

Minutes of ASTA MD/DC Board Meeting, March 14, 2010, 2:00 p.m.
1609 Ladd Street, Silver Spring MD

Present: Board members Lorraine Combs, Lynn Fleming, Dorée Huneven (President), Leah Kocsis, Laurien Laufman, Marissa Murphy, Mark Pfannschmidt, Dalton Potter, Jean Provine (Secretary/Treasurer), Paul Scimonelli, Alessandra Schneider, Marion Spahn, Lya Stern, Catherine Stewart (President-elect)

1. President's report—Dorée Huneven

- In her last meeting as President, Dorée reiterated her overall goals to further ASTA's purpose to promote excellence in string playing and teaching through: increasing liaisons with public school and university students and teachers; adding professional orchestra members to the membership; creating a policy handbook; increasing MD/DC membership to 500; increasing advertising; expanding events to various parts of the state; developing a reliable email list for communication; and forming more sub-committees to address particulars. She still wants to achieve these goals through her signature methods, which are: inclusiveness, synergy, creativity, and fun.
- At the ASTA National Conference, which six board members attended, she accepted two plaques: Most Improved Chapter Award and Best Newsletter Award.
- Her many achievements as president are outlined in a letter to the membership, which will be included in the Spring 2010 issue of *Stringendo*.

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

We now have an idea of our regular income and expenditures, as seen from the last two years' activity. Jean presented a budget that gives approximate figures for the regular expenditures, such as administration, website upkeep, sending officers to the National Conference, and scholarships. Balancing expenditures against regular income from ads, the national rebates and ASTACAP, she proposed a separate activities fund, which would provide and take in money from one-off activities, which are less predictable. These funds could be budgeted for scholarships, where we could increase or decrease the amounts depending on year-to-year circumstances.

3. 2010 Election of President-elect, Secretary/Treasurer. Awards for Service to Strings and Teacher of the Year—Dorée Huneven

The recent emailing of ballots and nomination forms appears to have missed some members. Not having time before the deadline of April 1, 2010, to totally understand and correct the problem, Dorée decided to start the process over again, and send all ballots by mail, as has been done in the past.

4. Membership—Dorée Huneven

- Sarah Coterill has resigned as Membership Chair. A membership committee including Leah Kocsis, Dalton Potter, Paul Scimonelli, and Dorée Huneven will address the situation and work on keeping the member list updated, as well as recruiting new members.
- Dalton Potter reported that the National Membership Committee is hoping to: a) Help members with payments by offering a monthly payment option, and b) Encourage more university student ASTA chapters to increase the number of younger members.
- Another idea from the National Board was to help recent graduate members pay their membership fees for the first two or three years, or give an introductory rate. We hope to engage more university faculty in creating active student chapters.

- It was noted that many members join to gain a reduction in instrument insurance.
 - It was suggested that we might have a general chapter business card printed, which could be distributed to all members—perhaps as a page in *Stringendo*—and/or have a flyer placed in music shops. There is such a flyer already printed for national membership purposes.
 - We need to offer what people want: studio meetings, workshops, and collegiality to encourage membership.
5. Reports on Past Events
- Mark O’Connor Workshop—Dorée Huneven
This was highly successful. Thirty-two teachers took part and there was a profit of \$3500.
 - Monthly teacher meetings—Catherine Stewart
These have grown in popularity over the past year and are generally attended by 10–20 people.
 - National Conference—Dorée Huneven and Catherine Stewart
Both reported that this was a crucial and valuable experience for chapter leaders and provided stimulation, ideas, and contacts.
 - ASTACAP Exams—Dorée Huneven
There were 3 examiners and 70 student participants at the February 28, 2010 exams.
 - Brian Lewis workshop—Catherine Stewart
There were 36 students participating and 14 teachers. The weekend consisted of a master class, scale class, class on bowing technique, group class, and final concert.
6. Reports on Upcoming Events
- Instrument Repair Workshop—Dalton Potter and Paul Scimonelli
Scheduled for March 20, 2010. So far there are seven participants, which should make for a good time and more “hands-on” opportunities.
 - Mark Wood Workshop—Catherine Stewart
Scheduled for June 5 and 6, 2010. Applications will be online soon. There will be two student classes on Saturday with two separate instructors, followed by a concert. Sunday will be a teacher workshop, followed by our chapter’s Annual Membership Meeting.
 - Annual Membership Meeting June 6, 2010
It was decided that each board member would phone a group of twenty members approximately one month previous to the meeting, personally inviting them to join us. (We can also find out if any telephone numbers and email have changed.)
 - National Solo and All Styles Competition.
This is to occur next November. Marissa Murphy is the chair. Dalton Potter pointed out that the term “All Styles” was adopted at the national conference to replace “Alternative Styles.”
 - ASTACAP Exams—Lya Stern
The next exam date is May 22, 2010, at Catholic University. It was hoped that teachers could schedule some future exams in their own areas to better distribute the sessions around the state.
7. Next year’s events
We need a committee to organize for next year.
8. Policy Committee report—Paul Scimonelli
We now have a comprehensive list of expectations of board members. The list was slightly reworded at this meeting.
- 1) Attend board meetings.

- 2) Write or obtain from elsewhere one article a year for *Stringendo*.
 - 3) Endeavor to bring in as many new members as possible, particularly in his/her area of expertise.
 - 4) Give feedback via email when asked.
 - 5) Be willing to help organize, participate in, or initiate at least one chapter project per year.
 - 6) Serve a two-year renewable term. The term may be terminated either by vote of the Executive Committee or by the person serving.
9. SAGWA (Suzuki Association of Greater Washington Area) events and dates—Alessandra Schneider)
- The 40th Annual Suzuki String Festival will be held April 24–25, 2010. Workshops will be held at Bullis School on April 24 and a group concert on April 25 in Strathmore Hall, Bethesda.
 - The summer weeklong GWSI (Greater Washington Suzuki Institute) is scheduled for the last week in June in Falls Church.
 - Marissa Murphy mentioned that it is important that Suzuki teachers do not feel they are separate or totally different from traditional teachers.
10. String jams at coffee houses —Dalton Potter
- This is an interesting idea that various members have seen at work in San Francisco and other places. It consists of either a pre-organized, or a somewhat impromptu performance at a restaurant—either solo or group. At this point we are only thinking about setting up such things in conjunction with area restaurants. We need a coordinator.
11. Scholarship grants—Jean Provine
- For several years, our chapter has given grants in the \$400–\$500 range to the National Philharmonic Camp, Baltimore Strings Camp, and INTERMUSE at Towson. It was thought rather than just assume that this money would be given each year, a committee should be formed to create an application form. Laurien Laufman suggested that students might audition for scholarships. In addition, we often will want to provide personal grants for people with business at the National Conventions. The newly formed Finance/Grants Committee will consist of Jean Provine, Mark Pfannschmidt, Lya Stern, and Lorraine Combs.
12. Youth orchestra information—Lynn Fleming, Catherine Stewart
- It is still not certain what kind of, or how much information we should include on our website about area youth (and other amateur adult) orchestras. Cathy would like to have a special orchestra page with comprehensive listings to include requirements and access to the ASTA Youth Orchestra Liaison, Lynn Fleming. Lorraine thought that the present website links to the Youth Orchestras and Community Orchestras was sufficient. A compromise for the moment might be to have something on the homepage that reads “Orchestras” instead of including them under the more general “Links.”
13. Other Business: Lorraine Combs brought to our attention the existence of GigMailz, which is available for a fee of around \$200 a year from Jonas Music Services, our website host. They would take over the distribution of emails, but we would still be responsible for keeping the list updated.