

MINNESOTA FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

Music in the Med City

Summer All-Member Meeting
First Presbyterian Church, Rochester, MN
Thursday, July 27, 2017

(Unofficial Minutes)

Call to Order:

President Mary Wescott called the lunch meeting to order at 12:15 P.M. by leading everyone in the recitation of the *Pledge of Allegiance*. Special guest, North Central Region Vice-President Karen Bourne, led the *Federation Collect*. With Zoe Abrahamson at the piano, "America, the Beautiful" was sung. Mary introduced Elliott Wessel, Schmitt Music Store representative, and thanked him for supporting MFMC. Members then introduced themselves.

Members Present:

Apple Valley MTA – Sharon Erickson, Barb Roth, Sarah Twedt; **Burnsville Area MC** – Kathy Wilson; **Central Lakes MC** – Karen Erickson; **Chain of Lakes MC** – Doug Rhode, Sharon Kaplan; **Chin Rest & End Pin Society** – Karin Valdizan; **Duluth MTA** – Vicki Ott, Liz Raihala; **East Suburban MC** – Kathy Stroemer; **Encore MC** - Nancy Fisher; **Hibbing Musicale** – Nadine Berg, Roy Berg; **Itasca MC** - Gwen Degner, Glenda Kacon; **Keyboard Southwest** – Ramona Larson; **Music Southwest** – Rennae Petersen, Mary Kaye Rabaey; **North Suburban MC** – Deanna Andersen; **Southeast MN Federation** – ZoeAnn Abrahamson, Cindy Breederland, Lorena Broers, Tom Burson, Margaret Clark, Julie Gutzmer, Amy Heetland, Deb Jones, Rosanna Nuguid, Carol Prescher, David Schaffer-Gottschalk, Basia VanderSanden; **Successful Music Makers** – Anna Jeanne Flesner; **South Suburban MTA** – Mary Wescott; **Thief River Falls MC** – Kristi La Salle; **Tuesday Music Club** – Sue Quist, Ruth Wollenberg; **West Central MTC** – Mary Pieh, Cheryl Schmidt; **West Suburban MC** – Sandra Stenzel; **Other** – Karen Bourne, Jeannene Simonson, Pat Steege

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from the April 29, 2017 Executive Board meeting were distributed to members. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Sarah Twedt and seconded by Karen Erickson. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Gwen Degner presented a summary of all transactions 7/1/16 – 6/30/17. Our current net worth is \$119,432.00, up \$12,398.46 from July 1, 2016. The 2016-2017 dues increase has given us a bit of a cushion. (report attached)
She asked that everyone take time to review their current member information on the MFMC website and make sure that it is accurate. This includes:

- *Name, address, phone number and e-mail
- *Senior Club with which you hold membership
- *Club President, Festival Manager
- *Teaching specialty
- *Willingness to judge

Gwen also shared *Thank You* notes from the 2017 Junior Composers Summer Programs scholarship recipients.

Insurance Report:

Nancy Fisher, Chair, highlighted the information covered in her handout:

- 1) MFMC is requiring that NFMC insurance **must** be requested for all Federation sponsored events: every festival site must have NFMC insurance coverage; every Festival recital must have NFMC insurance coverage; any event which includes MFMC individual club names or MFMC name must have NFMC insurance coverage.
- 2) The 2017-2018 Festival/Event year runs from September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018. Important “request” deadlines:
 - August 1, 2017 – events taking place September 1 through December 31
 - November 15, 2017 – events taking place January 1 through August 31
- 3) Individual club members are no longer required to annually sign a Child Protection Policy form. Only Festival site managers and event planners need to sign the form when they request insurance coverage.

(Unrelated to her role as Insurance Chair, Nancy also recommended two keyboard resources that she recently discovered and has had enjoyed success with in her studio: *Pentascale Pro* and *Major Scale Pro* (Bober, Kowalchuk, Lancaster – Alfred Publ.).)

Festival Report:

Nadine Berg, Chair, provided statistics of this year’s events (both at the junior and senior level); in general, participation throughout the state is down.

Jeannene Simonson, Certificate Chair, has stepped down from this position; a new Chair is needed. Discussion continued regarding the current “Superior rating” certificates; many preferred the more colorful ones used previously. We are required by the National Office to use their forms *but* we’ve almost run out ... members present agreed to “break away” and go back to the old (color coded) ones; they may cost a little more but look much classier (something to consider as a budget item). It was also suggested that a line be added to include the teacher’s name.

Nadine included a reminder to all Festival Chairs: reports are due to auditors two weeks after Festival dates; it is important that *everyone* adhere to time lines!

Festival Gold Cup Report:

Sarah Twedt, Chair, distributed a spreadsheet summarizing the 2017 Festival Cup distribution. She thanked those responsible for providing clean reports (which makes the ordering process easier) and included (in her report) – for those interested – a copy of cost for each cup (size, shipping, engraving).

Junior Composers Summer Programs (JCSP):

Pat Steege, former Administrative Director, shared photos and highlights from last week's *2017 Junior Composers Institute* held at the *University of Minnesota* campus.

One of the instructors – Dr. Sarah Miller, *MacPhail Center for Music* – is willing to skype with any studio interested in learning more about composition.

International Music Camp Report:

Karen Erickson, Chair, informed those present, the two 2017 MFMC Scholarships of \$400.00 each to IMC were awarded to:

*Sonja Selikoff of Apple Valley (student of Susan Jacobson) who attended the orchestra session for cello study,

*Paris Whalen of Eagan (student of Michelle Whalen) who chose the musical theatre session, focusing on vocal performance.

American Music Report:

Rebecca Heerdt, Chair, was not in attendance but Kathy Wilson filled in and strongly reminded the membership to support and use the works of American composers in our studios. Clubs who honor NFMC sponsored events – *Parade of American Music* (November) and/or *National Music Week* (May) – should send a report to Rebecca so that she can forward it National Chairperson.

Scholarships and Grants:

Doug Rhode, member of the SAG Committee, encouraged everyone to take advantage of the opportunities available to both students and teachers. All information regarding eligibility requirements and submission deadlines may be found on the MFMC website.

Student Auditions:

Cheryl Schmidt spoke on behalf of Marcia Benson, Chair, stating that auditions are held every other year and details may be found on the website. It is important to plan ahead since an advanced repertoire is required.

National Board Representative Report:

Cheryl Schmidt, outgoing National Rep, along with Sarah Twedt, incoming National Rep., and Mary Wescott, State President, all attended the NFMC National Convention which was held in Dayton, OH, June 20-24, 2017. Highlights included:

*NFMC has revised their website to be more user friendly. They have also implemented on-line payment for membership and entry fees. Application forms are now available as "fill-in" forms.

*Please review all scholarships available from NFMC; many actions were taken with regard to award increases and deadline changes. Scholarship forms will be

completely revised by the end of August.

*All festivals must use the official NFMC Rating Sheet for Federation Festivals (JR-3-9). Ratings other than those titled, "Superior, Excellent, Satisfactory, Fair, Needs Improvement" will no longer be recognized by NFMC for point accrual and will not be transferable between states.

*The JR 3-3 Report from area chairmen is due to the State Chair by May 20 and to Regional Chair by May 31.

The next **NFMC National Convention** is in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in June 2018. Since this convention is in our North Central Region and a closer distance than most conventions, members of MFMC are encouraged to attend.

Sarah Twedt added that the NFMC 2015 Young Artist Winner, Nicholas Susi, DMA, has accepted a position teaching piano at the *College of St. Scholastica*, Duluth, and is interested in getting involved with MFMC through judging, presenting workshops, etc.

National Guest:

Cheryl Schmidt introduced Karen Bourne, North Central Region Representative, who then presented Cheryl with a token of appreciation for serving the past years as Minnesota's representative to the National Board.

She also announced that the *Sioux City Symphony Orchestra* concert on October 1 will feature guest artist, Zuill Bailey – cello (son of former NFMC President, Lana Bailey). With last week's camp experience still fresh, Karen enthusiastically shared *her* story of personal growth through the Junior Composers Institute starting back in 2002; JCI has created ripples around the nation.

Old Business:

**Online registration* – Cheryl Schmidt reviewed what has been happening at the national level regarding frustration with the online registration process; the current developer has been fired and an attempt is being made to find a new user-friendly data entry system.

New Business:

**Budget* – Cheryl Schmidt noted that additional monies will need to be budgeted for Festival "Superior Rating" certificates (see above).

**All-State Competition* – Mary Wescott addressed the possibility of an All-State Festival for students who received "Superior" ratings at their local festivals (she's been researching the format used in Wisconsin) and suggested forming a three-person committee to pursue this ...

**Treasurer* – Gwen Degner would like to step down as State Treasurer; she has created a job description. There is a monetary stipend attached to this position.

**NFMC Website* – Mary added that everyone should make a point of checking out this new information resource; it is very user-friendly.

**MFMC Website* – If anyone has the ability to send an email to the entire membership, please talk to Cheryl Schmidt.

**State By-Laws, Constitution, Summer Meeting Site for 2018* – Several thoughts were expressed regarding the poor attendance at recent state meetings; would regional

meetings encourage more members to attend? How many regions – would they be determined geographically or by membership? When would these meetings be held? Would the state officers be expected to attend each meeting? Would regional meeting attendance be required in order for a club to hold a festival? What about our current by-laws; they would need to be re-written? Are there members willing to serve on a five-person committee that would analyze/re-write the current by-laws? After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Nadine Berg that the Executive Committee research the possibility of regional meetings instead of an annual state meeting. Pat Steege seconded; motion carried.

**Nomination of State Officers* – Nadine Berg made a motion to nominate the slate of current officers as listed in the program bulletin. Zoe Abrahamson seconded; motion carried. Karen Bourne presided over the installation ceremony:

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

In her closing remarks, Mary Wescott expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve as MFMC president these past two years and offered the following challenge – “We need more volunteers than ever to get things done and keep our organization strong! Let’s make Minnesota the best that we can possibly be.”

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Kaye Rabaey, MFMC State Secretary

MFMC 2017 Biennial State Convention Highlights

July 27-28, 2017

Hosted by Southeast MN Federation Music Club
Held at First Presbyterian Church, Rochester, MN

*Concert: Rochester Musicians

*Piano Master Class and presentation on American composer, William Gillock,
with Dr. David Schaffer-Gottschalk

*Memorial Service

*Junior Recital by MFMC Juniors

*Ensemble Recital – members and friends of hosting club

