



**MAR Membership Business Meeting Agenda**  
**Regional Conference – Harrisburg, PA**  
**Thursday, March 17, 2016 5:00 PM**  
**Friday, March 18, 2016 11:00 AM**

I. **Approval of Agenda**

Meeting was called to order at 5:04 PM. Mark Ahola makes a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded. Approved as presented.

II. **Approval of Minutes (March 2015: Ocean City, MD)**

Julie Neal makes a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded. Approved as presented.

III. **Approval of Minutes (November 2015: Kansas City, MO)**

Laurie Keough moves to approve the minutes. Seconded. Approved by consensus.

III. **Executive Board Officers' Reports**

A. **President**

**Gabby Ritter**

Remind members to come to the state of association address – she's here specifically to engage with you. She has access to predetermined questions to answer; if she has time following the set questions, she will open to the floor. Also, please attend the president's forum, at which time members have the opportunity to ask questions and connect with the president.

B. **President-Elect**

**Mike Viega**

Constitution & Bylaws Committee – Molly Griest, Julie Neal, Bryan Muller, Gary Verhagen - worked hard to present some changes to the constitution & bylaws document. Will present the changes today; discussion and votes tomorrow. Reviewing document. Jenny Swanson makes a motion to just read the rationale for proposed changes. Seconded. Motion passes.

Constitution: Reviews addition of Gov't Relations Chair-Elect and Treasurer-Elect, rationale: allow elected member to fully learn the duties of the position prior to assuming full responsibility.

Bylaws: Add duties of what the new positions entail (Section 8 & 11). Modified and additional language regarding special elections.

C. **Immediate Past-President**

**Julie Neal**

Duties involve mentoring president, adhoc committee to discuss adding two elect positions that Mike Viega presented – recognize the weight of adding additional time to the term of the positions, but feels the extra time is warranted to ensure candidates are prepared for duties of positions. Additionally, adhoc committee to look at positions of historian and archivist, as they were sort of getting lost in the shuffle – the work that is getting done on the committee is very exciting. Pay close attention to Maria Hancock’s report. Chaired nominating committee – special elections this year will take place: VP for Membership, Anita Gadberry, is stepping down from her position, and we would like to thank and recognize her for her service. Applause. Position needs to be filled – secured a couple nominees. Second position to be filled: VP-Elect for Conference Planning – previous individual stepped down, President Ritter appointed Jenny Swanson (runner-up). Still have to hold special election to fill position.

Also, have potential nominees for Treasurer Elect position (yet to be approved), and Gov’t Relations chair elect (also pending approval of membership).

Reviewing nominees as presented on the projector. Thanks service of nominating committee members. Reviews process that ensues regarding voting.

D. **Secretary**

**Noa Ferguson**

Nothing to report.

E. **Nominations Committee**

The Nominations Committee members are: Julie Neal, Chair; Noel Anderson; Maria Fay; Bob Miller; Gary Verhagen; Michael Viega. Thank you all for your service.

A Special Election will be held in the weeks following this conference for the following positions: Vice President for Membership – many thanks to Anita Gadberry for her years of service and leadership in this role. Nominees for this position are Beth Deyermond and Marisol Norris.

Vice President-Elect for Conference Planning – Jennifer Swanson has been serving in this role since last summer as the person elected last year had to step down from the position. Thank you, Jenny, for your service. Nominees for this position are Jennifer Swanson and Shawna Vernisie.

Pending approval of these positions from the membership, the following have been identified as nominees for the following positions:

Government Relations Chair-Elect – Amy Rodgers-Smith and Melissa Santiago  
Treasurer-Elect – Amanda Burchfiel Ferris and Brigitte Sutton

**A. Membership**

**Anita Gadberry**

Region helps to pay AMTA dues for 6 individuals. Region also provides conference support for regional for 2 people. Also implementing 1 scholarship award for professional member to attend national conference. Please direct interested persons to Membership page on MAR website.

MAR booth at exhibit hall: being staffed by delegates to interact with membership and ask questions. Also an anonymous questions box for members to leave questions. Call-a-thon – students are assisting after this meeting – 50 students to call people who used to be members, and inviting them back to being AMTA members.

**B. Assembly Report**

**Donna Polen**

We have had 2 changes in our assembly delegates – Noah Potvin moved, Kristen O’Grady is now the AMTA VP Elect. First 2 ranked alternates have now moved up to being delegates. 16 delegates, 15 alternates. You’ll hear more after Sandusky, OH.

