

MINNESOTA FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS
Summer 2019 State Convention

College of St. Scholastica

Duluth, MN
Wednesday, July 31, 2019

(Business Meeting – Unofficial Minutes)

Welcome:

Liz Railhala, President of the hosting Duluth Music Teachers Association, welcomed everyone and then introduced Dr. Nick Susi, Assistant Professor of Music at CSS, who will be conducting a masterclass following the business meeting. Thursday's activities will be held in Room #3312 of the Science Center; this is a change from what is on the convention itinerary.

Call to Order:

President-Elect Nancy Fisher (in the absence of Mary Wescott) called the meeting to order at 12:40 P.M. by leading the membership in the recitation of the *Federation Collect* and singing "America, the Beautiful."

Members Present:

Apple Valley MTA – Sarah Twedt; **Burnsville Area MTA** – Camille Buddecke, Jean Krinke; **Central Lakes MC** – Karen Erickson; **Chain of Lakes MC** – Vicki Crabtree, Sharon Kaplan; **Duluth MTA** – Margaret Christensen, Nona Harkness, Robin Johnson, Aimee Ott, Vicki Ott, Liz Raihala, Karen Sande, Nick Susi, Linda Turpening, Roberta Depre Verdojak; **East Suburban MC** – Grace Kopitske; **Encore MC** – Cara Caravetta, Nancy Fisher; **Hibbing Musicale** – Barabra Baldrice, Nadine Berg, Roy Berg, Lanae Rochetti; **Itasca MC** – Gwen Degner, Glenda Kadon; Cathy Shields; **Keyboard Southwest** – Carol Mattison; **Music Southwest** – Dana Funk, Mary Kaye Rabaey; **North Suburban MC** – Angie Stanislawski; **Successful Music Makers** – Anna Jeanne Flesner, Christie Gergen; **Thief River Falls MC** – Kristi LaSalle; **West Central MTC** – Chelsea Eckhoff, Cheryl Schmidt, Sharon Willen

Secretary's Report:

Everyone was asked read/review the minutes of the April 27, 2019 Executive Committee meeting (found in the convention handbook). A motion to approve the minutes was made by Cheryl Schmidt and seconded by Sarah Twedt. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Gwen Degner presented a summary of all transactions 7/1/18 – 6/30/19 (found in handbook). Our net worth is down by \$1,171.43 from last year, primarily because of a drop in membership. There is no need for a dues increase, however. She also sent a clipboard around asking for updated addresses to send 2019-2020 club dues information.

Festival Report:

Nadine Berg, Chair, directed members to her 2019 Festival Summary found in the convention handbook.

Gold Cup Chair Report:

Sarah Twedt, Chair, thanked the many people involved with Festival chairing and recordkeeping; 2019 Cup details may be found in the convention handbook.

2nd VP Report:

Sarah Twedt, in addition to her many MFMC roles as 2nd Vice President, Gold Cup Chair, and National Board Representative, was recently elected to the position of Regional Vice President for the NFMC North Central Region. Her report from the Jacksonville meeting can be found in the convention handbook. She added that North Central members are well represented with regard to leadership at the national level.

1st VP Report:

Nancy Fisher, outgoing MFMC Insurance Coordinator, quickly summarized the past year's activities (see report in convention handbook) and reminded everyone that she will complete processing requests for the August 1 deadline, after which Sarah Twedt, new 1st VP, assumes that responsibility. Next, she shared highlights of her experience attending an NFMC National Convention (Jacksonville) for the first time. She concluded by acknowledging Mary Wescott's past four years of presidency – her outgoing personality, commitment, and dedication. In appreciation from MFMC, Mary will receive a lifetime membership and a gift certificate to Chanhassen Dinner Theatre.

Student Auditions Chair Report:

Marcia Benson, Chair, was absent (see report in convention handbook).

Historian's Report:

Karen Sue Erickson, Chair, enthusiastically reminded the membership that 2021 will be MFMC's 100th Anniversary; it is also a convention year. She is looking for creative ideas to promote our strong history both at that assembly and throughout the Minnesota Arts community in general. There is a poster display of past presidents out in the lobby.

Awards and Scholarships Report:

Rebekah Heerdt, Chair, was absent (see report in convention handbook).

Junior Composers:

Sharon Kaplan, Chair, stated that participation in this event is dwindling and then pleaded with those present to “take the plunge: incorporate composition at every lesson; start with the youngest beginners; don’t be afraid to reach out to Sarah Miller who offers Skype classes.”

President’s Report:

President Mary Wescott, was absent (see report in convention handbook).

Old Business:

The revised constitution as proposed and adopted at the All Member State Board Meeting in St. Cloud on April 27 was presented by Cheryl Schmidt, Revisions Committee Chair.

New Business:

Cheryl Schmidt asked that everyone read through the tentative budget for 2019-2020 (found in convention handbook). Sharon Kaplan made a motion to approve; Nadine Berg seconded. Motion carried.

