

# MINNESOTA FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

Executive Board Spring State Meeting

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Saint Cloud, MN

Saturday, April 9, 2016

*(Unofficial Minutes)*

## **Call to Order:**

President Mary Wescott called the meeting to order at 9:05 A.M. with a prayer for guidance and then led those in attendance singing “*The Star Spangled Banner*.”

Board members and members of the host club (**Great River MC**) introduced themselves.

## **Members Present:**

**Apple Valley MTA** - Sarah Twedt; **Encore MC** - Nancy Fisher; **Great River MC** – Jeanine Barrett, Brenda Handel Johnson; **Hibbing Musicale** - Nadine Berg; **Itasca MC** - Gwen Degner; **Music Southwest** - Mary Kaye Rabaey; **Renville County Club 88** - Rebecca Heerdt; **South Suburban MTA** – Mary Wescott; **West Central MTC** – Cheryl Schmidt

## **Secretary's Report:**

Minutes from the July 30, 2015 meeting in Marshall were distributed to members. Cheryl expressed a concern regarding the inclusion of the “username and password” in meeting minutes used to access the membership roster and recommended that, for security purposes, it be removed. A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by Nadine Berg and seconded by Cheryl Schmidt. Motion carried.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer Gwen Degner presented a summary of all transactions 7/1/15 – 4/1/16. Our current net worth is \$126,134.15, up \$17,909.07 from July 1, 2015 BUT there are several Festival-related outstanding bills that need to be paid. (report attached)

## **Festival Report:**

Nadine Berg, Chair, commented that auditors were doing a terrific job submitting local festival reports in a timely manner and that she was waiting for the last two to arrive before completing the final state report. She also shared comments regarding **Hibbing Musicale's** experience testing the NFMC on-line festival registration; for the majority of users, it was an exercise in frustration. Nadine will forward this information to the national chairman.

## **Gold Cup Report:**

Sarah Twedt, Chair, stated that there were 4478 “Gold Cup” entrants this year, with 957 cups awarded; this included 2 “Grand Cups” and 4 “President’s Cups.” Unfortunately,

MFMC received notice (March 2016) that cup prices had increased 20%, which added an additional cost of \$2724.42 to the Gold Cup budget. Discussion regarding the expense of the “Grand” and “President’s” cups (a cost which MFMC absorbs), and the fact that earning them favors primarily pianists and string players, led Cheryl Schmidt to make a motion to discontinue offering the monetary award presented by MFMC to those achieving “Grand Cup” and “President’s Cup” status; instead, each will receive a congratulatory citation from the State President. Nadine Berg seconded. Motion carried.

It was also noted that this year’s “Superior” rating certificates are now generic (one fills in the number of consecutive “Superiors” received); no longer are they embossed or color-coded.

### **Old Business:**

*Web Page* --- Cheryl has been working with Louise Lundin to try to cut administrative costs and still keep the website a current and user-friendly source of information. All website changes should be forwarded to Cheryl.

### **New Business:**

*2016-2017 Budget* --- A lengthy discussion addressing ways to balance next year’s budget was led by Cheryl, Gwen and Sarah. Highlights are as follows:

- Minnesota membership and festival participation has been declining ...
- From NFMC, we are seeing increases in Senior dues, Junior dues, Insurance and Festival Cup prices ...
- As a non-profit organization, we still want to be able to provide meaningful scholarships/awards to students and members ...
- Motion made by Mary Wescott, seconded by Nancy Fisher, to raise senior dues to \$25.00, junior dues to \$2.00 and the Festival Cup fee to \$6.00 for 2016-2017. Motion carried. This will be presented for ratification at the All-Member State Meeting in July.

*Scholarships and Grants* --- Rebecca Heerdt, Chair, reviewed the scholarships/awards currently offered by MFMC and presented options to keep distribution under \$7,000:

- 1. BIENNIAL STUDENT AUDITION AWARDS:** cap at \$1,500 (3 x \$500 1<sup>st</sup> place awards, regardless of instrument, recommend awards are made by a jury)
- 2. INTERNATIONAL MUSIC CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS:** Cap at \$800, award only if funds are available, and only at the discretion of the finance committee (these are not full scholarships)
- 3. JUNIOR COMPOSERS INSTITUTE SCHOLARSHIPS:** Cap at \$1,600 (4 x \$400), award only if funds are available, and only at the discretion of the finance committee. A suggestion was made to offer scholarships only to the top 4 winners in the state composers contest; if any of them decline the scholarship it should not be offered to a

lower place. Cheryl, however, made a motion to keep the current format but – under no circumstances – go above \$1600. Nancy Fisher seconded. Motion carried.

**4. TEACHER TRUST GRANTS:** Cap at 3 awards and \$500 total (e.g. \$200 + \$150 + \$150)

**5. TUITION ASSISTANCE GRANTS:** Cap at \$2,500 and promote aggressively statewide to encourage new teachers to apply (right now, it's the same few ... )

**6. GRAND CUP AND PRESIDENT'S CUP AWARDS:** This monetary award was eliminated earlier in today's meeting

**7. JUNIOR COMPOSERS INSTITUTE:** MFMC should continue to give \$500 per year: \$200 dues and \$300 donation (which is higher than the mandated \$200)

*Insurance* --- Nancy Fisher, Coordinator, distributed a report summarizing all insurance requests for the past year. She also informed those present of an e-mail from the NFMC President announcing a rate increase and the requirement of a signed child protection policy from every club and from everyone who requests insurance coverage. She plans to elaborate on the Child Protection Policy letter at the July meeting.

**Other:**

\*Cheryl indicated her desire to step down as National Board Representative – effective July 2017 and would like to see the search for a new rep begin now.

\*Decided to keep the All-Member State Meeting to just one day (Wednesday, July 27).

\*Two \$400.00 scholarships were awarded to applicants planning to attend the Summer 2016 International Music Camps.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Kaye Rabaey, MFMC State Secretary