**C. Conference**

**Trish Winter**

Have you seen the conference app? Open the app, touch the Shenandoah University ad at the top, tap again, takes you directly to Shenandoah’s page where you can enter your information directly to admissions. We’ve noticed our sponsorships are down as a region, that is a concern because that is a large part of how we make conference happen. Registration rates are important to, but we keep them low – haven’t raised them in over 5 years for conference. We highly rely on sponsorships and donations – I’m interested in knowing what might be happening that has reduced the number of sponsorships. Is it the changes? Online registration/call for papers? Conference app? Lots of change, maybe some growing pains. Maybe we’re not meeting needs – maybe we’re not offering something at conference that is wanted. What can we do to really meet the needs of the people that make this conference happen? Want to open this conversation to membership. Get in contact with Trish to help make this happen, and find out how we can boost sponsorships. We also have 756 registrants for this conference.

**D. Government Relations**

**Maria Fay**

Gov’t Relations elect position: position has acquired a large amount of work. It is immensely important that the elect position has time to get to know the position, and

be prepared.

Discussed challenges of the work in recent meeting with task forces: people are not engaged and responsive. We are working hard, trying to reach out – not getting a response. Asks members to be connected with their task voice – need your voice, they are working on the future of our profession.

- Delaware: There is an interest in starting a task force. See Maria Fay. Tris Gonzalez has exciting opportunities.
- Maryland: Attendees from Maryland attended PA hill day – interested in more action in Maryland.
- NJ: had a bill with a hearing at the end of the year – passed through that committee. Huge. Legislative season then ended, so that bill died. Took same bill, same sponsor again, re-numbered bill – first day legislative season opened, introduced, successfully passed through committee. Onto next stage – dealing with opposition from SLPs and OTs.
- PA: Exciting hill day event – biggest in country, over 200 music therapists in attendance. Nicole Hahna and task force is here: There will be a hearing on Tuesday, we need your support. Will be passing out information – we need letters from MTs saying they support this bill, letters from clients and families, and allied professionals (Speech and OTs). Advocacy booth at exhibit hall – info for all states.
- NY: LCAT and continuing education changes. Call to action in December: MTs are the only ones who responded to call to action: 57. Such a small group; no impact. If you are LCAT: there are continuing education regulations – urge members to go to Donna Polen's session on Saturday – This does impact you if you're an LCAT. Also, Medicaid issues are being monitored – contact Donna Polen with any issues. Adding subcommittee to task force group, as the current task force is reacting to LCAT – subcommittee will specifically oversee Medicaid-related issues. Also talking about authentic music therapy license, and doing school tours to increase advocacy and visibility – Went to SUNY New Paltz and NYU, Fredonia next in April, then Nazareth and Malloy Colleges.
- WV: Had a bill – senator who introduced a bill – legislative season ended, but created MT awareness, hopefully will move forward now with additional input.
- Virginia: With assistance from Senator Vogel, there is interest in a bill. Coming up with a blog – stay tuned, will assist with educating MTs to get on board with current and upcoming advocacy opportunities.

#### E. **Public Relations**

#### **Megan Resig**

Megan has been reaching out to those doing PR at the local state level to see what PR needs are, and see how we – as a regional committee – can support. If you do that work, and you have questions, contact Megan. Most prominent feedback has been that

states want access to professional exhibit materials for advocacy/related events. An adhoc committee for exhibit materials was created – they are completed, see them on display in exhibit hall. Committee is wondering how best to make them available for music therapists participating in advocacy efforts throughout the region.

F. **Student Affairs** **Conio Loretto**  
Unavailable.

G. **Historian** **Maria Battista-**  
**Hancock**

Maria has been looking at how to revitalize the historian position – an adhoc committee was formed to figure out how to best preserve, collect, and share stories of music therapist and music therapy history in the MAR. If you have ideas or content, contact Maria. The archives are at Duquesne University – we will share content with you via the newsletter on the website, and what the future will look like, for all members. We came up with a slogan: “Remember the past, protect the present, re-member the future” – we felt this describes the significance of looking at our past, accomplishments of the present, and highlighting our members’ contributions in looking ahead to our future.

Recess at 6:00 PM on Thursday, March 17, 2016.

Reconvene 11:03 AM on Friday, March 18, 2016.

H. **Archivist** **Phil Mauskapf**  
Not in attendance.

I. **Finances** **Brooke Carroll Lemchak**  
Not in attendance.

IV. **AMTA Committee Reports**

A. **Academic Program Approval**

**Suzanne Sorel**  
**Report provided by Julie Neal**

APAC met in November at National Conference – they are reviewing new collegiate programs, and re-approved programs. Currently re-visiting applications for approval and re-approval – committee is looking at the potential for online submissions in the future. Committee is updating policies and procedures to better meet the needs of the organization, in response to various inquiries regarding music therapy and clinical training.

**B. Affiliate Relations****Scott Horowitz**

The committee is working with the AMTA National office to distribute call for conference papers in affiliate networks. They are updating AMTA fact sheets: “What is Music Therapy?”, “Music Therapy in Geriatrics,” and “Music Therapy with Veterans.” Committee encourages membership to contact Scott as a resource for to effectively interact with related professions.

**C. Association Internship Approval****Matthew Phillips**

The committee has counted 57 internship acceptance letters, and 59 internship evaluations – we have seen slight decrease in numbers this year. Sites often have challenges when site internship directors leave, and/or sites close. National committee chair person stepped down – 2 co-chairs have stepped up, and are long-term members of committee. Internship supervision CMTE is available on website, as well as on Saturday at the current conference. There will be a clinical training round table discussion tonight.

**D. Continuing Education****Clare Arezina**

There are a number of CMTE courses being offered on Saturday – we offered a 7-hour pre-conference institute: 30 registrants enrolled! There are 9 additional CMTE courses, and 2 free CMTEs (Hill Day with PASTF) – we had over 200 registrations for CMTEs this year, which is a huge increase. The MAR is great at offering very low CMTE registration rates, especially compared to similar bodies and organizations – our region is committed to offering low-cost opportunities to membership. There is a new adhoc committee for continuing education, dedicate to looking at process for how we select courses for conference, and related opportunities each year.

**E. Workforce Development and Retention****Megan Resig**

At Kansas City National Conference: There was a CMTE about supervision, demystifying how music therapists access supervision. If you have questions about navigating the career as a profession, Megan is the contact for communicating needs to the national organization.

**F. Government Relations****Maria Fay**

On the National level: There are 44 active state task forces. 10 have active legislation across the country; Colorado is going for title protection, and Florida is moving from a license to a registry. On the MAR website: There is a National committee report on government relations from the national conference, and is especially pertinent for music therapists in school settings.

**G. International Relations****Flossie Ierardi**

The international session has become highly attended at National conference – there should be an announcement on the National conference website if you'd like to be a part of the presentation. The committee is interested in getting the word out, letting members know about clinical activity globally. Committee is adding content to the Regional website and Facebook page – send pictures or stories if you'd like them included. One of the committee's tasks is to let members know about international conference opportunities – look on the World Federation website. There are some international conferences taking place in *our* region soon – specifically, there will be a hospice and palliative care institute in Baltimore in April.

#### H. **Membership**

**Anita Gadberry**

This year's social media promotion is #WeAreAMTA. Please take a picture of something you like about AMTA and post it in social media with this hashtag.

#### I. **Professional Advocacy**

**Jenny Swanson**

#### J. **Reimbursement**

**Briana Priester (Julie Neal)**

The amount of questions and feedback about reimbursement challenges and successes varies by region. Committee representatives continue to serve as a resource for members and provide presentations and/or networking opportunities at the regional level.

ICD-10 implementation occurred on October 1, 2015. The previous music therapy ICD-9 Procedure Code is no longer available for reporting inpatient hospital services. Categories of ICD-10 procedure codes are no longer based on individual professions, but rather on very detailed interventions. AMTA National Office staff is reviewing possible alternative codes for those clinicians who previously used ICD-9 code 93.84.

Although HIPAA language samples, federal agency news, and related reimbursement information is typically published in Music Therapy Matters, the committee discussed plans to move reimbursement materials to a central location on the AMTA website to ease access to these important updates and resources.

AMTA is networking with a new national Medicaid Waiver Task Force, which actively monitors Medicaid waivers in all 50 states and is coordinated by the Georgetown Center for Children and Families and the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities. Each time there are revisions, updates, and opportunities to comment on proposed changes to waivers, the task force responds and provides the opportunity for input from interested organizations, such as AMTA.

Goals for 2016:

- a) Schedule conference calls every other month to facilitate project completion.
- b) Host periodic “Reimbursement Hot Topic Calls” that can be recorded for members to learn helpful tips and ask questions related to their funding efforts.
- c) Develop a reimbursement focused survey for all MT-BCs to update data on music therapy payment sources and procedures.
- d) Utilize survey data to organize state-based reimbursement information and resources that be accessed through a U.S. map graphic on website.
- e) Investigate impact of current private insurance company mergers and reorganization.

