

MINNESOTA FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

All Member Summer State Meeting
First Lutheran Church, Marshall, MN
Thursday, July 30, 2015

Call to Order:

President Stacey Voit called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

Musical Interlude:

"Concerto in C Major, 1st Mvt., Moderato" Joseph Haydn
Annabella Lecy - cello
Stacey Voit - piano

Kathy Wilson led the membership in singing "Amazing Grace." Stacey then introduced a special guest, newly elected NFMC North Central Region Vice-President, Karen Bourne.

The Federation Collect was read.

Members Present:

Apple Valley MTA - Pat Steege, Sarah Twedt, Chris Wolf; **Burnsville Area MTA** - Kathy Wilson; **Central Lakes MC** - Mercedes Hagen; **Chain of Lakes MC** - Sharon Kaplan; **Duluth MTA** - Vicki Ott, Liz Raihala; **East Suburban MC** - Grace Kopitske; **Encore MC** - Nancy Fisher; **Hibbing Musicale** - Nadine Berg, Roy Berg; **Itasca MC** - Gwen Degner; **Keyboard Southwest** - Carol Mattison; **Music Southwest** - Dana Funk, Christie Gergen, Linda Hintz, Jan Krull, Anna Lenz, Rhoda Nelson, Karen Olsen, Kathy Palmer, Helen Pedersen, Rennae Petersen, Mary Kaye Rabaey, Stacey Voit; **North Suburban MC** - Deanna Anderson; **Renville County Club 88** - Rebecca Heerdt; **Southeast Minnesota Federation MC** - Zoe Ann Abrahamson, Margaret Clark; **South Suburban MTA** - Mary Wescott; **Thief River Falls MC** - Kristie LaSalle; **West Central MTC** - Cheryl Schmidt, Christine Schneider

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from the April 2015 meeting in Warroad were distributed to members. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Cheryl Schmidt and seconded by Kathy Wilson.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Gwen Degner presented a summary of all transactions 7/1/14 - 6/30/15. Our current net worth is \$108,225.08, down \$4072.13 from last year; this is due - in part - to a decrease in membership and an increase in the number of scholarship awards presented. (report attached)

Finance Committee Report:

Cheryl Schmidt distributed the MFMC Finance Committee Recommendations - Budget Proposal hand-out (attached) and elaborated on the information provided. Finance Committee members include: Gwen Degner, Nancy Fisher, Sarah Twedt, Stacey Voit, Mary Wescott and Cheryl Schmidt, Chair. Several items were addressed:

- 1) The MFMC fiscal year officially begins July 1st and ends June 30th.
- 2) Two major sources of income include Senior/Junior Dues and Festival Fees.
- 3) Our income source is steadily decreasing due to a decrease in membership and festival participation *but* MFMC wants to maintain/increase spending on philanthropic projects and stay abreast of inflation/administrative costs.

Rebecca Heerdt provided background information regarding the establishment of the Discretionary Spending Committee (DSC) to aid in spending down an excess fund balance (MFMC has been very generous during the past three years!) but needs to reevaluate its mission. A lengthy discussion regarding other income options (cash in CDs, write grants, etc.) ensued. Sarah pointed out that one cannot plan a budget based on grants which often require a specific purpose and time frame for usage; the bottom line: we need to look at income vs. expenses, specifically the items that we can control. Suggestions from the membership included increasing dues and Festival fees, putting a \$10,000.00 cap discretionary spending, and cutting or trimming the value of all scholarship awards (Karen Bourne noted that Iowa scholarship applications have the disclaimer, "Funds awarded based on availability.").

Because of the need to move on to other agenda items, Nadine Berg made a motion to table any action on the proposed budget for another meeting; Mary Wescott seconded. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

Gwen read several thank you notes from Junior Composers scholarship recipients and Grand Cup winners.

Old Business:

Pat Steege reported that the Junior Composers Fundraiser (30 bags filled with bottles of wine and other Minnesota-made products) sold at the National Convention in Fargo raised almost \$1400.00 (their goal had been to raise \$900.00)!

New Business:

North Central Region Vice-President, Karen Bourne, introduced herself and then outlined some of the goals of newly elected National President, Michael Edwards.

Officers for the 2015-2017 biennium were presented and approved:

President - Mary Wescott
1st Vice-President - Nancy Fisher
2nd Vice-President - Sarah Twedt
Secretary - Mary Kaye Rabaey
Treasurer - Gwen Degner

National Board Representative - Cheryl Schmidt

Gwen requested that Mary Wescott (as state president) be added as a signer on all MFMC bank accounts and that Nadine Berg (as Festival Chair AND former treasurer) continue as a signer. Sarah Twedt made the motion; Cheryl Schmitt seconded. Motion carried. Gwen, Mary and Nadine will arrange a time in the near future to meet with American Bank of the North (Hibbing) officials and complete all necessary paperwork.

Mary Wescott, newly elected President, shared a vision of what she would like to accomplish during her tenure. Included in her hand-outs (see attached) were

- 1) a list of all current club presidents and a state map showing all club locations. She asked that local presidents make sure that all membership rosters and e-mail addresses are current and ACCURATE!
- 2) a questionnaire that she created for clubs to discuss/complete at their September meetings and return to her.

