

**LMTA 2017-2019 Executive Board Meeting**  
**Saturday, October 14, 2017**  
**University of New Orleans**  
**9:00 am – 11:45 am**

Meeting was called to order by President, Pamela Pike.

Roll was taken by signature.

Those present were Pamela Pike, Teresa Thomason, Barbara Cockerham, Michelle Strain, Rebecca Bellelo, Patti Misita, Laura Pray, Frances Yang, Raymond Yee, Kathy Norris, Carla Breaux, LaWanda Blakeney, Chan Kiat Lim (via skype).

President, Pam Pike, told us that our positions on this board are for 2 years.

The Executive Board has to approve the names. We can look on the LMTA website for our position to see our duties. Look under About Policies and Procedures. Then click on Bylaws. Then look at Article IV, Officers, Article V, Election of Officers and Article VI. There may be things we need to revise.

The President-Elect's position is a huge job. You have to find a clinician and also a guest artist. Frances Yang stated that for the 2018 LMTA Convention which will be held in Natchitoches, LA, there is a new Boutique Hotel which may work as our Convention hotel. He thinks we can get it for about \$99 per night. Pam Pike said to be sure and keep the competition in mind. Frances checked with Angela Cheng and her husband Alvin Chow as possible guest artists. Angela does fabulous master classes, but she will have to figure out how much of a fee she will require. NSU will be able to help some with the cost. It will probably be about \$2,500 for a clinician/guest artist.

Frances said that we have a January deadline. Courtney Crapell & Mario Ajero may also be options for us as pedagogy clinicians.

Pam Pike said that we need checks and balances between the president-elect, the local association president and the local college faculty liaison hosting the convention. One of the President-Elect duties is to act as a liaison at the state convention. Pam will contact the local chairperson on the luncheon meetings and Presidents meetings. There is a checklist on the LMTA website for the Convention hosts.

Teresa Thomason, Vice President of Membership, will need to get monthly updates from National or quarterly updates or can download from MTNA.

She coordinates all activities related to membership. We need to think about ways in which we can help Teresa. Phillip Schussler said he is interested in getting a Collegiate membership started at Southeastern in Hammond. Martha Hilley will be President of MTNA in 1½ years and converting collegiate members into regular members upon graduation will be one of her areas of focus.

Michelle Strain, Certification Chair, needs to help members get set up for projects and finding a mentor. Maybe a local liaison can help her. What does the certification chair need to do? She will need to talk with the local certification chairs about who is possibly qualified. We need to educate ourselves more on this.

Patti Misita suggested that we take ownership of our job. Look at the checklists on the LMTA website for each position. They have a lot of videos about membership.

Barbara Cockerham, Vice President of Publicity, will be the newsletter editor for The Score. Will promote public activities and send information to Laura Pray for the LMTA website. Laura stopped putting pictures on website because it takes about 30 minutes or more to load a picture. Melva Villard is in charge of the Facebook page. She will work with her.

Patti Misita said that Denise Cox is the Advertising Chair. The local ad chair is for local businesses only (advertising at convention). Denise had a nice flyer showing ad and web banner costs for convention. There were not any local ads this year. They can also talk to local businesses for possible door prizes for the convention bags.

Vice President of Rallies, Rebecca Belello, will preside at Rally Board Meetings. The state chair is only for Piano right now. Does she need to pursue Voice or String Rallies? Michelle Strain asked how do we market ourselves to compete against Federation – strings, etc.... Chan Kiat suggested that this year we should focus on piano and not spread ourselves too thin. Strings & Voice Rally has a syllabus on the LMTA website. Pam Pike stated that we need to make sure that the tests are consistent and standards are maintained. Patti Misita said if a string teacher steps up and volunteers to chair this for strings, then we could get the past string materials or tests from Sonia Lloyd. Rebecca will tell the String teacher that we are not having a string rally this year. She wants to get the teacher involved.

The Secretary, Kathy Norris, will type up minutes and send first to President, Pam Pike. After Pam approves or makes changes, then need to send to Laura Pray within 3 weeks after the meetings to place on the LMTA website.

The Treasurer, Raymond Yee, will prepare an annual report for LMTA membership. Check with the President of LMTA before sending a check to someone. He will maintain a membership update of which is on a database at MTNA national. It is getting harder to get payments now from universities and vendors. Credit cards are not accepted as payment by LMTA for our events. We need to spread the word. Pam Pike suggested that we might want to open a savings account in case something happens for emergencies. Teresa Thomason will provide Raymond with a checklist of things that need to be paid. He may need to create a spreadsheet for different things such as State Convention expenses.

Laura Pray, Historian, will keep archived files on website for 12 years and then will delete.

Carla Breaux and Chan Kiat Lim who are Members-at-Large for LMTA need to be at the January Board Meeting. They typically meet at the next state convention location. Be sure that you know where the Policies and Procedures are on the web site.

Pam Pike said that for the Summer Board Meetings we could possibly “video conference” the executive members, if we would use Zoom.

