

April 20, 2020 — NWSMTA General Meeting Minutes

This was the very first online meeting of the NWSMTA. Members were treated to a virtual Teachers' Musicale, prior to the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 10:50 by President Carol Walgren-Georgas. Maureen Flood read the minutes from the February meeting. Denise Dolins wanted the minutes to be corrected to say that she did not volunteer for the Nominating Committee, she was assigned. Minutes will be corrected. The minutes were approved by Deb Lynch, and Suzanne Murray seconded.

TREASURER — Midori Kim reports that the BMO Harris account is at \$14,398.18 and the Fidelity account is at \$27,467.83, noting a drop of \$2739.61, due to the economy.

FIRST VP/PROGRAM CHAIR — Jennifer Cohen, hosting on Zoom today, reports that instead of Steven Alltop presenting, we will have a modified meeting, with members divided into small groups discussing how they have been adapting to online lessons.

LUNCHEON — There will be no luncheon in May, the plan is to have another online meeting on May 18 at 10:45, for the induction of officers. Jennifer Cohen will host.

2nd VP/MEMBERSHIP CHAIR — Annie Artinian states that the membership number has remained at 132.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Carol Walgren Georgas asked about the nominating committee's choices for officers, Helen Grosshans states that the nominating committee does not have definite choices yet. Helen wonders if the local association even be viable in the future. The position of corresponding secretary will be deleted from the board, and will have to be amended in the constitution as well. Carol Walgren Georgas has enjoyed her two year term as president, and thinks that we will simply have more meetings on Zoom because of the coronavirus.

As for our events, chairpersons do not know yet when Harper will open up, so we cannot plan for AIM, Awards Competition, Sonata-Sonatina Festival. Libraries remain closed as well, so it is difficult to plan for our events over the summer. Rachel Wojcicki reminds chairpersons, in the meantime, to reframe all their program guidelines and enrollment forms to include all instruments.

Helen Grosshans mentions that job shares are a viable option for board positions. For example, one could conduct meetings, while the other might feel comfortable helping with technology. Deb Lynch reminds group that the Champaign-Urbana association has Co-Presidents.

Jennifer Cohen is willing to stay on as Program Chair, as she has enjoyed it, and has not had any problem finding people to present.

Carol Walgren Georgas invited Helen Chang to be on the board, but she currently has a lot of responsibilities and cannot take another one on.

Rachel Wojcicki cannot commit, and will think about it. She would like a written job description and to know what the expectations are.

AIM — Suzanne Fleeer made an announcement that Levels 10-12 were cancelled because Harper was closed. She has received 5 or 6 requests asking if Level 12 students could still have their recitals. Suzanne states that there will be exams on May 2 & 3 via Zoom performance. Students will record and send in their videos. Currently there are 21 Level 12 students, 13 teachers. Suzanne heard from 9 students who have committed to participate.

LIBRARY — Suzanne said that 2 members have books checked out. There will be no fines, and they may keep the books another month, then bring them to her home. Teachers can email Suzanne anytime if they want to check books out, and can come to her home to pick them up.

RECITALS — The Classical & Pop & Jazz recitals were canceled, due to the library being closed. Yoko still would like an email sent out.

FESTIVAL OF PIANOS - This event, too, is difficult to plan for, as we don't know if the mall will be open. The committee may not know by June 30 what will happen in September, so it may be wise to cancel it altogether.

ALL THAT JAZZ — Also, this event is up in the air, depending on whether restaurants and bars will be open.

AIM Levels 3 - 9 were canceled, which members felt was unfair, since students had paid for the exam. Helen Grosshans suggested that teachers could partner, and exchange exams and judging with another teachers' students. This way it won't affect next year's programs, as everyone can move forward. North Shore's date is at the end of April/May, which gave them time to set up a new process. Mary Anne Block asked if we could get an official statement from the State AIM Chairperson, and Helen Grosshans will look into it. Fran Onley asks about higher level students 8-11, who usually get a special award. Will they get a dictionary, plaque or a monetary award? Helen will ask about that when talking with ISMTA.

SCHOLARSHIPS — There were no entries for camp scholarships, one entry for college scholarship.

TICKETS - Genya cannot make plans, as Symphony Center is closed until further notice.

NEW BUSINESS — Carol Walgren Georgas asks for nominations for Member of the Year. Nominees are Jennifer Cohen, Carol Walgren-Georgas, Rachel Wojcicki, and Midori Kim. Members voted by private message to Maureen Flood, and the winner was Jennifer Cohen

Carol Walgren Georgas asked for nominations for Illinois State Teacher of the Year. Teachers that were nominated were Helen Chang, Helen Grosshans, Carol Walgren-Georgas and Vonnie Mrozinski. Members voted by private message to Maureen Flood and the winner was Helen Grosshans.

OLD BUSINESS — Carol Walgren Georgas reminds members to watch MTNA's Virtual Conference online. Any member may watch, and at any time.

Carol reminds members to sign up for committees and send in their budgets, job descriptions and end-of-year reports.

Jennifer Cohen stated that since the meeting has lasted a long time, that we should perhaps adjourn and set up a meeting to discuss teacher concerns in the near future. Deb Lynch suggests that a topic be decided upon first.

Deb Lynch moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mary Anne Block seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon.