

Minutes of ASTA MD/DC Board Meeting, September 19, 2010, 7:00 p.m.  
The home of Catherine Stewart

Present: Catherine Stewart, Lori Barnett, Lorraine Combs, Jeffrey Howard, Dorée Huneven, Leah Kocsis, Marissa Murphy, Kimberley McCollum, Mark Pfannschmidt, Jean Provine, Ale Schneider, Paul Scimonelli, Marion Spahn, Lya Stern, Loren Westbrook

1. Goals: President Catherine Stewart began by congratulating Past-President Dorée Huneven on her many accomplishments in expanding the chapter and reaching out to many string teaching areas. Cathy then stressed how very important it was to keep this momentum going.
2. Policy Handbook: Dorée Huneven and Paul Scimonelli are working to develop a policy handbook which would, working with the national bylaws, clarify procedures for such things as organizing events; and would outline the inner structure of the chapter, incorporating the subcommittees which have been established over the last couple of years. Jean will make a list of the sub-committees so that each committee's duties can be outlined. Paul's committee has already made a good list of board member's duties.
3. Public School Initiative: Marion Spahn has been working to find a person from each county to act as liason—to help distribute information and pinpoint schools and teachers interested in ASTA events. Cathy Stewart has talked to Scott Herman, who is willing to do this for Montgomery County. Various other ideas were aired: a possible conference for public school teachers where they can receive in-training credit; a one-to-one relationship with an ASTA helper who would go into schools to help teachers in their area. (Several members had already been doing this with appreciation and success.)
4. Solo Strings Festival: Jean Provine reported that the venue and date had not yet been fixed for this spring event, which is shared with MSMTA. Last year's venue, Howard Community College in Columbia couldn't accommodate the festival this year, so several dates both at Landon School in Bethesda and University of Maryland have been requested. May Ing Ruehle will join Jean and Sarah Cotterill on the organization.
5. Scholarship Committee: Dan Levitov hopes to create a special fund for scholarships. Marissa Murphy, violin, and Jim Kelly, viola, are giving a recital on January 14, 2011, to kick-start the funding.
6. Treasurer's Report: *Note: MD/DC members may request the Treasurer's Report from Jean. Contact her privately.* Jean Provine reported that the balance is healthy thanks to profits made by the O'Connor and Mark Wood workshops, Solo Strings Festival and ASTACAP. The national rebate is slightly lower as it is linked to membership numbers.
7. Membership chair report: Ale Schneider has been busy sending letters to lapsed members outlining, among other things, the new insurance benefits offered by ASTA. She is also designing a postcard to pass out and have available in music shops. It was thought a good idea to have a membership table at every event. Cathy said the national office has urged every member to recruit at least one new member and send her the names.

8. Reports on upcoming events:

Fiddle Day: Kim McCollum

To be held October 16, 2010, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at Anne Arundel Community College. Kim has contacted high school and college string teachers, worked publicity through facebook and received \$700 in sponsorship money. There are 8 applications at this point.

Instrument Workshop Day: Paul Scimonelli

Paul and Dalton Potter will be presenting a workshop on the Eastern Shore for string teachers and merchants on October 30, 2010, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. They are working with our Eastern Shore Co-Representative, Sachi Murasugi. The workshop will include the distribution of information about our chapter's activities, the benefits of ASTA membership, and a hands-on "kitchen table repair" workshop. Local string merchants will be invited to show their products.

Setting Up a Private Teaching Studio Workshop: Ale Schneider and Leah Kocsis

This event aims to draw in college age students who may be starting private studios. Cathy Stewart will talk about setting up a studio. They hope to get a tax expert to talk about accounting and taxes. Marissa Murphy will do a session on finding students and communicating with parents. Another good topic would be "learning styles". This event will be held November 14, 2010, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Peabody Conservatory.

High School Solo Competition: Marissa Murphy

Marissa reported there hasn't been much interest this year and the deadline for sending a recording is October 1, 2010. It was thought that we might re-advertise this through our new email system.

Mark Wood Workshop: Cathy Stewart

This is to be our second workshop with rock violinist Mark Wood. It is being run in conjunction with MCYO and Potter's Violins. The dates are March 26-27, 2011.

Dueling Fiddlers: Ronald Mutchnik is organizing these two outstanding "eclectic style" players for a workshop on November 21, 2010.

Other event ideas

Ale Schneider has investigated a possible reading orchestra for teachers, particularly public school teachers, to hear and preview orchestral items.

9. Report on new Constant Contact email system: Leah Kocsis has been sending regular emails out about events. She reported that the opening rate was along the lines of 38%, which is apparently not too bad. There was an idea that the lure of a small strings-related free item like a mute or pencil holder might encourage people to open the emails. Members may also be contacted through Facebook, and Leah would like to change this so that messages go directly to their wall rather than them having to go to the ASTA group. She would also like to try the free trial for using the invitations and registration formats offered. The Constant Contact page presently has an ASTA MD/DC logo that is brown. Cathy was hoping in the future we could match the style with the website page. It was generally thought all right to send notification of non-ASTA events as long as they were of interest to members.

The next board meetings:

January 30, 2011, 7 p.m. at Cathy's house again.

May 15, 2011 (the annual meeting), in the evening with dinner. Location to be decided.