Cheryl then presented the 2019-2021 slate of officers:

President: *Nancy Fisher*

1st Vice-President: *Sarah Twedt*

2nd Vice-President:

Secretary: *Mary Kaye Rabaey*

Treasurer: *Gwen Degner*

Historian: *Karen Sue Erickson*

National Board Representative: *Mary Wescott*

Sharon Kaplan made a motion to approve; Cara Caravetta seconded. Motion carried.

Installation of officers will take place during Thursday’s session.

Other:

Cara Caravetta presented samples of MFMC branded items that may be used by teachers as student incentives and gifts or by clubs for fundraisers as well as to create awareness of MFMC in our local communities. She wants to know what items teachers are most interested in having branded: magnets, stickers, water bottles, coffee cups, tee-shirts, hoodies, hats, bags, practice notebooks? For more information, you can reach her at paperandteastudio@gmail.com.

Sarah Twedt questioned if MFMC would consider a web-based data management of the membership roster to facilitate better communication (among members, club presidents, regions, etc.) using **mailgun.com**. She outlined a cost proposal from Jo Janssen, a software developer in Northfield, MN. Cheryl asked if everyone would be agreeable for the Executive Committee to pursue this; someone voiced that we “seek a second quote from another provider” but the overall response was favorable. Discussion concluded that the proposal by Jo Janssen was very reasonable and a second quote was not

necessary. A motion/second was made to proceed with the outlined proposal from Jo Janssen including payment of \$500.00. After no further discussion, the motion passed.

Representatives from the following clubs reported on the past year's activities: Apple Valley Music Teachers, Central Lakes Music Club, Duluth Music Teachers, Encore Music Club, Hibbing Musicale, Itasca Music Club, Keyboard Southwest, North Suburban Music Club, Successful Music Makers, Thief River Falls Music Club, West Central Music Teachers.

Vice President Nancy Fisher recognized the Successful Music Makers Club with a certificate from NFMC for submitting the Junior Achievement Summary Report (JR 1-1) by the June 1 deadline; other clubs are encouraged to participate in this yearly challenge.

Nancy then wrapped up the meeting providing an overview of Thursday's agenda and clarified the location change.

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Kaye Rabaey, MFMC State Secretary

Following the business meeting, Dr. Nicholas Susi, Assistant Professor of Music at CSS, and 2015 winner of the NFMC Young Artist Award in Piano conducted a master class with three area students representing MFMC members Nadine Berg, Margaret Christiansen, and himself ... Later that evening, Dr. Susi performed a solo piano recital featuring pieces by Debussy, Liszt, and Rachmaninoff.

The Future of MFMC - "Brainstorming" Session *Thursday, August 1 --- 9:30 AM)*

Under the guidance of President-Elect Nancy Fisher, attendees broke into small groups and discussed ways to strengthen MFMC's Minnesota presence. Listed below are their suggestions:

- 2021 is the 100th anniversary of MFMC; let's pull out all the stops and celebrate! Historian Karen S. Erickson is already gathering ideas ...
- Improve membership diversity: Religion
Gender
Ethnicity

- Find/identify areas not well serviced by MFMC; reach out and offer ways to help
- Student scholarships expansion (explore diversity); there are several scholarships available each year that go unused
- Use the arts to bring people together – unifying/community building (arts advocacy)
- Establish mentor relationships (encourage students to pursue careers in music/the arts)
- Consider “club sponsored” music camps
- Make better use of the Facebook page for communication and marketing; explore other social media sites for sharing ideas: Instagram, Twitter (Cheryl Schmidt asked if there is anyone social media savvy willing to run this)
- Weekly e-mail updates posting events and deadlines similar to MMTA
- Invite non-members to local workshops/activities; personal contact is perhaps the most effective form of recruiting
- Collaborate with local music stores regarding the possibility of sharing mailing lists and displaying promotional materials; MFMC could create a simple card with “why would one want to be a part of this organization” bullet points and necessary contact information available
- Meetings/conventions should contain educational content so that CEUs could be offered

At the conclusion of the session, Cheryl Schmidt announced that Cara Caravetta had agreed to be nominated to the 2nd Vice President position. Nadine Berg made a motion to accept the nomination; Gwen Degner seconded. Motion carried. Installation of the 2019-2021 MFMC State Officers followed:

President – *Nancy Fisher*

1st Vice President – *Sarah Twedt*

2nd Vice President – *Cara Caravetta*

Secretary – *Mary Kaye Rabaey*

Treasurer – *Gwen Degner*

Historian – *Karen Sue Erickson*

National Board Representative – *Mary Wescott* (absent)

Nadine Berg and Grace Kopitske explained their roles in the Festival registration process. Grace then provided an overview of how the new on-line registration system is expected to operate; the goal is to have it up and running for the 2020-2021 Festival season.