

MINNESOTA FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

Spring All Member State Meeting Minutes

Women's Club of Duluth

Saturday, April 28, 2012

Call to Order:

President Pat Steege called the meeting to order at 9:30 with the recitation of a cutting taken from Longfellow's "*Song of Hiawatha*." (The venue for today's meeting was the Duluth Womens' Club, a beautifully renovated old home located on a bluff offering a panoramic view of Lake Superior). The Federation Collect was read.

Kathy Wilson led us in singing "*Aura Lee*," the April 2012 song from the official NFMC songbook, **Together We Sing**. She encouraged clubs to make singing a part of every official meeting and reminded everyone that the latest edition of the songbook (2011-2012) is available on the website – \$1.25 each.

Members Present:

Apple Valley MTA – Betty Olson, Pat Steege; **Burnsville Area MTA** – Jeannene Simonson, Kathy Wilson; **Central Lakes MC** – Karen Sue Erickson; **Chain of Lakes Music Club** – Doug Rohde; **Duluth MTA** – Janna Blomquist, Julie Ciurleo, Robin Johnson, Vicki Ott, Carol Prohaska, Liz Raihala, Sheila Shusterich; **Hibbing Musicale** – Nadine Berg; **Itasca Music Club** – Anne Dimich, Cathy Shields; **Music Southwest** – Mary Kaye Rabaey, Stacey Voit; **South Suburban MTA** – Mary Wescott; **Southeast Minnesota Federation MC** – Julie Gutzmer

Secretary's Report: Secretary Mary Kaye Rabaey inadvertently left the secretary's binder and copies of the August 2011 meeting minutes back in Minneota; they may be viewed on the MFMC website.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Nadine Berg presented the treasurer's report and noted that all expenses for the 2012 festival season have not yet been paid so our current net worth looks greater than it actually is. We still, however, have a healthy balance and need to consider options to spend down those excess funds.

Pat announced that Peggy Skrogstad – who had agreed to succeed Nadine as MFMC State Treasurer at the August 2011 meeting – withdrew her name from consideration and Gwen Degner, Itasca Music Club member, will be taking her place. Gwen served as State Treasurer prior to Nadine's tenure. She will be officially installed at the August meeting.

Correspondence: Mary Kaye read a "Thank You" note from Alex Blaser, 2nd place winner in the Piano division and 1st place winner in the Orchestral Woodwinds division

of the 2012 MFMC Biennial State Student Auditions. She received a total of \$900.00 in scholarships.

Old Business:

Pay down of MFMC's excess funds – Pat compiled a list of possibilities gleaned from other states and shared them with those in attendance. Kathy Wilson suggested using some of the funds to develop a “resource kit” that could be made available for clubs to promote American Music in their respective schools and communities. Betty Olson added that disbursements should include spreading MFMC’s name to the public and show that we value our membership. It was decided to continue this discussion during “New Business.”

Willmar Convention – Pat stated that the MFMC 55th Annual Convention Report could be found on the MFMC website and once again thanked the West Central Music Teachers Club and Willmar Musicale for hosting the event.

New Business:

Request for financial support for Junior Composers summer camps – Pat Steege explained the current financial bind that the Junior Composers program is experiencing due to no grant received from the Minnesota Arts Council this year. All administrative salaries have been cut and the number of support staff has been cut by two. She requested that MFMC consider funding the following options:

- a) \$400.00 to attend a Minnesota Orchestra concert (15-17 people)
- b) \$2500.00 to pay for the Artaria String Quartet, or a portion thereof
- c) \$1000.00 to cover two guest artist fees such as – Andy Thompson (\$400.00 – Songwriters) and Brooke Joyce (\$600.00 – Studio guest composer/conductor)

Because of her direct involvement with Junior Composers, Pat removed herself from the discussion and Vice-President Stacey Voit assumed the role of moderator. Comments were made regarding the program being an “official NFMC event” and “a big thing” in Minnesota; we’ve consistently supported it in the past. A motion was made by Mary Wescott to give \$2000.00 in unrestricted funds to Junior Composers; Julie Gutzman made a second motion increasing that amount to \$4000.00. Jana Blomquist seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Request from NFMC to help fund a scholarship in current president, Carolyn Nelson's name – Pat read a letter from Odee Meier asking for \$1000.00 (\$250.00 a year over a four year period). It was decided to send this to the Finance Committee and act on it in August.

