

**LMTA Executive Committee Winter Meeting
Louisiana State University – Baton Rouge
January 26, 2019 – 10 a.m.**

Meeting was called to order by President, Pamela Pike.

Roll was taken by signature. Two members, Barbara Cockerham & Michelle Strain were present through Skype. Those members present were Pamela Pike, Francis Yang, Kathy Norris, Rebecca Bellelo, Raymond Yee, Chan Kiat Lim, Laura Pray & Carla Breaux.

Minutes from October Executive Meeting were approved.

Laura Pray made the motion to approve the minutes and Rebecca Bellelo seconded it.

Treasurer's Report:

He has submitted the MTNA Dues Verification Form to MTNA to change the state dues to \$25.00 and student dues to \$5.00 each.

Pam Pike stated that she and President-Elect, Francis Yang, will sit down with Treasurer, Raymond Yee, to go over the books later today (Jan. 26). This helps to see where we are spending money and it is good practice to have an internal audit each year.

Chan Kiat Lim made the motion to accept the Treasurer's report and Francis Yang seconded it.

President's Report:

President, Pamela Pike, said that she submitted a Report of Activities to Division Director, Sharon Callahan, in November 2018. This report was accepted and summarized at the national MTNA board meeting in December 2018. She said that Sharon Callahan is doing a great job, along with Terri Hubleck from Oklahoma in advocating for national assistance for our state affiliates who are required to purchase sexual abuse insurance. It might be doable by national, except that the insurance requires a background check of federal, state and county Felony and Misdemeanor records for all judges and volunteers every other year and the cost of such a background check ranges anywhere from \$40 to \$70 per judge and volunteer. Also it would probably require MTNA to have one full time staff member just to manage and control the requirements of sexual molestation insurance to all of the state and local affiliates. So MTNA is not exploring this at this time. So the states are handling this on their own for now. Right now the insurance is affordable, but Pam is concerned that the amount will go up every year. In the meantime, Barbara Fast, Division Director-Elect, in Oklahoma and Sharon Callahan, Division Director in Texas will work on our behalf.

Something that BRMTA is doing to help with this issue is to have an audience for all judged events; however the institution where they hold the event still requires us to hold the insurance.

Because our policy runs from March to March each year, Pam is currently exploring options for policy renewal. The insurance agent with whom we had been working has left the company in Indiana, but we have been assigned a new agent. She is scheduled to communicate again on January 30th.

In October 2018, Christine Lien sent LMTA \$425 from a studio play-a-thon to assist with LMTA sexual abuse insurance. Pam sent Christine, her students and their parents a thank

you on behalf of LMTA. This is a creative solution by one teacher and her studio to assist our organization with a new but critical expense that benefits those students.

We received thank you notes from two teachers who received flood assistance from LMTA. Melanie Rushing from LA and Loraine Capsole from FL both wrote nice messages describing how our assistance helped them recover from complete studio losses during the 2016 and 2017 floods in LA and FL, respectively.

Teresa Thomason submitted a Membership Report. She stated that membership is up from last October. As of January 25, 2019, our state membership is 283. We need to find ways to recruit new members and encourage non-renewals to join. Remember that new members can join MTNA (now) for a reduced membership. (1/2 price)
Local presidents received a membership packet at convention Presidents' Meeting. At the October local President's meeting, we asked each president to provide information about non-renewals for 2018-19 and to reach out to those former members. Perhaps these efforts led to the increase in membership since October, since our membership has increased in the last couple of months. Remember that membership brochures and other pamphlets are available from National Headquarters.

The State Competitions (for MTNA) were held immediately following Convention at NSU in October. As a result, we had winners and/or representatives from LA in 11 categories (2 in composition; 9 in chamber or solo performance). For the first time, this January, the Division Competitions were recorded and submitted online for remote online judging. She has not heard about any problems with the new system. Winners were announced last week. We have 2 winners and 2 alternates from Louisiana. We have one person going to National. National competitions will take place in Spokane, during the national conference in March. Charlie Jones has access to the winner list. Laura Pray will update winner information on our website. Pam said that she thinks it is helpful to have a Summer Board Meeting every other year (in years when we don't meet on the Saturday immediately following convention). She recommends a Zoom platform online which is about \$15.00 per month. Our meeting size would not be a problem. We could have the Executive Board in the morning and the Full Board after lunch. She will look into this possibility.

Dr. Chan Kiat Lim is our Foundation Fellow for 2020. We will announce this in our Spring Score and encourage members to donate when they renew their annual dues, before June 30. It costs \$350 for a State to reserve a table now at Chicago MTNA Convention. Francis Yang will make sure that we get a table booked on time. Don't make a donation towards this yet because MTNA won't call for these until at least April.

Francis Yang is hard at work on planning our 2019 LMTA state convention. It will be held at LSU on October 17 & 18, 2019. As usual, our executive board meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 17 (early afternoon) and will be followed by dinner and the full board meeting. BRMTA, under the new leadership of Rebecca Bellelo, will be our local hosts. We are hopeful that the Recital Hall renovations that are scheduled for fall 2019, will be delayed. Alternate venues are being explored for the evening recital.

