

# MINNESOTA FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

Fall All Member State Meeting Minutes

Chisholm Baptist Church

Thursday, August 9, 2012

9:35 . . . Pat Steege introduced Mikaela Krampotovich, a student of both Nadine Berg and Mary Angela Strasser, who participated in the Junior Composers Songwriters Camp during the past two summers; she enthusiastically described the experience and then performed two of her compositions.

## Call to Order:

President Pat Steege called the meeting to order at 9:50, introduced the current officers in attendance and then formally welcomed NFMC President, Carolyn Nelson. The Federation Collect was read.

## Members Present:

**Apple Valley MTA** – Pat Steege; **Burnsville Area MTA** – Kathy Wilson;  
**Central Lakes MC** – Dawn Carlson; **Chain of Lakes Music Club** – Sharon Kaplan;  
**East Suburban MC** – Grace Kopitske, Kathy Martinez; **Encore Music Club** – Heather Hahn; **Hibbing Musicale** – Mabel Arola, Barbara Baldrice, Nadine Berg, Roy Berg, Susan Hoolihan, Charlotte Johnson, Lanae Ronchetti, Mary Angela Strasser, Kristen Weikum; **Itasca Music Club** – Gwen Degner; **Keyboard Southwest** – Carol Mattison; **Music Southwest** – Rennae Petersen, Mary Kaye Rabaey, Stacey Voit; **North Suburban MC** – Deanna Andersen; **Renville County Club 88** – Rebecca Heerdt; **South Suburban MTA** – Mary Wescott; **Theif River Falls MC** – Kristi LaSalle; **Tuesday Music Club of Minneapolis** – Ruth Wollenberg; **West Central MTC** – Cheryl Schmidt; **Willmar Musicale** – Barb Swanson

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes from both the Fall 2011 (Willmar) and Spring 2012 (Duluth) state meetings were distributed to members. A motion to approve the minutes (with one date correction) was made by Sharon Kaplan and seconded by Mary Wescott. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Nadine Berg presented the treasurer's report and noted the healthy balance in the club checking account. Kathy Wilson made a motion to accept the report as read; Cheryl Schmidt seconded. Motion carried.

**Correspondence:** Stacey Voit shared a "Thank You" note from Chris Neiner (a Junior Composers camp participant) expressing his appreciation for MFMC's funding of the Artaria String Quartet who served as "artists in residence" during the recent summer session. A second "Thank You" from Randall Davidson, General Director of Junior Composers, was also read.

## Old Business:

*Discretionary Spending Committee Report* – Mary Wescott presented a detailed report (attached) outlining the specific goals the Committee wishes to address. Given the parameters of spending \$5,000.00 - \$7,500.00 annually, they met twice this summer and offer the following:

- 1) Up to five \$500.00 scholarships would be made available each year to students demonstrating financial need. Rennae Petersen recommended that we pursue this. Lanae Ronchetti seconded. Motion carried. Specific details regarding eligibility and an application form will be completed soon.
- 2) All Festival Grand Cup recipients will receive a \$500.00 scholarship to be used for future educational expenses. Rennae Petersen made a motion to add this incentive to festival participation. Sharon Kaplan seconded.
- 3) Because of the tremendous amount of time and energy required to maintain accurate Gold Cup records, the Committee would like to increase the Gold Cup chairperson's stipend per entrant from \$.20 to \$.35 until the National Data Base is in place. Again, Rennae Petersen made a motion to accept this proposal and Sharon Kaplan seconded. Motion carried.
- 4) Use some money to update our web page (it would probably cost about \$3000.00). At this time, Louise Lundin, MFMC website manager, was introduced. Using an overhead projector, she demonstrated how to navigate the current web page and then asked what the membership wanted to see on the site. All agreed that it should be a tool both for member communication and recruiting: 1) parent/student interest; 2) new members. Suggestions generated for improvement included:
  - a. Include a search engine
  - b. Alphabetize sections across the top
  - c. Offer the capability of completing and submitting registration forms and applications on-line
  - d. Place the timeline chart for scholarships and awards at the top of the "Scholarships" list
  - e. For those who wish to receive their *Half Notes* on-line, include a message saying, "*Half Notes* now available; here is the link."A quick check of the Wisconsin Federation of Music Clubs website was also made. Louise concluded her presentation by stating, "the website should be fun; you want to draw people to it and then keep them coming back." Heather Hahn made a motion to spend up to \$3000.00 to modernize the site. Cheryl Schmidt seconded. Motion carried.
- 5) Increase membership communication through the publication of two *Half Notes* each year. An additional \$1800.00 would probably need to be set aside for this purpose. Kathy Wilson commented on the importance of printed communication since not all members are computer savvy; she then made a motion to include a second 2012 publication. Stacey Voit seconded. Motion carried.

. . . musical interlude: Gian Carlos Menotti's "*The Telephone*" performed by Roy and Nadine Berg with son, Alan Berg, accompanying on the piano.

## **New Business:**

*Election of NFMC Board Member Sarah Twedt* – Pat Steege stated that this was simply a formality; Sarah has been serving in this capacity since the Fall of 2010.

*Treasurer Position Transfer* – on behalf of the membership, Pat thanked Nadine Berg for her twelve years of dedicated service and then introduced the new MFMC State Treasurer, Gwen Degner.