Top on her priority list is making the website a "user friendly" source of communication for all members. Currently, there is a lot of outdated information, organization is poor, and it is difficult to find what one is looking for . . . this is not necessarily the responsibility of the webmaster. Those submitting information need to make sure that everything is 100% accurate. Pat Steege suggested establishing a "Media Chair," someone who possesses social media skills and can update information in a timely manner so that it doesn't fall on the shoulders of the president. Cross-referencing the membership roster - alphabetical, by club, by instrument - would be a helpful addition. Anyone wishing to access the membership roster should contact his/her club president for more information regarding username and password.

Committee Reports:

Junior Division ---

Festival: Nadine Berg is the new MFMC Festival Chair and shared some of the projects that she's been working on, including updating the "Festival Directives" on the website. The main changes are dates, the insurance coordinator (Nancy Fisher) and the Festival Chair (Nadine). Both Nadine and Sarah Twedt attended a training session regarding the new Online Festival Management System held during the National Convention (Fargo) in June. She intends to use the system as fully as possible with the festival in Hibbing this next year to get comfortable before rolling it out to the rest of the state. From current Festival Managers and Record Keepers she asks the following:

- 1) Inform your membership that changes are coming!
 - 2) If you aren't comfortable enough with computers to learn how the system works and to input information, recruit someone who is!
 - 3) If you aren't already doing so, record students' middle names and birthdates (AND teachers' birthdates)
- (2015 Festival Report attached)

Festival Gold Cups: Sarah Twedt, Chair, addressed concerns regarding the timeliness of the plate production (plates often arriving too late for cup distribution at recitals). After discussing various options (among them: using the engraver from the national office; having each teacher assume the responsibility for plating his/her own cups), Kathy Wilson determined that it was probably best to stick with the status quo.

Festival Certificates: Jeannene Simonson, Chair ---

Festival Extension: No one has stepped forward to chair this committee. Following a brief discussion by the membership, Nadine Berg made a motion to drop the position. Kathy Wilson, seconded. Motion carried. Anyone with questions regarding Festival start-up may contact Nadine.

Festival Logowear: A motion to discontinue the production/sales of Festival Logowear was made and approved at the April meeting.

Joyce A. Walsh Award: Cheryl Schmidt, Chair, encouraged teachers of students with disabilities to check website for scholarship application information.

Insurance Coordinator: Nancy Fisher, Chair, is new to this position and is working with Tammi Morken for a smooth transition. She reminded everyone of the importance of insuring all MFMC sponsored events and making sure that dates are submitted to her by the proper deadlines.

Discussion among the membership regarding a recent MTNA "code of ethics" violation resulted in the suggestion that MFMC officers need to revisit our own by-laws to assure that we are in compliance and that they (the MFMC by-laws) should be posted on the website.

Junior Composers Summer Camps: Pat Steege, Chair, summarized this year's event which was held July 13-25 at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis Campus. The theme was "Wind Ensemble" and Dr. Frank Felice, from Butler University, Indianapolis, was the composer in residence. 24 students participated, eight from Minnesota. Both Pat and Sharon Kaplan, who serves as office manager, shared photos and stories highlighting the positive impact of this experience for budding composers. Several Junior Composers students have won NFMC composition contests recently.

Next year's camp focus will be "String Quartets."

On a personal note: Pat and her husband are in the process of moving to South Dakota. She will be phasing out of her "Junior Composers - Administrative Director" duties in 2016 and is currently training a replacement. Sharon Kaplan has agreed to assume the Junior Composers Contest duties.

Student/Collegiate Division ---

Scholarship Auditions: Gwen stated that \$1,400.00 was awarded this year to three recipients: Vocal - Men's --- 1st place, Strings --- 1st place, and Strings --- 2nd place.

Gretchen E. Roy Music Ed. Scholarship: Cheryl reviewed the criteria for this scholarship (information available on website).

Wendall Irish Viola Award: Stacey shared that this year's Minnesota's applicants did not advance beyond the state level.

Senior Division ---

Arts Advocacy: Sarah Twedt, Chair, encouraged everyone to get out and "especially support your local arts programs!"

Historian: Karen Erickson, Chair ---

Membership: Sarah Twedt, 2nd Vice-President, has agreed to assume the duties of this position along with Mary Wescott, State President.

NFMC Board Report: Cheryl Schmidt provided a summary of the June 2015 meeting in Fargo. (report attached)

Opera: Nadine Berg, Chair, made note of the fact that those present had the opportunity to see the historic Lake Benton Opera House production of "*Fiddler on the Roof*" later that evening.

Parade of American Music: Kathy Wilson, Chair, announced that Heather Hahn would be taking over as Chair following today's meeting. She also encouraged the membership to check out the Minnesota Museum of Music in New Ulm.

Other:

Future Events:

Parade of American Music Month --- November 2015 (Plan a program, send a report, win an award!)

2016 MFMC All-Member Spring Meeting --- TBA, St. Cloud

NFMC National Convention --- June 21-25, 2016, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Junior Composers Summer Camps --- July 11-23, 2016

North Central Region Annual Meeting --- July 22, 2016, Minneapolis

A motion was made by Kathy Wilson to adjourn the meeting; Nadine Berg seconded the motion. Motion carried. (12:15 P.M.)

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Kaye Rabaey, MFMC State Secretary