The Ad Hoc Curriculum Committee (Patti Misita, Sue Steck-Turner, Carla Breaux, David Easley and Pam Pike) have been meeting regularly. The new curriculum program is tentatively named Keyboard Olympics. The committee envisions a 6 or 8-level program (with modules for each event such as technique, realizing lead lines, transposition, Classical repertoire, non-Classical repertoire, etc.) It will be judged online. The first 3

levels are complete. Carla Breaux stated that Patti Misita has made us a nice Syllabus. This will not be grade based and will be a Pass/Fail format. The students will have a year to complete after they pay their registration. They will roll out the program in late spring/early summer. With many entry points and curricular options, we hope that it will meet the needs of a larger percentage of our teachers and their students. This is initially limited to Louisiana students. Rebecca Bellelo said that eventually we could spread this to other states to help students who don't have access to contests and we can make some additional money.

The Chamber Music Competition was held at ULL in Lafayette on January 19, 2019. Chan Kiat Lim reported that entries were up this year and the competition went well. This is the first year to have it in January and therefore, it was much more successful with seven groups. We now have high school students entering in Lafayette.

Pam mentioned that she would like each member of the Executive Board to write an article pertaining to their area for an upcoming issue of *Score*. The articles don't have to be very long, but will help with our communication with the entire LMTA membership. The deadlines for upcoming issues are February 23, June 15th, and September 21. Articles should be emailed to Barbara Cockerham.

Also, after researching the matter, we believe that the State of Louisiana no longer supports the program that allowed La. students to study with a qualified LMTA teacher for high school credit. There doesn't seem to be a contact person for assistance. Therefore, we will need to remove all mention of it from our website and from the Rally Syllabus.

Also, Pam stated that the MTNA National Conference will be in Spokane, WA, in March. She hopes that many of us will attend. The South Central Division meeting will take place on Sunday, March 17, 2019, in meeting room 202ABC at 5 p.m. Following the Division meeting, we will meet around 6 p.m. for our informal LMTA dinner. Please let her know if you will be attending the conference and she will forward restaurant information once she's made a decision.

Membership Report:

Teresa Thomason, Membership Chairman, sent us her report. She reported that at the end of the last membership year, we had 301 members in LMTA. It is now down to 283 as of January 25th. She is hopeful that our numbers will increase as our district rally dates are approaching. She said that all states have experienced a decrease in membership, with the exception of Kentucky, who had an increase of 6 members.

There are several members who have not renewed their membership. She plans to contact the local associations to ask them to check on these members and encourage them to do so.

Laura Pray said that they have a number of non-members who just want to participate in competitions, but not become a member. Chan Kiat Lim suggested that we invite non-members, who might be interested in joining, to our workshops. We should publicize these events about 9 months ahead of time, much earlier than we usually do.

Certification Report:

Michelle Strain, Certification Chairman, reported by Skype that we have one person working on National Certification. Most members who are certified are keeping their certification renewed.

We had one member at Convention who received her Certificate of Experience.

If we know of someone at our local district who is eligible, then we should put them in touch with Michelle. Pam Pike has some ribbons that say “Ask me about Certification.” Raymond will have these at the next convention.

Michelle has been reading a book entitled “The Four Tendencies” which she recommends to help us understand how members think when it comes to what is important.

Local associations need to remind teachers to renew their National Certification.

Michelle said that she will send an email to Teresa Thomason to send out to our members.

Rally Report:

V.P. of Rallies, Rebecca Bellelo, mentioned that the Violin/String Rally will be on April 7th. She said that at October Rally meeting it was decided that we need to update the Rally Theory tests and enlarge the print for special needs students. When the original theory tests were made, Cindy updated and retained the records. When we make these updates, we will pay and reserve the rights to work on these in the future. We need to enlarge the staff and combine the drawing of the scales. Lauren Lewandowski has given us a quote. Rebecca also wants to get a quote from Susie Garcia.

Lauren’s ideas were to Redo the 4 tests, leaving the same except for enlarging the staff.

Quote 1, with handwritten answer keys

1. Estimated fees for redesigning tests
24 tests total (4 for each level, 6 levels), Estimated 24 hours (\$20/hour) **\$480**
 2. Handwritten, scanned, and uploaded answer keys
24 answer keys total, Estimated 3 hours of work **\$80**
- Estimated Total: \$560**

Quote 2, with computer designed answer keys

1. Estimated fees for redesigning tests
24 tests total (4 for each level, 6 levels), Estimated 24 hours (\$20/hour) **\$480**
 2. Computer created answer keys
Answers such as scales, chords, & key signatures would be created in music notation software. The answers could be created in red if wanted.
Estimated 8 hours of work. **\$160**
- Estimated Total: \$640**

Thoughts to consider:

- If the estimated project quotes are too high for LMTA budget, perhaps there could be 3 sets of tests per level rather than 4
- These quotes are estimates. I can keep a log of times that I work on the tests. I may be able to work faster than expected.
- Ideally, I would like to start this project in June of 2019.
- It was suggested to create one blank “skeleton” with 4 options to insert into each test. I advise against this as it will create more work in the future for the chairs. I would suggest having the tests done so that there also isn’t the possibility of mistakes when editing the tests each year. If new tests are created each year with the options, it also complicates having answer keys. Creating 4 options for each question/skill takes about the same amount of time as creating the 4 tests per level.

