

LMTA Summer Executive Meeting  
Online Zoom Video Conference  
July 8, 2019  
9 a.m.

Online LMTA Summer Board meeting was called to order by President Pamela Pike. The roll was by video recognition. Those present were Pam Pike, Francis Yang, Raymond Yee, Barbara Cockerham, Laura Pray, Michelle Strain, Teresa Thomason, Kathy Norris and present by audio was LaWanda Blakeney.

The minutes were approved from the January meeting and are on the LMTA website, excluding bank account and financial details. Anyone who wants a detailed Treasurer's report can request one from Raymond. Until we have a website with a Log-In portal for members, we will have to eliminate money amounts to deter online "fishing" attacks.

**Raymond Yee gave his Treasurer's report.** Dues-paying members who wish to review a copy of the report should contact the President.

**Teresa Thomason gave her Membership report.** She said that we have 167 members in LMTA. Two months ago it was 183. This is normal, as it is usually hard to get members to renew. We need to get everyone in our local associations to renew their membership. Collegiates can join for a small fee. Michelle Strain said they are brainstorming about how to get other teachers, such as string teachers, etc. to join.

**Michelle Strain gave her Certification report.** We have one new Professional Advancement Certification and one National Certification in progress. We need to make sure that everyone is renewing their Re-Certification and also anyone who needs to renew State membership. Pam asked her to send out a follow-up email in August to remind members. Michelle thinks our locals should identify at least one person to target one person to get certified. Pam said that since the President's meeting this year at convention will be on a Friday as a breakfast meeting, that Michelle should plan on coming to that meeting.

**Rebecca Bellelo, Vice President of Rallies,** could not be present for this meeting. Pam shared on screen her report. There were 160 entrants this year for Torgrimson-Swanzy State Rally. We also had 16 entries for Violin Rally. Pam is concerned that a summer rally board meeting has not been set yet. Michelle and other past and present District Rally chairs agreed that they need to meet, even if it is by Zoom online, to discuss some changes. That would be better than no meeting at all.

**Laura Pray, Webmaster,** gave her report. The minutes from our last meeting are on the website. A note on the website asks members to email the president if they wish to view the Treasurer's report. Laura will reach out for updates. Pam said that even with all of the constraints, she thinks that the LMTA website looks great!

**Barbara Cockerham gave her Score update.** She said that the date for the next *Score* is September 21<sup>st</sup> but it may need to go out on September 7<sup>th</sup> so people have LMTA Conference information. For the 7<sup>th</sup> she would need to remind members by August 31<sup>st</sup> for articles. Pam suggested that she to set the date for *August 31<sup>st</sup> to get articles in to Barbara*. She will get Teresa to send an email to her with a reminder to everyone to register for State Convention. She will contact others for more articles including Robin Yee, who is in charge of Upper Elementary Auditions, and Charlie Jones, who is in charge of MTNA Competitions. Barbara could send them a quick email before she needs it. Michelle might want to do an article about certification. Pam said the *Scores* look great.

**President's Report was given by Pam Pike.**

She said that we have renewed our Abuse Insurance policy. Our new Insurance representative is Melody Thammavong ([melody.thammavong@nfp.com](mailto:melody.thammavong@nfp.com)). District Rally Chairs and local festival chairs can email her for insurance verification as required by institutions where we hold competitions. Pam attended MTNA and the SPAC (state presidents meeting) at the conference. Francis, Charlie and David were at the MTNA Convention. Thanks to them for attending. The Keyboard Olympics committee has been very involved working on the new curriculum. It will be unveiled at the state conference. She thinks it was much more successful to have the Local Associations' Presidents reports by June 1<sup>st</sup>. We used the new due date for the first time this year. She'll create a short form for the local presidents to complete prior to the state conference that asks them to preview the year ahead, as all programs will have been planned by then. Two of our state chairmen resigned. For Outstanding Teacher Chair, Lina Morita stepped in. Materials for OT should be submitted to Lina by August 16. The website has been updated. Our Advertising Chair also resigned. Sarah Jenkins from Baton Rouge stepped in to fill this position. August 1<sup>st</sup> is the ad deadline. Francis is working with Sarah. We need this chair to operate at the state level so that regular advertisers from across the state have a familiar point of contact with our organization. We also need Local Ad chairs. Pam reported that Sarah has redone the spread sheet with our contacts and has created a unique email for all LMTA advertising communications. Rebecca Bellelo is working with Susie Garcia to reformat our Rally theory tests.

**Keyboard Olympics report.** Patti Misita, Carla Breaux, David Easley and Sue Steck Turner and Pam have been working hard and they have a curriculum in place. They are creating examples for various components of the tests. It will be unveiled on Thursday morning (Oct. 17) at State Conference. Pam said she will chair for the first year. Students will have a full year to complete the different testing components online. They will register online but have to send their checks into the chair. However, the committee would like to consider using PayPal.

As an organization, we should consider moving in the direction of accepting online payments. We can use PayPal also to register for State Conference, Torgrimson/Swanzy entries and possibly other events. Pay Pal could also help with District Rallies. The service fee is 2.9% + 30 cents per transaction. (It would be half a percentage lower if

LMTA was a 501c3 organization; we are not due to state certification.) We can't vote on it today but will think about it and vote in August (in time for the conference).

Our membership is dropping and people are having trouble filling positions in local associations. Pam is concerned that New Orleans is not filling the President's position. Michelle Strain suggested that maybe we could reach out to Stephanie Screen, their Rally chair, and let her know that the minimal requirements for President are not too cumbersome. They could begin by filling out the President's report and attending the local Presidents' meeting at state conference. They don't seem to be meeting regularly and few members come to state conference, but there are probably people in New Orleans that need a meeting. Maybe if they knew there was someone to represent their area and come to the October meeting, more members would come. Pam will look at our Bylaws again and get in touch with Stephanie (one of the current VPs). She asked the group to think about things that LMTA can be doing to help increase our membership numbers? We will discuss again at our October meeting.

**Francis Yang's Conference Report:**

Christie Huskey is presenting on Friday of the State Conference. David Easley will present a session on improvisation and lead line activities. Desiree Gonzales is presenting a session on Latin American Music. Sue Steck-Turner is giving a presentation on music from the 90's. A graduate student from LSU is presenting a session on Memory Mapping. Chan Kiat Lim is also doing a presentation on How to Become a Judge. And of course, Kevin Olson from FJH will be a presenter. Derek Polischuk is doing a presentation on teaching students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Francis said that he needs to finalize the schedule for State LMTA Conference. He is also working with the publisher to get some goody bags. Please send any names as leads for ads to Sarah Jenkins. Pam asked Michelle Strain if she would consider doing a session for Certification. She said maybe they could just tackle a portion of the process, like philosophy of teaching piano. Maybe she could do this in the Board Room and work with Francis. She could get the teachers to develop an overview of their teaching philosophy. Francis is trying to get the Collegiate students to get together to have lunch. Pam said she wished that they could continue a joint collegiate project throughout the year.

**Announcements:**

Think about Pay Pal in advance of an August vote. Our Wednesday Executive Board Meeting at State Conference will be at 3:00 p.m., October 16 in the Board Room at LSU (SoM building). Dinner is at 5:00 p.m. The Full Board Meeting will begin at 5:45 p.m..

Our online video meeting was adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

Sincerely & Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Norris  
LMTA Secretary