Request that MFMC pay the Festival Cup Chair a reasonable stipend to compensate for amount of work involved – Pat read a letter from Barb Thompson describing the enormous amount of time and energy required to serve in this position and felt it was unreasonable to expect Sarah Twedt to just “volunteer.” Several attendees supported her statement with additional anecdotes describing Sarah’s efforts to bring MFMC into the 21st century. Carol Prohaska suggested giving a gift of \$1000.00 (in addition to the current “per student” stipend). Nadine Berg added that the “gift” be for this year only; the committee should analyze the situation and address it next year. Mary Wescott then made the following motion: 1) the committee will contact three other states (Illinois,

Colorado and Florida) to find out what they are paying and 2) Sarah will be paid this year as suggested by Carol. Julie Gutzman seconded the motion; motion carried.

Discussion then ensued regarding the fact that we can't just give money to everyone who requests it; Doug Rohde commented on the importance of giving to projects that are more "developmental" in nature or that help programs become self-sufficient. Betty Olson suggested running this in a business-like manner; the committee needs to establish a set of criteria so that all "grant requests" are uniform in nature.

Stacey Voit pointed out that today the Junior Composers request is a priority because the program takes place in July; the other two can go through the committee and be acted on at the August meeting. Doug Rohde agreed to be a part of the Discretionary Spending Committee (current members include: Pat Steege, Mary Wescott, Kathy Wilson, Rebecca Heerdt and Nadine Berg).

Committee Reports:

Adult Composers Critique: Betty Olson, Chair, summarized the history of this event and expressed her frustration with its current format and lack of participants over the years (rarely more than four entries a year, sometimes – none). She would like to see the program revamped and asked for suggestions, comments or "new direction" proposals that could be gathered and discussed in August. (report attached)

Arts Advocacy: Sarah Twedt, Chair, was absent but provided a report. (attached to meeting agenda)

Festival: Dawn Carlson, Chair, was absent but – via e-mail to Pat – expressed appreciation to Shannon Benson, Anne Dimich, Barb Thompson, Kathy Williamson and Judy Zylstra for serving as 2011 festival season auditors. Twenty-nine sites held festivals this year. Final numbers of students and events are not yet available but they will be posted on the MFMC website when the auditing and compiling of statistics is finished.

Festival Certificates: Jeannene Simonson, Chair, commented that this year's distribution of participation and "Superior" certificates was successful but questioned whether unused certificates should be discarded or saved for future festivals. Those in attendance agreed that, since the names can change from year to year, it was best to discard them (especially since, on the 2012 "Superior" certificates, the signatures of the State President and the State Festival Chair were flip-flopped).

Festival Extension: Mary Angela Strasser, Chair, was absent.

Festival Gold Cups: Sarah Twedt, Chair, was absent but provided a report. (attached to meeting agenda)

Festival Logowear: Tamie Morken, Chair, was absent but provided a report. (attached to meeting agenda)

Half Notes Newsletter: Pat informed members that everything is on schedule for the June 2012 printing. 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, was absent. Both Pat and Kathy Wilson encouraged members to check out the vast amounts of MFMC historical information that Cheryl has organized and included on the website.

Insurance Coordinator: Tamie Morken, Chair, was absent but provided a report. (attached to meeting agenda)

International Music Camp Summer Scholarships: Karen Erickson, Chair, presented the names of three applicants and recommended that all three be considered for scholarships:

Claudia Finsaas – student of Cheryl Schmidt

Deborah Cavanaugh – student of Nancy Fischer

Joshua Cavanaugh – student of Nancy Fischer

She then made a motion to offer each a scholarship that will pay for camp tuition. Betty Olson seconded. Motion carried.

