

Secretary's Report from April 27, 2019 Meeting, St. Cloud, MN. Acting Secretary Cara Caravetta took the minutes.

Mary Wescott called the meeting to order at 11:05AM, by leading everyone in attendance in the Federation Collect. The Star Spangled Banner was sung acapella.

Members Present:

Nadine Berg, Mary Wescott, Nancy Fisher, Cara Caravetta, Rebecca Heerdt, Cheryl Schmidt, Sharon Kaplan, Peggy Karsten, Gwen Degner, Grace Kopitske, Bonnie Sorenson Ernest, Karen Erickson, Kathy Stroemer, Sharon Willen, Christine Schneider

NEW BUSINESS

Vice President Nancy Fisher and Cara Caravetta requested permission to use the MFMC Log to create a product line to help create awareness of MFMC as well as provide teachers with items to use as student rewards and fundraising items. Samples of branded items were displayed. Nadine Berg made a motion to give Cara Caravetta permission to use the MFMC logo to develop the product line with the condition that the use is to stay within Minnesota. Peggy Karsten seconded. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Gwen Degner presented a verbal report on the club's current financial statements, noting that there are still a large number of incoming invoices that need to be paid before the June 30, 2019 end of our fiscal year. She noted that MFMC membership was down and has affected the club's financial balance, which is currently \$6,000 less than a year ago at this time. There are currently 374 members, 8 less than 2018 and 3981 junior members which is 106 less than 2018.

INSURANCE REPORT

Vice President Nancy Fisher reported that there were 82 events insured between September 2018 and April of 2019, estimating 30 Festival events. She also noted that most clubs were very good about getting their event information to her before the stated deadlines, but that members should not be reluctant to ask about insurance after the application deadline has passed. A late fee would apply, but getting an event insured is still possible.

GOLD CUP CHAIRS REPORT AND FESTIVAL REPORT

Vice President Sarah Twedt was absent and the Festival reports were temporarily delayed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mary Wescott gave a brief update on the year, sharing that it had been a very frustrating year for her personally. Weather had presented specific challenges, resulting in trying Skype lessons.

At this point Mary turned the meeting over to Cheryl Schmidt, who introduced the constitution and bylaws revisions and thanked her committee, Peggy Karsten, Rennae Petersen and Mary Pieh for all the hard work they put into this project: GOAL. Cheryl turned the floor over to Peggy Karsten who explained the voting process: The Constitution and Bylaws would be presented as individual articles for member approval. If an article was not passed, it would revert to its original state and amendments would be presented for approval at the All Members meeting in July of 2019. Since there were no changes to Article 1 and II the committee would present Article V and VI of the Bylaws in order to allow prior notification via email. It was noted that information on fees was not included in the Constitution because they are changeable.

Parliamentarian Peggy Karsten made a motion to amend the Article V of the bylaw as recommended by the committee. Nadine Berg seconded and discussion was opened. Nancy Fisher asked for clarification involving situations where a member does not have an email address; Mary Wescott explained that in that situation the president of the local club would be responsible for sharing the information with the members that do not have an email address. The motion was passed.

Peggy Karsten made a motion to accept the recommendations of the committee for the changes for Article VI of the bylaws; Nancy Fisher seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Peggy Karsten made a motion to accept the recommendations of the committee for the changes of Article III of the Constitution; Gwen Degner seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Peggy Karsten made a motion to accept the recommendations of the committee for the changes of Article IV of the Constitution. Karen Erickson seconded and the motion was passed.

Peggy Karsten made a motion to strike the Quorum section from the bylaws. Sharon Kaplan seconded, there was no discussion and the motion passed.

Peggy Karsten made a motion to accept the recommendation of the committee for the changes to Article I of the Bylaws. Sharon Kaplan seconded. Mary Wescott suggested the members present read through the article before a vote was called. Peggy made a motion to a friendly amendment adopting the use of the word "Chair to replace the gender specific term "Chairman". Bonnie Sorenson seconded and the friendly amendment was passed. Mary Wescott called for a vote on the Amendments to Article I of the Bylaws and the motion was passed.