In reference to the Technology Report from Carla Breaux, Pam Pike thanked her for all of her hard work on this. She said if we need to explore other options, we can. Carla reminded us that LMTA decided a long time ago not to have laptops purchased for each district because it was too expensive. The web-base seemed to be a better option. She said that the current Rally database has a few things that need tweaking for this year. Some of our teachers put in duplicate students, which created a programming issue which

she cannot fix. It messed up their medals information. Also, the database is not setup for non-members. The database is functional for this year, but will need a new database for next year. Chan Kiat raised an issue about how we are going to pay for it.

1. Website/Database for this year is workable.
2. What do we want on it?
3. How are we going to pay for it and what can we prioritize?
4. How much money are we getting from Rally? Last year we raised Rally fee. At TS we only made about \$100 so the Rally Board has voted to raise the Torgrimson Swanzy entry fee to \$35.00. We also want to change the pay for TS judges to a Flat fee of \$400.00 without mileage.  
This proposal has not been submitted in writing to the executive board yet.

We cannot vote on this today until there is a Written Proposal.

LMTA got dues from 274 members. Maybe we can begin the new Back 40 in two phases. We could do the website and then later in the year start the new Rally database. Pam Pike suggested that we look at the Oklahoma and Texas websites. Terri in Oklahoma had a wonderful experience with the Back 40 company. It took them about 5 years to learn how to operate the new website. The Texas project manager had a bad experience with Back40, but she may not have been good with deadlines. We have to be very organized. This way we can add pages later. We need directive and a good website. Laura Pray said she will work on the website and keep it informational and also easy to use. Pam will forward the Back 40 proposal to her. Other states are struggling with the expense of developing and maintaining websites, as they have become so important for organizations and individuals. Pam heard this at Summit in September.

Pam Pike said that at the MTNA Summit, they talked about using and exploring the new MTNA website and that we need to share it with members in our local associations. You can update your profile on the website. There is an MTNA e-Festival for \$60.00 where you can upload up to 15 minutes of videos and can get feedback from judges. Be sure to watch Sue Steck Turner's webinar archived on the site. This is a tremendous resource to have.

The 2018 National MTNA Conference will be March 17 – 21, 2018, at Lake Buena Vista or Disney.

Some of the benefits of membership in MTNA are ASCAP Fees are paid. Office Depot discounts are offered. The MTNA Mission is to engage the public and sustain our profession and inspire members. Creates professionalism with competent teachers and qualified music education.

Brainstorming session:

What is our mission or goal for LMTA? We want to provide a service for ourselves, students and the music community.

For our students, LMTA provides the opportunity to share music, competitions, Rally, Chamber Music, MTNA competitions, and local composing opportunities. We offer recitals (Competitive & Non-competitive) for our students. We want them to develop and enjoy a life-long love of music. The Rally information is comprehensive.

We offer Play-a-Thons, Hymn Festivals, E-Festivals. We want to teach them to improvise with a Lead line and to be able to play solo or in an ensemble. We want them to be able to play a contemporary arrangement. We need to provide a modern updated version of Guild.

There are some things we are not really covering in Rally. We need a committee to explore several options. We need a framework (not connected to Rally). Sue Steck Turner would be a good choice for this committee to think of ideas for the non-traditional student. Patti Misita, Michelle Strain and Carla Breaux volunteered to serve on the committee. Pam Pike will contact Sue.

Pam Pike will send out things with google.docs, on which we can all add to it for LMTA's mission. We need some way to publicize ourselves better. If we put students on Facebook, etc., we would have to have a procedure in place for permission to do so. MTNA believes that the best communication comes from us at the state and local level.

Patti Misita mentioned LSU's new requirement for BRMTA music teachers using their facilities. They will have to have a Sexual Harrassment liability policy in order to use LSU for events and MTNA's liability does not cover this.

We (LMTA) will have to purchase a General Liability policy and add Sexual Harrassment to the policy. This will have a big impact on how we operate and to our budget.

In reference to the Anti-Trust Compliance, we cannot discuss current piano teachers' prices or hourly rates. We cannot discuss our billing policies and procedures. Also we cannot discuss our vacation time and missed lessons policies. Pam has more detailed information, and if anyone would like it, they may contact her.

Chan Kiat asked if we could possibly interest public school teachers in joining. This year LMTA had a woman who is a public school teacher and not a member who came to our Convention. Teresa Thomason will follow up on convention records to see what they are looking for and to see how she found out about our state convention.

Since Teresa is now Vice President of Membership, she will not be able to go to Rally Board meetings. Frances Yang will check on the meetings that are overlapping during convention. We may need to hold meetings at different times, as many people have dual roles on committees. He mentioned that an Australian pianist is coming on January 20<sup>th</sup> to NSU. Could we possibly schedule our meeting on same day that he is coming? Also he said that Angela Cheng can only come on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Is that too early for Convention? We think that it is, but we could have convention later if she is available. Frances will ask her rates and see what NSU school funding is for this.

Laura Pray said that she and Carla Breaux are thinking about having a meeting in Lake Charles concerning the website.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Norris  
Secretary