**K. Research**

**Tony Meadows**

**L. Special Target Populations**

**M. Clinical Practice Networking**

**Darcy Lipscomb**

**N. Special Target Populations**

**Claire Ghetti**

**O. Standards of Clinical Practice**

**Bob Miller**

**P. Technology**

**Noa Ferguson**

**Q. Judicial Review Board**

**Leah**

**Oswanski**

Not in attendance.

**V. New Business**

**Gabby Ritter**

1. *Trish Winter*: Thank you for the proposal to add new positions to existing executive board positions. There are concerns about the added positions being voting members. Why would elect positions have voting privileges on the board?  
*Mike Viega*: These are people who would be on the board for a while, so they would be able to be involved in the processes that will be required of their position upon assuming the full role.  
*Carol Shultis*: Are there regulations for the number of voting members on the board?  
*Gabby Ritter*: There is no longer a regulation – laws have changed.  
*Carol Shultis*: Have you looked at revisiting resuming voting privileges to those who it had been taken away from previously?  
*Gabby Ritter*: We have thought about it, but have not yet looked into it.  
Elizabeth Carras makes a motion to close the discussion.

Motion to adopt the language of the new positions to the board into the by-laws as presented presented by committee (does not need a second). Motion carries.

2. Article IV, Section 1: New wording for two Elect positions:



*Tom Gerni:* Question about the weight of the role(s).

*Gary Verhagen:* The feeling of the committee was having the elect positions fully participate in the parliamentary process of the board meetings was important – their presence, participation, and all of the duties they would have to do as the non-elect position, which includes voting.

*Bridgette Sutton:* From experience having been in the position, the elect position is not a half position.

*Gabby Ritter:* Since there is no motion to amend, we will vote on the motion that's on the floor to adopt the language as-is.

Gabby Ritter makes a motion to adopt the new Section 8 as-written, and re-number the subsequent sections outlining duties for the treasurer elect position. 2nd. Motion passes.

3. Julie Neal: Clarifies that not all of the bylaws proposed revisions are not specifically related to the two positions. Julie Neal makes a motion to adopt all of the new language that is proposed for the bylaws, specifically that are related to the creation of these new positions: Treasurer-Elect and VP for Conference Planning-Elect.

*Carol Shultis:* Could you be specific enough to let us know what would be left if we were to accept that motion? *Mike Viega:* The addition of the new names for the committees, and special elections language. Gabby Ritter makes a motion to adopt the motion Julie Neal presented: All in favor. Motion passes.

4. *Mike Viega:* Section 2, 3, 4 and new Section 5 all relate to special elections: The major bulk was the addition of section 5, with the remaining changes including putting all related information clearly in section 5. Clare Arezina makes a motion to vote on the block of changes relating to the special election procedures as a block. Julie Neal seconded. All in favor. Open to discuss block of changes: With no discussion. Gabby puts acceptance of the block of changes as-stated to a vote: All in favor. Motion carries.

5. Adding Section 1: New language for national standing committee description. Discussion: none. Gabby Ritter makes a motion to adopt the new language for the committee names and description. All in favor. Motion carries. Mike Viega thanks assistance from the constitution and bylaws committee. Julie Neal expresses support as well.

6. Julie Neal presents the slate of nominees from the nominating committee for Special Elections:

A. VP for Membership: Darcy Lipscomb makes a motion to approve nominations as presented, and close nominations. Seconded. Nominations closed.

B. VP for Confernece Planning Elect: Bridgette Sutton makes a motion to approve nominations as presented, and close nominations. Seconded. Nominations closed.

C. Gov't Relations Chair: Julie Neal makes a motion to approve nominations as presented, and close nominations. Seconded. Nominations closed.

D. Treasurer Elect: Bob Miller nominates Amanda Burchfiel Farris. Diane Eisenhower makes a motion to approve nominations as presented, and close nominations. Seconded. Nominations closed.

7. Julie Neal explains the voting process: Bios and statements of interests, plus pictures on website within 2 weeks from today. Ballots will go out electronically, voting procedures will ensue.

VI. **Good and Welfare**

**Gabby Ritter**

- Congratulations to Brooke Caroll Lemchak on the birth of new child.
- The region appreciates AMTA president Jennifer Geiger for attending conference, and being so open and communicative with the body.
- The region welcomes a West Virginia music therapy program to our region.
- John Catt from Blue Star could use region's assistance – Google for more information.
- Congratulations to Kristen O'Grady for nomination of AMTA VP Elect.
- Conference name badges: Please recycle into white buckets. Will save region \$600.
- There is a new national standing committee: Diversity and Multiculturalism Committee. A chair has been appointed; name TBA.

VII. **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned 11:56 AM.