Peggy Karsten made a motion to accept the recommendation of the committee for changes to Article II of the Bylaws. Gwen Degner seconded. When the floor was opened for discussion, Nancy Fisher asked if a written Treasurer's report was usually presented at each meeting; Gwen affirmed that it was. When a vote was called for the motion passed.

Peggy Karsten made a motion to accept the recommendation of the committee for the changes of Article III of the Bylaws. Bonnie Sorenson seconded. When the floor was opened for discussion, Grace Kopitske asked for clarification on the differences between a life member and an honorary member. An honorary member may attend meetings, but does not hold the right to vote or hold office. A Life Member retains the privilege of participating in all areas of businesses including voting and holding office. Rebecca Heerdt asked for clarification of Article III and Article VI, wondering if there are any exemptions on participation with no participation in MFMC meetings. Cheryl Schmidt said that exceptions are usually at the discretion of the MFMC president, who may chose to allow festival participation but put a club on probation until meeting attendance has put the club back in good standing. It was pointed out that the requirements for good standing are not meant to be a hardship to a club, but is necessary for the MFMC to function in its most beneficiary capacity. Mary Wescott called for a voted and the motion passed.

Peggy Karsten made a motion to accept the recommendation of the committee for the changed to Article IV of the Bylaws. Cara Caravetta seconded. Karen Erickson suggested a word change in 4.3, removing “organization” with “member” to be more specific. Peggy Karsten accepted the change; a vote was called for and the motion passed.

Peggy Karsten made a motion to accept the recommendation of the committee for the changes of Article V of the Bylaws, Sharon Kaplan seconded and the motion passed.

Peggy Kaarsten drew attention to the fact that because Article IV of the Bylaws was there was no need to vote on Addendum A. She said that all changes will be posted on line and emailed to members.

Mary Wescott gave a brief update on the plans for the All State Meeting in Duluth. Dr. Nick Susi will be presenting a master class, workshop and recital. There will be a memorial service on Thursday August 1, 2019 as well as training for the new online festival registration. She also made mention there is grant money available to help supplement the cost of running festival. Nancy Fisher shared that most regions of Minnesota have grants available for the fine arts. She just finished writing a grant for the North West Minnesota Foundation to fund a new concert series in Warroad. Last year’s grant funded a Made in Warroad project that allowed collaboration between three of the talented students from Warroad’s 100th graduation class to create a fine arts project. One student wrote poetry, one set it to music and the third presented it as a vocal recital. She said her club is currently running a Yankee Candle fundraiser to help offset the cost of inviting world-class musicians to perform in Warroad.

Sharon Kaplan gave a report on the Composer’s Competition and asked for help getting certificates to specific clubs in an effort to save postage. She said that there has been a drop in student registrations, but noted that Sarah Miller’s students still represent a high percentage of participation. Sharon has been participating in some of Sarah Millers online Skype classes and has seen it benefit not only her own students but her own compositions efforts as well.

Karen Erickson presented 2 applications that she had received for the International Music Camp Scholarship. Karen recommended that MFMC accept them; Nancy Fisher made a motion to approve both scholarships and Cheryl Schmidt seconded. The motion passed.

Grace Kopitske gave a report on the online Festival Registration process and offered to give present members an early look at the format after lunch. She stated that it should make student registration much easier in the future. There will be a class at the National meeting in Jacksonville with hands on training for attendees. It was noted that it is unlikely that clubs will be required to use this for the 2020 Festivals, but it will be likely for the 2021.

It was also noted that MFMC hopes to have enough information to present this at the All State Convention in Duluth.

The meeting was adjourned, Mary Wescott asked Nancy Fisher to say grace before the meal was served and Table Grace was sung.