Joyce Walsh Award: Cheryl Schmidt, Chair, was absent.

Junior Composers Contest: Pat Steege, Chair, provided a detailed summary (attached to meeting agenda) of this year's competition. There were 24 entries with the top two winners in each age category advancing to the regional level of judging. At the regional level, Minnesota was honored by four winners who advanced to the national level:

Joshua Swanson (Class I) – student of Margaret Christensen

Elizabeth Ophoven (Class III) – student of Anne Dimich

Evren Ozel (Class III) – student of Sarah Miller

Grant Luhmann (Class IV) – student of Sarah Miller

The results of the national judging will be announced shortly.

Junior Composers Summer Programs and Scholarship Winners: A visual display, prepared by Pat Steege, Chair, highlighted the summer programs available this year. Attendees were encouraged to check it out and spread the word . . . (at least ten more Registrations are needed by July 1 to make budget).

Scholarships were offered to the top two winners in both Class III and Class IV of the Junior Composers Contest but three students declined due to other summer commitments. Three alternates submitted applications and letters of recommendation. Mary Wescott made a motion to offer scholarships to each of the following students:

Grant Luhmann – student of Sarah Miller

Abram Atchison – student of Sarah Miller

Ariana Bachman – student of Martha Davis

Luke Gion – student of Kathy Martinez
Karen Erickson seconded. Motion carried.

Membership: Mary Wescott, Chair, mentioned that she's received several inquiries but does not know if anyone has followed through and joined a local club.

Minnesota Music Scholarships for Challenged Students: Cheryl Schmidt, Chair, was absent.

Opera: Nadine Berg, Co-Chair, highlighted various summer opportunities for opera enthusiasts. She also mentioned that the production, "*Silent Night*," commissioned by the Minnesota Opera, won a Pulitzer Prize last November 2011.

Parade of American Music: Kathy Wilson, Chair, noted that November is American Music Month, a terrific time for "American Music" student recitals. She is available to come to club meetings and share her expertise in American Musicology.

Parliamentarian: Peggy Karsten was absent.

Student Auditions and Awards: Ann Oleksowicz, Chair, was absent but provided a report. (attached to meeting agenda) Pat expressed her appreciation that this program is once again up and running . . . the 1st place winner of the Piano division, David Packa, student of Nadine Berg, will be performing for us at the end of the meeting.

Teacher Trust Grant: Mary Angela Strasser, Chair, was absent so Pat summarized the purpose of the grant and encouraged members to take advantage of this opportunity if applicable.

Other:

On behalf of all attendees, Pat thanked the Duluth Music Teachers Association for hosting this morning's MFMC Spring Meeting.

Sarah Twedt, NFMC Board representative, will be attending the National Federation of Music Clubs convention in Indianapolis this June.

Pat had the opportunity to visit the Burnsville MTA, the South Suburban MTA and will be attending the East Suburban MTA meeting in May, promoting MFMC and NFMC programs.

Announcements:

Upcoming meetings will be held in the following locations:

May 6-13, 2012 – **National Music Week: "*Music . . . Sounds that Inspire*"**

June 19-24, 2012 – **NFMC Convention** in Indianapolis, IN

July 9-21, 2012 – **Junior Composers Summer Camps** at the U of M –
Minneapolis

July 20, 2012 – **North Central Region Meeting** at the U of M – Minneapolis

August 2012 – **MFMC Fall Meeting** in Hibbing

April 2013 – **MFMC Spring Meeting** hosted by ??? (Julie Gutzmer will check the possibility of the Southeast Minnesota Chapter assuming this role)

August 2013 – **MFMC Biennial Convention** hosted by Apple Valley MTA

A motion was made by Kathy Wilson to adjourn the meeting; Betty Olson seconded the motion. Motion carried. (11:55 A.M.)

Mary Kaye Rabaey, MFMC Secretary