- It is easiest to create the computer answer keys while creating the tests. To create the tests one year and then create computer designed answer keys another year would be more time consuming.

All of us can take home this information and ponder over options.

Rebecca can do a group email to everyone for 2020.

Chan Kiat Lim thinks that these quotes are very reasonable.

Also, we have to remember that if we increase the size of the print on tests, this will mean more pages to be copied and additional copy expenses.

Webmaster Report:

Laura Pray, Webmaster, said she updated our LMTA website as much as she could.

There's not anyway she can add a page even though it is needed for the new Piano Olympics. Maybe we can create a link to connect to it. Pam Pike thinks that we need to have 2 web links – One for each festival. We also need to include MTNA competition dates on our website.

LaWanda Blakeney will chair getting a slate of officers for Francis's term. Pam will appoint those committee members (from former state presidents). The nominees will be publicized ahead of convention so we can vote at the General Assembly on October 18, 2019.

Publicity Chairman Report:

Barbara Cockerham, Publicity Chairman, said that the dates have been listed for *The Score* deadlines. Members can submit short paragraphs to be included in the issues.

Rebecca can submit dates for Rally. Chan Kiat Lim can submit the names of the Chamber Competition winners. Our teachers can send in some humorous quotes from students. Francis Yang will contact David Easley for ideas.

Pam told Barbara to feel free to send us reminders to send in articles for *The Score*.

Pam said that Outstanding Teacher nominations are due by May 1st. The local President's reports are due by June 1st.

She mentioned that there has been some discussion about tuning prices for Convention. Some colleges just absorb the fee for tuning. The board has voted to give \$500 towards tuning if needed.

Pam Pike said that she will update our Policies and Procedures with Division updates, etc. She also thought we might want to vote to change our Convention name to Conference instead. Chan Kiat Lim made a motion to change the name from Convention to Conference and Francis Yang seconded it.

Convention Chairman Report:

Francis Yang, Convention Chairman, mentioned using Mitch Maynor as our technician for the 2018 convention. He said that could possibly list the technicians names or get them to take out an ad in bulletin. Also, some other competitions, such as Marjorie Strickland Competition, took out an ad before. Maybe some of the other competitions might be interested in ads. He has contacted a few people to submit proposals for Convention.

Kevin Olson, from Utah, wants his meals included. He is an active pianist, composer, and member of the piano faculty at Utah State University, where he has taught courses in piano literature, pedagogy, accompanying, music theory among others. He also maintains a large piano studio, teaching students of a variety of ages and abilities. Many

of the needs of his own piano students have inspired hundreds of books and solos published by the FJH Music Company, which he joined as a writer in 1994. Maybe we could consider having a concert of Kevin's pieces played by students. He also offered to do a Commissioned Work for a fee. He gave us a list of eight possible topics for the convention.

Carol Matz has composed, authored, and arranged over 300 published titles for piano students. She is an experienced piano teacher herself and has presented numerous piano-teaching workshops throughout the United States, Canada, England, New Zealand and Australia. She is well known for her Famous & Fun series (published by Alfred Music). She gave him a list of possible Showcase and Sessions.

The third person that Francis contacted is **Sean Slade –Piano Marvel**. He is co-creator of The Standard Assessment of Sight Reading. He gave a list of four possible topics.

The fourth clinician that Francis contacted was **Derek Kealii Polischuk**. He is associate professor of piano and director of piano pedagogy at the Michigan State University College of Music. He is originally from San Diego. He is a founder and director of the "Celebrating the Spectrum" Festival for advanced pianists on the Autism Spectrum. He has written a book entitled "Transformational Piano Teaching".

Chan Kiat Lim suggested that we might consider charging the clinicians a \$250 fee for an ad to promote their book or literature, which would include a ½ page ad, booth space and a banner on website. They could do this online or come and meet the teachers.

Maybe we could have both Kevin Olson and Derek Polischuk. It depends on their fees. Or we might bring one of them in the next year.

Chan Kiat Lim suggested that we try to get both of them. Francis will follow up with an email vote.

Francis also mentioned that for Teachers Ensembles, maybe the teachers could play throughout the day during convention for more exposure, instead of having a separate ensemble recital. Meagan needs to get the word out earlier and put information about it in *The Score*. He will also talk with Brittany N. about doing a bulletin.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Norris
Secretary
Louisiana Music Teachers Association