Minutes of ASTA MD/DC Board Meeting, September 15, 2013, 7:00 p.m.
The home of Dan Levitov, Baltimore

Present: Daniel Levitov, President; Matthew Tifford, President-Elect; Jean Provine, Secretary-Treasurer; Lorraine Combs, Dorée Huneven, Sachi Murasugi, Mark Pfannschmidt

1. Elections
Dan reminded all that nominations for new officers as well as for the Service to Strings and Teacher of the Year will be are coming early in 2014. He encouraged people to also consider nominating people not yet members but who might like to be involved.

2. Membership Dinner
This will be in mid-March 2014. Dan is working on getting Hilary Hahn for the speaker and we will need to hold off finalizing a date in order to fit in with her schedule. If she comes, we would plan to invite members from neighboring states and would need a larger venue.

3. World On A String Day – November 2, 2013
Dorée Huneven described the format of this event, which we co-sponsor with Freyda's Hands, and which was very popular last fall. There will be workshops featuring players from many cultures to work with string players of all ages and abilities on such things as Irish fiddling, erhu, Peruvian music. This year there will be 20 students attending on scholarships. Last year this made a slight profit and ASTA MD/DC Chapter has promised to support any monetary loss up to $3000. We hope to have a table there this year with ASTA flyers, and also try to contact teachers of those who applied about joining ASTA.

4. ASTACAP update
Dorée Huneven reported that the move to Beth Ami Temple for these exams has been very successful. Dates for the 2014 exams are tentatively February 23 and sometime in early May. From 2014, Dorée will become the National Chair for the ASTACAP exams and there was some discussion of possibly returning administration to our chapter where they originated. Sachi Murasugi pointed out that we were in competition with the RCM exam system, which published the pieces and was open to any teacher's students. Others pointed out that the ASTACAP gave a little more flexibility in repertoire and provided an adjudicator who was a player of the instrument. The question was raised as to whether teachers who were not ASTA members should be allowed to enter pupils for a slighter higher fee.

5. Event sponsorship application
Daniel Levitov passed out an application form for review which can be used by members wanting to organize a chapter event. This was approved and will be posted on the website. Applicants will need to outline their projected costs and goals in detail. Board members were invited to make suggestions for changes to the form and submit them to Dan.

6. Marketing and increasing membership, particularly to classroom teachers.
Dan's proposal to have a phone-a-thon to reach out to prospective members was passed. This could be in the form of a party, where everybody brought their computers and phones. Each person would think of at least ten people they know. Their list would be checked against others

and against the current membership list. There is a list of reasons to belong, which could be sited during the call, and the application forms could be made out on the spot. Other marketing ideas were to hand out free booklets on running a studio, a raffle to give away one free year membership. In the same discussion, Lorraine Combs pointed out that it would be useful to have a separate list from the main office of new members so we could send a welcome letter.

7. Treasurer's report
Jean Provine reported on the activity over the summer. While funds were down by around $2000 from June, this was largely due to the fact that payments for *Stringendo* were made and two grants were given during the period. The expected rebate and income from advertisers will offset the expenditures. Present funds stand at $12,561.83 including $1050 in the scholarship fund.

8. *Stringendo* e-format
Matt Tifford is looking for the best way to distribute *Stringendo* digitally so that it can be read easily on PC's, tablets, Kindle.

Report by Jean Provine, Secretary