

NWSMTA BOARD MEETING
September 13, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Brenda Haynes at 9:50 AM. Board members present were:

Brenda Haynes – President
Nancy Dempsey – 1st VP/ Program Chair
Chyi-Ling Evans – 2ndVP/Membership Chair
Elean Goptseva – Treasurer
Mary Anne Block
Deb Lynch
Vonnie Mrozinski
Maureen Flood
Marie Rutter
Mary Hough
Carol Georgas
Jennifer Cohen
Justyna Weirich
Pat Borchardt
Yoko Amano
Helen Grosshans
Suzanne Fleer

Secretary's Report: Brenda Haynes reported the Recording Secretary position is currently open. She will advertise this and other openings in the newsletter and at the September business meeting. Maureen Flood read the minutes from the 6/7/21 Board Meeting. The minutes were accepted into the record. Nancy Dempsey recorded the minutes for the current meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Elena Goptseva reported a balance of \$15,708.75 in the BMO checking account, and \$37,037.59 in the Fidelity mutual fund for a gain in investment value of \$310.87 over the previous month.

Elena announced the accountant who does an annual review of our books is retiring, and asked for suggestions of other accountants who might be available to do our review. Several members said they would pass on information of possible candidates.

Programs Report: Nancy Dempsey reported that all of the clinicians that she asked to present were willing to do so. A link to the programs for the year was sent out to Board members in advance of this meeting.

Membership Report: Chyi-Ling Evans reported that 90 returning members have paid their dues for this year in addition to four new members. Brenda Haynes said she would be featuring new members in the newsletter.

AiM Report: Mary Anne Block reported the AiM Committee is eliminating the November date for holding exams. Instead, Levels 1-2 Complete will move to April, and Theory Levels 3-4 will be held in January.

Vonnie Mrozinski clarified that AiM exams will be held in person at Harper College.

Helen Grosshans is setting an October date for AiM orientation. This is later than usual to try to accommodate new members.

Awards Competition: no report

Certification: Jennifer Cohen reported there will be no in-person coffees due to Covid precautions, but that she is available as a one-on-one mentor for anyone seeking certification. Justyna Weirich is beginning the certification process.

Recitals: Yoko Amano and Chyi-Ling Evans will be co-chairs of the Classical Recital committee this year. Yoko will send out a poster to advertise the event. The Pop and Jazz Recital will occur on the same day as the Classical Recital.

Festival of Pianos: There will be no festival this year due to the pandemic.

Finance and Vision: Marie Rutter suggested transferring funds from the BMO checking account to the Fidelity mutual fund account. She recommended keeping a balance of \$10,000 in checking, although there was agreement that due to irregular cash flow, it is difficult to determine the account balance at any given time. The Finance Committee will review the recommendation and determine the amount to transfer.

Historian: Board members thanked Mary Hough for providing flowers from our group for Joan Drolet's funeral.

All that Jazz: Maureen Flood and Justyna Weirich will co-chair this year. Maureen said that this was a well received and very successful event. She stated that the Father's Day date was not ideal and may have contributed to lower participation. The musicians in the band are great performers and teachers themselves who thoroughly enjoy accompanying the students. Nancy Dempsey mentioned that Eric Sutz will be presenting a program to our group in January on reading and playing from a lead sheet. Eric is excited to present any information of interest to our teachers, and may help to inspire others to enter students in this event next spring.

Library: Suzanne Fler stated our lending library was not used as much over the past year since our meetings have not been in person. She added that use of the library has been diminishing over the last five years and is questioning the value of having a library. It was suggested to use the newsletter to let teachers know they can pick up books at Suzanne's house, and possibly to have a column highlighting the books that are available. Jennifer will create a list of books on hand that would be useful for teachers in the certification process.

Luncheon: Justyna Weirich is planning to have the luncheon next May 16, and is seeking out restaurants that can provide outdoor seating.

Music Blocks: Mary Anne Block said the program is going forward in spite of obstacles due to the pandemic. They have been offering online lessons, and have been evaluating alternate sites for in-person programming since the District does not allow outside groups in the schools at this time.

Parliamentarian: no report

Publicity: This committee is in need of a Chair.

Scholarships: no report

Sonata-Sonatina Festival: Michelle Ryder sent in a written report. The Festival will take place in person at Harper College. Students will be required to wear masks and are allowed to have only one other person in attendance. Michelle questioned the advisability of having the Gold Medal Recital due to the pandemic. Discussion included the fact that many venues are not allowing large gatherings right now although the White House in Barrington was a noted exception. The Board recommended having gold medal winners record their pieces at their homes or in the teacher's studio to be presented in a recital in an on-line format. Michelle will be notified of the Board recommendation. Gold Medal Recital coordinator is an open position at this time.

Website: Deb Lynch requested articles for the newsletter be sent ASAP.

Yearbook: Deb Lynch asked for corrections to the Yearbook, and will then email the final draft for review before submitting it to the publisher this week.

Old Business: Brenda Haynes reported that no members asked for dues assistance for this year. She said she will send one-on-one emails to members who have not renewed stating that this assistance is available. Maureen suggested that this be advertised in the newsletter as well. Brenda said that ISMTA also provides a \$50 reimbursement after dues have been paid.

Brenda said Helen Grosshans declined the nomination of “Teacher of the Year”, and that there was no time to nominate someone else due to a tight deadline. Some Board members expressed disappointment that ISMTA awarded state “Teacher of the Year” to a teacher who no longer resides in Illinois.

A committee was appointed at the last Board Meeting to research the possibility of accepting online payments. Our website, Weebly, only allows PayPal or credit card payments. Elena Goptseva said Harris Bank will be allowing Zelle payments for businesses starting this month, but that they will charge a fee. Jennifer Cohen stated that NSMTA and ISMTA utilize Zelle payments, and that she will check with them to see if they are charged a fee.

Budget Approval: The 2021 – 2022 Budget was unanimously approved.

Brenda Haynes adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Dempsey
First VP/Program Chair