

Minutes of ASTA MD/DC Board Meeting January 29, 2012, 7:00 p.m.
Home of Catherine Stewart

Present: Catherine Stewart, President; Jean Provine, Secretary/Treasurer; Lori Barnett, Julianna Chitwood, Lorraine Combs, Mary Findley, Jeff Howard, Doree Huneven, Marissa Murphy, Mark Pfannschmidt, Dalton Potter, Alessandra Schneider, Paul Scimonelli, Marion Spahn, Matt Tifford, Loren Westbrook-Fritts

Welcome and Congratulations: to our chapter for winning the national award for the Best Website! President Catherine Stewart gave special recognition to Lorraine Combs for her hard work entering and reformatting data; and to Dorée Huneven, Past President, for getting the website started. Our host Jonas Music Services will display a congratulatory banner on the website.

Elections/Board member changes: Catherine Stewart and Dorée Huneven. Cathy introduced Matt Tifford, who has agreed to run for President-Elect. Lynn Fleming is resigning as Youth Orchestra Liaison, and Judy Silverman will be filling her place. Dorée reported one nomination each for Teacher of the Year and Service to Strings awards. Forms for nominations are on the website.

Treasurer's report: Jean Provine. There were no major changes in finances; funds are holding steady. Ads for both the website and *Stringendo* are more than covering our costs. Fiddle Day in the fall made a profit for the first time. We now need to concentrate on building a separate fund for our new scholarship.

Membership Chair report: Ale Schneider. Membership is somewhat down. Volunteers will help phone members to encourage attendance at the annual dinner.

Events: Catherine Stewart reminded all to start thinking about and organizing next year's activities now.

Upcoming events for 2012

- QuinTango workshop and concert; March 25, 2012** Marion Spahn has done considerable research and planning towards this event, which is to be held in Einstein High School auditorium in Kensington as part of National Music in our Schools Month. The goal is to draw in middle school and high school string students who learn at school, although all students from Maryland and D.C. are welcome. The repertoire would be tango pieces in arrangements that young players could manage. The music would be available on our website. There would be a workshop at 4:00, followed by a light meal and a concert in the format of last year's Mark Wood workshop. While the venue and tech service is free, producing the \$2500 fee for the QuinTango players will present a challenge. Dalton Potter immediately offered financial assistance to cover approximately 1/5 of the fee and our chapter agreed to cover another 1/5. Obviously we will need further sponsors. There was a lengthy discussion about how much to charge both for the tuition and the concert. Although not totally decided, it seems as though there will be \$5 fee for the meal, and a \$10 per family fee for the concert, in addition to some small charge for the workshop. Marion set herself the goal of Friday, February 3, 2012, to find some further sponsors. The board made many suggestions to help in this area. We will need to advertise to schools and youth orchestras very soon. ***Post-meeting update on the QuinTango event: this has been postponed until next year to allow time to do all of the above fund-raising.*

- Conference with Kirk Moss and summer orchestra in China: Paul Scimonelli is setting up the Kirk Moss conference to be held Landon School. Date will be decided. He also mentioned a summer orchestra trip to China; membership is open to all school-age string players.
- Solo Strings Festival: Jean Provine reported that this annual festival, run in conjunction with MSMTA, will be held April 1, 2012, again at the University of Maryland, College Park. While the venue is excellent in every way, the high rental fee means that we will probably run a loss of \$400–\$500. There has been talk that ASTA will also join MSMTA in running their annual StringsPlus Festival.
- Fiddle Day: Ale Schneider and Marion Spahn ran this day workshop very successfully in 2011 and volunteered to do it again in the fall of 2012. They are hoping for some different clinicians since the same people have taught for a couple of years running.
- ASTACAP exams: The dates for the exams are March 4, 2012, and May 12, 2012. Julianna Chitwood and Dorée Huneven are the administrators for the March exams. In addition to these regularly scheduled exams, Sachi Murasugi is starting a separate ASTACAP schedule on the Eastern Shore.
- Membership Dinner: Daniel Levitov. Although not present, Dan sent information via email. He reported that the Annual Membership Dinner will be held on April 15, 2012, at 6:30 p.m., preceded by a 6:00 board meeting. Cellist Evan Drachman will be the speaker and all will take place at Buca di Beppo in Gaithersburg. The cost will probably be approximately \$30 per person.

Scholarship Fund: Daniel Levitov. Dan reported that the scholarship application and guidelines are now up on the website. He urged all board members to make a donation to the new fund.

Policy: Julianna Chitwood. Julianna is hoping to clarify the procedure for running an ASTA event. It was suggested that the national office and other state chapters might have some useful information.

Institutional Memory: Catherine Stewart. Cathy proposed that we have some kind of historical record made showing our past activities. Jean Provine volunteered to try to create something going back four years.

Studio Teacher Meetings: Catherine Stewart. These are being held every three months this year at Cathy's house and have been well attended, particularly the last session on Alexander Technique.

Weekly Email: Julianna Chitwood. Julianna will be handing this duty to another member in mid-February. Lorraine Combs agreed to take on the job temporarily. It was thought that emails twice a month might be less cumbersome both to the sender and the recipients. It is clear that many are not being opened, perhaps being sent to spam files. However, the percentage read is apparently not bad on a scale of such things.

Other business

Dalton Potter suggested that the Treasurer draw up a yearly budget plan allocating a percentage of funds to various areas, based on what has been the case for the past 3–4 years. This would make it easier for us to decide how much we were able to spend in certain areas while maintaining a reasonable balance.

Marion Spahn reported that we had again run a table at the MMEA meeting last fall and were donating a year's membership to the public middle school teacher who won the drawing there.

Jeff Howard suggested that we send some speakers to local universities to encourage student participation; or re-present some of the programs from our teacher meetings there. He also suggested that we could advertise our events on Youth Orchestra websites if they were willing.

Catherine Stewart and Lorraine Combs reminded us of the existence of Project Grants available from the National Office.

Minutes submitted by Jean Provine