

Minutes of ASTA MD/DC Board Meeting, September 28, 2014, 5:45 p.m.
The home of Matthew Tifford.

Present: Matthew Tifford, President; Daniel Levitov, Past-President; Julianna Chitwood, President-Elect; Lorraine Combs, Kelly Hsu, Dorée Huneven, Lenelle Morse, Sachi Murasagi, Mark Pfannschmidt, Lya Stern

1. Old Business

Mini-Conference (3 hours total, possible 20 minute segments)

Sunday, April 26, 2015, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Cost discussion: The free admission helps turnout; it is a privilege of members.

Presenter ideas: They could be non-board members. We might take advantage of local expertise or possibly hire someone. Names suggested: Jody Gatwood, Ronda Cole, Richard Lavoie presentation on learning disabilities, Hilary Hahn.

A central topic helps organization and we agreed to run just one room.

Door Prize ideas: conference rebate, chapter memberships–renewal or new. There was a request to have a shorter presentation time of prizes.

2. Winter *Stringendo*

Submissions promised so far: Shelley Mathews – ASTACAP, Julianna Chitwood – Simon Fischer DVD review, Lenelle Morse – “Keeping Myself Inspired”

Ways to notify people about paper copy of *Stringendo* tabled for discussion later.

Emails will be sent to members when *Stringendo* is online.

3. Postcards

Projected cost: \$250 including postage. The advertiser pays for design, printing and deliver to post office.

Postcard content: Upcoming events, ads, *Stringendo* promotion.

Timing: First week of December 2014 postcard for January–March 2015, first week of March 2015 postcard for April–June 2015.

4. Grants and Scholarships

Need a Taskforce Group for writing a proposal.

For the private lesson scholarship: In the past there has been no recognition for ASTA. It needs to be streamlined. Some student winners were studying with non-ASTA teachers and it was originally meant as short-term help for parents who needed help.

Future needs: well-advertised, parameters for the award, target audience, should be funded very specifically with strong accounting, differentiate between merit-based and need-based award, resources needed for membership growth (shouldn't necessarily use a big chunk from our budget), youth orchestra scholarship would yield good visibility.

Members of Taskforce Group: Dorée Huneven volunteered. Matt will solicit additional members for task force by email.

5. Board Communications

Always include Matthew Tifford, Julianna Chitwood and Daniel Levitov.

Reimbursements: Please email Sachi Murasugi and cc Matthew Tifford. The checks will be written on Fridays.

6. New Business

Discussion on best practices and policies for events. Exclusivity clauses: Clinicians shouldn't do the same thing in similar future events. We can communicate with other organizations and decide on a clause for future events. There is a need for institutional policies. Idea for documents in Dropbox: It could contain details of before/during/after the event so that different chairs can benefit from the experiences of previous chairs. Example: "how-to" on ASTACAP that was compiled by Dorée Huneven and Julianna Chitwood.

7. Prudent Reserve

Dorée Huneven suggested a designation of emergency funds that could come out of our current account. A description what constitutes an emergency needs to be written. It's important to use the other money for the good of the chapter and for the future of the chapter. Some expressed a desire to compile a wish list of priorities that supports the mission of the chapter. Timetable needed by November 15, 2014.

8. Student Chapter Support

Financial concerns at U of M, cost of student memberships, and low interest in teaching have been problems for starting student chapters. The possibility of a subsidy for a student chapter was brought up. Mini Conference can be a bridge for students. We need to solicit information from other State Chapters.

9. Landon School

Sent a request to become an Institutional Member, with help for 4 or 5 string teachers. We will have more discussion later, but there was concern about fairness to teachers at other schools.

10. Teacher Development Grant

Julianna Chitwood suggested Teacher Development Grants could be a possibility for those who have taught less than 5 years. It would be a new budget item and a one-time event. Newer teachers need the professional development help. Supporting young teachers to go to the National Conference, Suzuki workshops, Rolland workshops. Qualifying application: ask them how they would disseminate their learning and to do a recap of their experience either at the Mini-Conference or in a *Stringendo* article. Committee: Julianna Chitwood, Mark Pfannschmidt, email for more committee members.

11. Teacher Meeting Budget

\$75 has been the max. This needs to be a budgeted item. The motion was to allow \$75 with no more than 10 meetings per year. Official vote: unanimous yes.

12. Social Media

Anyone can post on ASTA MD/DC Chapter's Facebook Open Group. The administrators are Lorraine Combs and Daniel Levitov. ASTA MD/DC Chapter's Facebook Page puts out information; one person manages it. Please keep Facebook in mind when there is an event that needs promotion.

13. Membership List and Handbook

There was discussion about the publication of deadline date for a member to be included in the Handbook membership list. Check with National ASTA for latest list and the time that it takes to get a new member on the list. Comments about the new Handbook: professional looking, helpful for advertisers, gives another “why join ASTA” reason.

14. Previous meeting and Treasurer’s Report

Approval of previous meeting minutes. Treasurer’s Report: Sachi Murasagi. Fiscal year reporting begins July 1 of each year. Spreadsheet shows general categories. Winter 2015 ASTACAP has sponsorship from Potter’s Violins. It was suggested that a poster be displayed the day of the event. Cash balance is current but outstanding expenses and income are also listed.

15. ASTACAP Report

Lya Stern reported that this is a fast growing program and National ASTA has chosen to weigh in. Big changes were suggested in the Summer 2014 AST magazine. Many teachers responded vehemently with concerns about these changes and were happily surprised by the change of heart by the National office. National President Stephen Benham communicated directly with our ASTACAP chairs. Webinar can be viewed online. There will be a new National ASTACAP committee that will be very large with sub-committees. Fees to National will increase by \$5 for each student. Lya Stern has been asked to help with developing a training program for examiners.

16. Violin Boot Camp Report

Dorée Huneven gave the report. Brynn Albanese presented the camp on Sunday, September 21, 2014 at the home of Ronad Mutchnik. Registration had to be closed early because of high enrollment. The format included technique and interpretation, with a recital at the end of the day. Sponsorship: Gales’ Violin Shop and David’s Natural Market in Columbia. Net income: \$1,791. Possibility of follow-up event next year. Intermediate in the morning, advanced/teachers in the afternoon with a concert on Friday night.

17. Event Administrators

Administrators should be reimbursed for their time. Dorée Huneven volunteered to contact the National office.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Submitted by Lenelle Morse