

Minutes ASTA MD/DC Board Meeting, October 18, 2009, 3:00 p.m.
1609 Ladd Street, Silver Spring MD

Present: Board members: Sarah Cotterill, Jeff Howard, Dorée Huneven (President), Sachi Murasagi, Dalton Potter, Jean Provine (Secretary/Treasurer), Paul Scimonelli, Catherine Stewart (President-elect), Cynthia Swiss.

Guests: Jodi Beder, Laura Ferry, Bruce Molsky.

Paul Scimonelli moved that the minutes from the last meeting be approved. Jeff Howard seconded the motion.

1. President's report—Dorée Huneven

Doree displayed a poster on which she had outlined her long-term goals:

- To date the chapter has made contact with and involved private studio string teachers; teachers working in public and private schools; universities and members of the strings industry.
- To facilitate communication, we now have a new website that features links to Facebook and reprints of Stringendo. We use Google documents for email updates to members.

Recent chapter activities:

- Fiddle Day: 9/12/09
- ASTACAP Exams: 5/31/09 and 6/7/09
- Solo Strings Festival with MSMTA: 5/24/09

Upcoming events are:

- Mark O'Connor teacher training workshop: 1/16/10
- Brian Lewis Workshops for teachers and pupils: 3/6/10 and 3/7/10
- Repair workshop for teachers: 3/20/10
- Strings Festival with MSMTA: 5/23/10
- Mark Wood Workshops for teachers and pupils 6/5/10 and 6/6/10

Goals yet to be achieved are:

To actively seek more membership and welcome new members.

To devise a State Chapter Handbook and clarify policies.

Dorée made these further announcements:

- We have established a chairperson for National Competitions: Marissa Murphy.
- We are now able to offer professional in-service training certificates for events.
- Board member Robert Sorel resigned.

2. Treasurer's report—Jean Provine *Note: MD/DC members may request the Treasurer's Report from Jean. Contact her privately.*

3. Professional Credit Hours

Dorée has arranged that teachers can now get professional credit hours from our events. Public school teachers should contact Marion Spahn.

4. Policy

Several areas were identified for which the chapter needs to establish policy guidelines:

- Grant Administration. Deadlines should be set for grant applications, the dates to be posted online. Grants should be evaluated together and awarded on a regular schedule once or twice a year for summer camps and scholarships.
- Yearly Chapter Budget. The treasurer should try to produce a yearly budget.
- Individual Project Proposal Budgets. Dalton suggested that those who manage activities and events should produce a projected budget, and thereby demonstrate with some assurance that they will not lose money. If there are not enough applicants to meet the breakeven point, the event should be canceled.
- Duties and Term of Office for Board Members. It was thought that board members should be expected to fulfill certain duties and also serve a fixed term. We need to clarify our requirements. Paul Scimonelli will head a new committee to develop policies relating to matters such as board qualifications and standard grant requests.
- Dorée offered to write a Chapter Handbook.

5. ASTA MD/DC table at the MMEA public school in-service teacher day 10/16/09

Eighteen public school teachers signed the ASTA list, requesting information about our chapter. Dorée and Marion Spahn hope to have a table again at the next in-service day. We also made contacts with educators from Harford County and Catholic University. Several shops offered to sponsor our events. Paul Scimonelli said the private schools also have similar days where we could show our presence. Dorée will post a picture of the day on the website.

Other thoughts on linking with school classroom string teachers:

Dalton suggested ASTA could send teachers into public school classrooms occasionally for a lesson.

We could also present a session at one of these in-service days. Marion Spahn, our public school representative, hopes to start a committee to liaison with ASTA.

6. Upcoming events

- Doree is organizing a three-day workshop featuring violinist Mark O'Connor, January 16–18, 2010. Participants will attend seminars, receive copies of the *O'Connor Violin Method* Books 1 and 2, plus CD's, and attend the Mark O'Connor concert. The event will be held at George Washington University. We hope for at least 31 teachers and can accommodate 50. The budget estimate showed an expected profit. Brobst Violin Shop is sponsoring the event.
- The radio program "All Things Considered" visited Dorée's class recently and recorded her teaching pieces from O'Connor's book. Broadcast day and time to be announced.
- Jean reported that the Solo Strings Festival will again run in conjunction with MSMTA at Howard Community College on 5/23/10. The chairs are Cecilia Barczyk, Jean Provine, and Sarah Cotterill. The new venue should save our chapter money in rent over last year's festival, and thus should earn income, provided the participant numbers are comparable to last year (160). Application is on the website.

- ASTACAP examination dates and locations are undecided at this point but will be sometime in late February and again in May, possibly the 22nd or 23rd.
- Cathy Stewart has organized a two-day workshop of master classes and group lessons with well known teacher Brian Lewis. As this is an extension of her own private studio's event, her students will perform at the master class, but she has opened the other group sessions to outside students and teachers for a small fee. Nine hours of professional development is available for teachers. Potter's Violin Shop is sponsoring the event.
- Cathy has arranged for violinist Mark Wood to teach two student sessions (middle school and high school) on June 5, 2010, and to do a further session for teachers on June 6. There will be a concert that parents can attend for \$10. She presented a budget based on 150 student and 40 teacher participants. All sessions will be at The Lutheran Church of Saint Andrew in Silver Spring. The event is expected to earn a large profit. Potter's Violin Shop is sponsoring the event. It was discussed as to whether we needed to produce professional pictures and/or DVD's of the event. No consensus was reached. Dalton thought that it would be a good idea to create a way for people to pay by credit card. Jean will investigate this at Bank of America.
- Dalton Potter and Paul Scimonelli are presenting an Instrument Repair Workshop at Landon School on 3/20/10. Dalton explained this would be "Level 2" of his presentations: Participants mainly observe, but there will be some hands-on experience with, for example, setting up sound posts.
- Dorée, Paul, and Dalton are hoping to contact string businesses in the western part of Maryland to initiate a liaison between educators and music store owners.

7. Other business

Plans for year 2010–2011. Cathy Stewart pointed out that we need to start planning early for next year, especially if we hope to schedule anyone of stature for ASTA presentations; we should produce a list of general ideas soon, so members can vote for their favorites, as we did last year.

Jeff Howard will ask some of his friends/colleagues, particularly at Towson, about the possibility of giving a workshop or master class.

Minutes submitted by Jean Provine