

November 23, 2015 – General Meeting Minutes

Robin Meredith-Kramer called the meeting to order at 9:47 am. Suzanne Murray motioned to approve the October minutes and Rick Lowe seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

TREASURER – Chyi-Ling Evans reported that our account at Harris Bank has a balance of \$12,096.53 (Deposits of \$4,550.00 and Expenses of \$4,619.24) and the Edward Jones account has a balance of \$19,153.19.

1st VP and PROGRAM CHAIR – Maureen Flood reported that Dr. Kenneth Drake has a collection of antique pianos, and has asked for a library recommendation (possibly Barrington) to have one of his pianos brought in and have his student perform on it. How can this recital benefit our chapter? Brainstorm ideas? Should we ask for an optional donation since we cannot charge admission at Barrington Library? Arlington Heights Library will let us charge for tickets, but has limited dates available. Lake Zurich library is a possibility. In other news, the holiday party is on December 7th at home of Deb Lynch. Please bring a dish to pass and some music to play. No white elephant this year.

2nd VP AND MEMBERSHIP CHAIR - Sue Ioriatti reported that we have 132 members. She asked for help in verification of the local dues charged. Jerry Dolins said the senior dues (age 70 and above) are \$10, not \$15 as listed on the verification form. Jerry advised all members to include their birthday on MTNA registration form in order to get the senior rate. The policy is verified once a year – age of seniors was changed from 65 to 70 to match ISMTA.

New member, Victoria, was introduced. She lives in Niles and is looking for a teaching position.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AIM – Mary Anne Block reported that 150 students registered. No high, low, and average scores to report yet – still working out the details. January exam is January 31^s. January 4th is the online registration deadline. \$25 fee covers theory and performance.

AWARDS – Susan Osborn presents the “Awards Competition Repertoire” today.

CERTIFICATION – no report.

RECITALS – Yoko Amano reported that 9 teachers (19 students) participated in the classical recital. She thanked Sue Ioriatti for doing the announcements. She said there was a problem with the little ones making noises with their programs during the performances. Fran Onley reported that 10 teachers (20 students) performed in the Pop & Jazz recital.

FESTIVAL OF PIANOS – no report.

FINANCE – Rick Lowe reported that he will call for a meeting in the near future to discuss the budget of some committees that are losing money. He encouraged all to set reasonable budgets and to stay within those budgets.

GROUP TICKET SALES – No report but the information is on the website.

HISTORIAN/HOSPITALITY – Robin Meredith-Kramer reported that Reid Alexander passed away and asked if we should we send a memorial. Rick Lowe suggested \$50 or \$75, but the membership must vote. Vonnie Mrozinski reported that Reid’s sons (Eric and Mark) have a Facebook post. It was decided to discuss our options in January when we may hear about a memorial opportunity. Janice Wilkans also suggested composing a piece in his honor. Vonnie Mrozinski and Suzanne Fler know of possible composers, but that option may be too expensive. Other ideas are a possible scholarship in his honor or a donation to the University of Illinois music department.

INDEPENDENT MUSIC TEACHERS - no report. We need a chairperson.

LIBRARY – Suzanne Fler encourages all members to return materials on time. Anything checked out today can be kept until January. Please let her know if you have a book idea that you may have heard about at the convention. She will have shoulder surgery in a week.

LUNCHEON – no report.

PARLIAMENTARIAN – no report.

PLACEMENT - no report.

PUBLICITY – Our new chairperson is Rachel Wojcicki. She had many ideas to boost attendance and draw awareness to our organization using social media and posters. Specifically she is planning to target younger members (our average membership age is 60) and will try to get them to be more active within the group. She suggested that we could “like” our NWSMTA Facebook page for those of us who have a Facebook account. Maureen Flood will make Rachel an administrator for the Facebook page. Rachel also plans to target local libraries, music stores and colleges. She asked permission to send out a survey to all members regarding our meeting time. She also suggested using the same logo for every piece of material that we publish, as it helps with brand awareness. We had a brief discussion about how to attract more string teachers.

SCHOLARSHIP – no report but there is an article in the newsletter.

SONATA-SONATINA FESTIVAL– Jerry Dolins reported that 298 students (50 teachers) participated. Overall there was a tightening of the grading this year, which resulted in fewer winners.

Whitman Wonders – no report.

WORKSHOP – no report.

YEARBOOK – Jerry Dolins asked that we check the link on the website to make sure personal information is correct.

Old Business – Robin Meredith-Kramer read a thank you note from Dorothy Dirkes (Joan Drolet’s daughter). We had sent her \$50 for helping with festival.

New Business – Marie Rutter announced that the piano ensemble class recital will be held on December 12th at 7:30 in the Performing Arts Center at Harper College.

Robin Meredith-Kramer asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Maureen Flood made the motion and Rick Lowe seconded the motion. All were in favor.