

Minutes of ASTA MD/DC Board Meeting and Dinner, April 15, 2012, 6:00 p.m.
Buca di Beppo, Gaithersburg Maryland

Present: Catherine Stewart, President; Daniel Levitov, President-Elect; Jean Provine, Secretary/Treasurer; Robert Battey, Sue Bower, Karin Brown, Donna Calcone, Julianna Chitwood, Lorraine Combs, Mary Findley, Andrea Hoag, Doree Huneven, Margaret Motter-Ward, Sachi Murasugi, Mark Pfannschmidt, Dalton and Ally Potter, Judy and Paul Silverman, Marion Spahn, Lya Stern, Matthew and Jennifer Tifford, Margaret Wright.

This short meeting was a prelude to the annual membership dinner.

Installation of new officers: Catherine Stewart. The new officers serving the chapter for the next two years beginning on May 15, 2012, are: Daniel Levitov, President; Matthew Tifford, President -Elect, Jean Provine, Secretary/Treasurer.

Treasurer's report: Jean Provine said funds are holding steady. An overview from the last four years shows that in a normal year the income should slightly exceed the expenses. Jean thought it best to close the CD, which is not making much interest but requires maintaining a minimum amount, to make that money available.

Vote on requirement for "Teacher of the Year" to be an ASTA member: This was passed.

Scholarship fund report: Daniel Levitov said he scholarship fund is still very small, but growing. This spring there were three applications. The Scholarship Committee: (Lorraine Combs, Daniel Levitov, Mark Pfannschmidt, Jean Provine, and Lya Stern,) will take the applications and confer over email about the awards.

Solo Strings Festival report: Jean Provine said this festival, run in conjunction with MSMTA, was held April 1, 2012, at the University of Maryland, College Park. There were slightly more than 200 participants. Due to the clarification of some items in the rental contract, the festival will, for the first time, run a slight profit.

Insurance for activities: Catherine Stewart reminded us that all activities must have insurance. It is free through Merz-Huber and is easy to set up, except for a certain period of time in late February and early March when there is some logistical complication, as pointed out by Julianna Chitwood, who has handled the ASTACAP exams scheduled at that time.

Stringendo: Lorraine Combs handed out a guide sheet outlining the procedures for putting announcements on the web, in the email, and for writing Stringendo articles. If people can send their writing in the proper form and by the right date, it will save time.

New business: Lya Stern asked all of us to try to make ASTACAP more prominent, both on the website and through word of mouth. We would like to increase the number of students doing these exams. It was mentioned that the online application procedure was a problem for some teachers who do not use computers, and that we should make a paper application available.

Awards: To Catherine Stewart and Dorée Huneven for their service as Chapter Presidents, and to Jean Provine for her continuing service as Secretary/Treasurer.

Service to Strings Award: Presented to Catherine Stewart by Judith Silverman, who outlined the many activities Cathy has been involved with over the years.

Teacher of the Year Award: Presented to Karin Brown.

Cellist Evan Drachman spoke about his experiences growing up as Gregor Piatigorsky's grandson and about Piatigorsky's life. He told us about his very successful Piatigorsky Foundation, which sends concert artists out to small rural venues. The concerts are largely classical but prefaced with educational introductions by the artists.

The dinner menu was salad, pastas, chicken cutlets...and chocolate cake!