile in Chicago, Illinois to host the 2020 MTNA National Conference.

Motion from the Finance Committee that the Board of Directors accept the offer from the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile in Chicago, Illinois to host the 2020 MTNA National Conference from March 20-25, 2020, and to authorize the Executive Director to enter into contracts with appropriate hotels and other vendors as required and necessary.

PASSED

Election Process Review

By General Consent, the Board went into Executive Session at 2:34 p.m. President Christensen declared the Board out of Executive Session at 3:56 p.m.

Motion and second to establish an Election Process Review Committee to evaluate the current MTNA elections policies and procedures and to report to the Board its recommendations at the July 2015 Board meeting. The members of this committee will be Kenneth Christensen as chair, Marc Hebda and Helen Chao-Casano. PASSED

The Board of Directors recessed at 3:58 p.m. on March 20, 2015.

The Board reconvened at 9:16 a.m. on March 25, 2015.

By General Consent, the Board went into Executive Session at 9:17 a.m. President Christensen declared the Board out of Executive Session at 9:47 a.m.

The two newly elected officers, President-elect Scott McBride Smith and Secretary-Treasurer Sylvia Coats, joined the meeting.

Lifetime Membership

Motion and second that the Board of Directors confer MTNA Lifetime Membership status on Kenneth Christensen in honor of his outstanding leadership and dedicated service to the association as National President 2013-2015.

PASSED

The Board also presented President Christensen with an engraved mantel clock to commemorate their appreciation and good wishes.

Appreciation Resolution

Motion and second that the Board of Directors express its profound gratitude and appreciation to the following officers for their service to the association 2013-2015:

**Kenneth Christensen, President
Benjamin Caton, Immediate Past President
Rebecca Johnson, President-elect
Debra Florian, Vice President
Karen Thickstun, Secretary-Treasurer**

PASSED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be July 13, 2015 in Seattle, Washington.

ADJOURNMENT

President Christensen adjourned the meeting at 9:57 a.m. on March 25, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Thickstun
Secretary-Treasurer