

## **NWSMTA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 17, 2020**

The meeting was called to order by President Carol Walgren-Georgas at 9:50 A.M. at the Ela Area Library. The minutes were read by Maureen Flood, and Helen Grosshans added 2 corrections:

1. AIM students will take their aural and written exams after their Keyboard skills exam.
2. The fee for students who wish to do senior recitals is TOTAL \$50, \$20 will be added after the initial \$30 fee.

**TREASURER:** Midori Kim reports that there is \$10,590.90 in the Harris account and \$30, 934.88 in the Fidelity account. The treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

**1st Vice-President and Program Chair** - Jennifer Cohen announces that we are fortunate to have our own member, Vonnie Mrozinski, present a program on the Healthy Brain today.

There will be no meeting due to the MTNA Conference, and one more meeting in April, Steven Alltop, discussing "Ornamentation and Variation."

**2nd Vice-President and Membership Chair** - Annie Artinian reports that there is one new member who joined in January — Michael Urban, bringing our total to 132 members.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS - (Only 6 committees had reports, listed below)**

**AIM:** Helen Grosshans reports that the theory exams are finished, and almost all makeups are completed. The

committee is in the process of scheduling the March 15 Performance exams right now. The registration deadline is March 5 for AIM 11-12. Remember to pay an extra \$20

for recitals. Students who give recitals may do so up until July 31.

**CLASSICAL/POP & JAZZ RECITALS** - These will take place on April 26. The chairpersons have already received some entries.

**INDEPENDENT MUSIC TEACHERS** - There will be no IMT meeting this year....Teachers are encouraged to attend the MTNA Conference.

**JAZZ COMBO EXPERIENCE** — Rachel Wojcicki reports that this will occur on June 21st, Father's Day, and the deadline for entry is May 21st. Students do not need to play from a lead sheet, but may use books such as Faber & Faber Jazz & Blues series, which has chord symbols written in.

**LIBRARY** — Suzanne Fler has purchased some new books for NWSMTA:

1. Two Year Waitlist by Noreen Wenjen, the president of the California State

MTA. She spoke at ISMTA and will be featured at the MTNA Conference 2. The Mindful Musician by Vanessa Cornett, discussing the neuroscience

behind performance.

**SCHOLARSHIPS** - Pat Borchardt reminds everyone to plan for camp and college scholarships. This is open to all

instruments, as long as you are the teacher of said instrument.

## **OLD BUSINESS —**

- The year-end reports are due before the May meeting.
  
- Whoever wants to sit at the ISMTA Banquet table at the conference, please respond by March 14th. Chris Goldston has reserved a table.
  
- The Constitution Committee, made up of members Denise Dolins, Vonnice Mrozinski and Brenda Buchanan, met last month and will meet again soon.
  
- Rachel Wojcicki created a survey and sent it out to current members. She sent it out only to the youngest 40-50 members, and only received 5 responses. She sent it out 4 times. Of the 5 responses, Rachel was surprised by the feedback.
  1. Awareness of meetings — Do members know where and when the meetings are held?  
Answers included a conflict with an exercise class, other meetings or class preparation, or

mentioned the distance, and that the meetings occur during school.

2. When Rachel asked if the meeting time/day should be changed, she received no answers.

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3. Rachel asked teachers to rank events in order of importance to them, and one member said she did not see the value in the Festival of Pianos, and wasn't interested in entering students.

4. Finally, teachers mentioned that many do not have piano students, but students playing other instruments, and most of our events are for pianists. Brenda Buchanan stated that AIM exists for voice students, but the events are only in Naperville.

**The final conclusion is that we need to be more inclusive of other instruments in our events and programs.**

Discussion ensued:

- Deb Lynch stated that when she was program chair, she tried to include programs that would be interesting to all, such as philosophy of music, composers, etc.

- Helen Grosshans recommends that the recital chairs can send out email, reminding that all instrumentalists and vocalists are welcome to perform at the Classical and Pop & Jazz recitals.
- Helen also mentions that she would be willing to get appropriate judges for AIM for voice & string students, or, as Brenda mentioned, they could go to Naperville to be tested.
- Rachel talked to a younger voice teacher, who would like to give a workshop at some point in the future on vocal/piano lessons if piano teachers wanted to teach voice.
- Helen Grosshans moved that all chairpersons review their website information, such as enrollment forms, guidelines, etc., and have it reframed to include more instrumentalists, to be submitted at the board meeting in June. Brenda Buchanan seconded, and the vote was unanimous.
- Recital chairpersons will send out an email blast to include other instruments in the upcoming recitals.

- Annie Artinian wonders if there are other organization, specifically for strings or voice.
- Rachel suggests much more inclusivity in our wording for all events.
- Jennifer Cohen suggests that we send out the brochure to all members, and perhaps add some more questions, such as ratings of events, primary instruments taught, etc. If some would like to enter students in our events, we could get band/orchestra teachers to judge. Jennifer also suggests a newsletter article, and offering prizes, such as members who fill out the survey will be entered in a raffle, and may receive a gift card.

**NEW BUSINESS** - Carol Walgren-Georgas needs for five members to be on the nominating committee, to choose new officers for the position of President, Vice-President and Corresponding Secretary. The following members volunteered: Helen Grosshans, Brenda Buchanan, Suzanne Fleer, Annie Artinian. Denise Dolins was assigned to be on the committee. Since we won't have a meeting next month, they will present the slate of officers in the newsletter or an email.

All budget reports and job descriptions are due at the April meeting. The annual report and budget reports are available on the NWSMTA website. Please submit reports as soon as possible, to help the nominating committee with the selection of officers.

Suzanne Fleer moved to adjourn the meeting, and Deb Lynch seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:40.