. . . break for lunch . . . meeting resumed; Kathy Wilson led us in singing “How Can I Keep From Singing?” – a song NFMC President, Carolyn Nelson, considers the theme of her tenure . . .

*Discussion regarding annual club attendance requirement at MFMC state meetings* – the fact that the two state meetings this year were hosted by clubs in the northeastern corner of the state raised concern regarding the practicality of requiring clubs to attend at least one meeting per year. (In 2012, three clubs did not fulfill this obligation.) Pat Steege pointed out that “we go where we are invited” and each club is expected to take a turn hosting. It was mentioned that, prior to this rule going into effect, state meeting attendance was, on average, about ten people. The purpose of the rule was to gather representation from across the state to be a part of the decision-making process. The dissemination of festival information is also much easier when presented to a larger group. Carolyn Nelson suggested that perhaps a directive should come from the top; a message, for example, from the National Office stating that “all site administrators must at least attend the “festival” component of a state meeting for rules updates” might have a little more clout. Another practice in past years was to host one meeting each year in Saint Cloud; is this something worth reviving? A central location could be determined and “perimeter” clubs could take turns providing hospitality. The pros and cons of meeting electronically were also discussed. Several of those in attendance admitted that, in spite of the distance travelled, they were glad to be present today – citing the importance of face-to-face communication. It was stated that MFMC’s by-laws spell out the rule of attendance and to change it would require a notice and voting procedure to be followed. Cheryl Schmidt added that, in the past, should a club experience extenuating circumstances that prevent it from attending a required state meeting, it could contact the MFMC state president to discuss the situation and options. Pat tabled the discussion for a later meeting and will meet with the Board to research/review the current by-laws before any action is taken.

## **Committee Reports:**

Due to time limitations, it was necessary to skip the committee reports listed below. Members were encouraged to read the attachments to today’s meeting agenda or check the website for more information.

***Adult Composers Critique:*** Betty Olson, Chair (report attached)

***Arts Advocacy:*** Sarah Twedt, Chair (report attached)

***Festival:*** Dawn Carlson, Chair (report attached)

**Festival Certificates:** Jeannene Simonson, Chair

**Festival Extension:** Mary Angela Strasser, Chair

**Festival Gold Cups:** Sarah Twedt, Chair (report attached)

**Festival Logowear:** Tamie Morken, Chair (2013 Logowear information posted on website)

**Half Notes Newsletter:** Latest edition mailed in early June.

**Website:** Any website updates should go through Pat. The website has a lock on the membership roster. Members can access it with: Username: **mfmc**  
Password: **memlist**

**Historian:** Cheryl Schmidt, Chair (report attached)

**Insurance Coordinator:** Tamie Morken, Chair (completing work next week)

**International Music Camp Summer Scholarships:** Karen Erickson, Chair

**Joyce Walsh Award:** Cheryl Schmidt, Chair (report attached)

**Junior Composers Contest:** Pat Steege, Chair (deadline: January 15, 2013)

**Junior Composers Summer Programs and Scholarship Winners:** (report attached)

**Membership:** Mary Wescott, Chair

**Minnesota Music Scholarships for Challenged Students:** Cheryl Schmidt, Chair  
(report attached)

**Opera:** Roy and Nadine Berg, Co-Chairs

**Parade of American Music:** Kathy Wilson, Chair

**Parliamentarian:** Peggy Karsten

**Student Auditions and Awards:** Ann Oleksowicz, Chair

**Teacher Trust Grant:** Mary Angela Strasser, Chair, briefly described a grant proposal submitted by Paul Woell (*Apple Valley Music Teachers Association*) and then made a motion to offer him \$500.00 to pursue the project. Kathy Wilson seconded. Motion carried.

**Other:**

A host club and location will be needed for the April 2014 meeting.

Election of officers will take place in one year. Current officers have served four years and will need replacements.

Deadlines: Student Tuition Grant --- October 1, 2012 (see *Old Business*: Discretionary Spending Committee Report)  
Junior Composers Contest --- January 15, 2013  
Teacher Trust Grant Requests --- April 8, 2013  
Adult Composers Contest --- April 15, 2013

On behalf of all attendees, Pat thanked *Hibbing Musicale* for hosting the 2012 Fall Meeting and Carolyn Nelson, NFMC President, for joining us.

Pat had the opportunity to visit the *East Suburban MTA* meeting in May, promoting MFMC and NFMC programs to help local clubs and students. She will visit *Tuesday Music Club of Minneapolis* in September.

#### **Announcements:**

Upcoming meetings will be held in the following locations:

April 20, 2013 – **MFMC Spring Meeting** hosted by *North Suburban Music Club*  
May 5-12, 2013 – **National Music Week: “Music . . . the Colors of Life”**  
June 24-29, 2013 – **NFMC Convention** in Greenville, SC (includes Young Artist Competition)  
July 8-20, 2013 – **Junior Composers Summer Camps** at the U of M – Minneapolis  
July 19, 2013 – **North Central Region Meeting** at the U of M – Minneapolis  
August 2013 – **MFMC Biennial Convention** hosted by *Apple Valley MTA*

A motion was made by Mary Wescott to adjourn the meeting; Nadine Berg seconded the motion. Motion carried. (1:40 P.M.)

Mary Kaye Rabaey, MFMC Secretary

Meeting attendees had an opportunity “get up and move” with a bit of Greek Folk Dancing before heading home . . .