

Minutes of ASTA MD/DC Board Meeting September 25, 2011, 7:00 p.m.
Home of Catherine Stewart

Present: Catherine Stewart, President; Daniel Levitov, President-elect; Jean Provine, Secretary-Treasurer; Lorraine Combs, Julianna Chitwood, Mary Findley, Dorée Huneven, Jaque Lyman, Kimberley McCollum, Marissa Murphy, Dalton Potter, Mark Pfannschmidt, Alessandra Schneider, Marion Spahn, Lya Stern, Loren Westbrook-Fritts

Reports on Past Activities:

- Solo Strings: Jean Provine. This festival, in which students play in small groups for a judge and receive ribbons, is jointly supported by our chapter and MSMTA. There were 211 participants last April. Approximately two-thirds of the teachers who entered students were ASTA members, and of those, one-third also belong to MSMTA. Due to the high rent at UMD and the purchase of a new award ribbons, it cost each organization \$450. It will be held next year on April 1, 2012, at UMD.
- Scholarship Committee: Daniel Levitov. Dan handed out copies outlining the rules for application for the scholarship fund. There was much discussion about how to raise money for the fund—whether it should be paid from our general account as we do for the summer workshops, or whether we should use a separate fund. It was suggested that each board member contribute a small amount each year or that members could be encouraged to donate. However, until we have enough in a special fund, we could consider applications and give what we can out of the general fund which is ample at the moment. There would be a committee to review the applications and an announcement would be made in the next issue of *Stringendo*. We also need to investigate the possibility that subsidizing a member's student by paying that member might compromise our tax-exempt status.
- Sassmannshaus Workshop: Catherine Stewart. This workshop, presented by Kurt Sassmannshaus, outlined his father's introductory violin method for children, which has now been re-published. It took place the weekend of September 10–11, 2011, at The Lutheran Church of St. Andrew. There were 14 participants and there was no cost to our chapter, since the tuition was paid directly to the presenters.

Treasurer's Report: Jean Provine. The costs of activities since the last meeting in May were shown. The Annual Meeting and Dinner made a small profit, as did the ASTACAP exams in February and June 2011. While the cost of printing *Stringendo* is rising, the ads are doing well, covering much of the cost. The general fund is healthy and is up from a few months ago.

Membership Chair's Report: Alessandra Schneider. The membership list is updated quarterly and membership has increased slightly. Several possibilities for advertising were mentioned. Marion mentioned that we might reach many people by advertising in the MCYO programs. Alessandra is working on getting a presence in the SAGWA letters so they will know about our offerings.

Elections: Dorée Huneven. The nomination forms need to be put into the next issue of *Stringendo* and the deadline for inclusion is November 1, 2010. The offices of President-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer will be open. In March 2012, we will need to present the candidates for voting and also the candidates for special awards. **(See footnote!)** Dorée will investigate the possibility of online voting with Jonas Music Services, our website host.

Upcoming Events

- Fiddle Day: Ale Schneider. This is the third year we have offered a day of traditional fiddling for students and teachers. This year's event will be held at The Lutheran Church of St. Andrew on October 15, 2011. Last year's workshop was highly successful and the final push for registration is

on. The registration deadline for this event is October 8, 2011. We have good sponsorship, which is covering tutor's fees, so only need to provide the rent and refreshments.

- Annual Membership Meeting: Daniel Levitov. It was thought that winter was a better time for this, since May is a hectic time for most teachers. February 19, 2012, was found to be a date most of the board could attend.* Cathy thought a D.C. restaurant such as P.F. Chang's or Maggiano's might be a good choice. Dan is hoping Evan Drachman might come as guest speaker.
- ASTACAP – Julianna Chitwood. The next exam date is March 4, 2012, at The Lutheran Church of St. Andrew. Lya Stern wondered whether this was too close to the next ASTACAP exam date, which is late May/early June. It was decided that a March date was a good compromise to February, which was a little too early and yet would give students a chance to avoid taking the exam at the same time as their school exams. Lya also reported that ASTACAP now has its own National Committee, which should mean an increased status nationwide.

Ads: Dan Levitov and Lorraine Combs. Dan printed out a list of our advertisers. There are 16 current in *Stringendo* and 13 for the website. We all need to be aware and ready to contact any new businesses that might benefit from an ad in one of these places. Also we should all be thinking of places to advertise our chapter to new members. It was voted to put an ad in the MCYO programs, which could attract both new members and sponsors. Lorraine and Dan will create an ad for this purpose. SAGWA and MSMTA were also mentioned as places where we could encourage teachers to look at what we have to offer.

GigMailz: Julia Chitwood. Julianna confessed to having some problems with the "help" crew and the screen size for entering text, saying that it was not as intuitive as the previously used Constant Contact. GigMailz is informative about getting reports of which addresses had bounced and which had opened. The cost is very reasonable.

Maryland State Music Educator's Meeting: Marion Spahn. This meeting in Bel Air, Maryland, where all public school music teachers from the state will be assembling on October 21, 2011, is a great opportunity for our chapter to make a presence by setting up a table as we did two years ago. The cost is \$125. It was voted to do this and also to raffle off a free one-year ASTA membership.

New Business

- Dalton Potter. Although his term on the National Board has finished, Dalton reminded us about the insurance plans offered through our national ASTA membership—discounted liability insurance for our studios, instrument insurance, and health insurance. We should be sure to include these benefits in our ads.
- Lya Stern reminded us of our responsibility to reach out to teachers, informing them about ASTACAP and encouraging them to take advantage of this fine, unique examination program. This also should be mentioned in our ads.
- Cathy reminded those who are currently responsible for submitting articles for the next issue of *Stringendo* that the deadline is November 1, 2011. In addition, she hopes that everyone on the board can contribute a short anecdote about their favorite private teacher. Marion suggested that since we have profiled the area Youth Orchestras, now we should do the same for Community Orchestras.

Minutes submitted by Jean Provine

**** It was noticed later that the elections for officers and nominations for awards will have to be completed in time for the Annual Membership Meeting in February!***