

Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Music Therapy Association

MINUTES

MARCH 26-27, 2009 5:15 PM

RICHMOND, VA

MEETING CALLED BY	Brian Abrams, <i>President</i>
TYPE OF MEETING	General Membership Meeting
FACILITATOR	Brian Abrams, <i>President</i>
NOTE TAKER	Kristen Brennan, <i>Secretary</i>

Agenda topics

I. Approval of the Agenda

BRIAN ABRAMS

DISCUSSION	Motion to approve the agenda: K. Murphy. Discussion: K. Murphy requested to add an update from the AMTA board of directors (between research and other business). G. Behrens asked that the membership report be presented on the 2 nd day of business meeting. L. Morris requested the addition of a brief newsletter report, which will be included in "other business" tomorrow. Motion to amend agenda to include AMTA update after research, move membership to 2 nd day of business meeting; and newsletter report in other business: Kathy Murphy; motion carries.	
CONCLUSIONS	Motion to approve agenda as amended: C. Shultis; motion carries	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None identified	n/a	n/a

II. Approval of Minutes

BRIAN ABRAMS

DISCUSSION	Motion to approve the minutes as presented: Kathy Murphy. Discussion: Correction under treasurer: "\$10,000 will be moved" instead of "was moved".	
CONCLUSIONS	Motion carries. Minutes approved as amended.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Send minutes to webmaster for posting.	K. Brennan	ASAP

III. President

BRIAN ABRAMS

DISCUSSION	Barbara Wheeler wished us a good conference and discussed AMTA.Pro podcast availability.	
CONCLUSIONS	B. Abrams acknowledged the attendance of Judy Simpson from AMTA national office.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

None identified.	n/a	n/a
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IV. President-Elect

A. PRESENTATION OF THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

DEBORAH BENKOVITZ

DISCUSSION	The constitution and bylaws were available to the membership at the conference and online for review since the middle of January. D. Benkovitz extended her gratitude to the constitution and bylaws committee for their hard work: Barbara MacLean, Kathy Murphy, Eleanor Denis, Carol Thomas, Brian Abrams, and Sue Shuttleworth. Most proposed changes are grammatical but two sections of interest were pointed out to members: Article IV section 4- "Officers": a board position needs to be removed in order for the organization to remain in compliance with Delaware state law. As a result of the discussion with the membership during the last general membership meeting, the committee consulted with other related organizations and came to the conclusion that the removal of the parliamentarian would be the best solution. The only time the parliamentarian could not be in an executive board meeting is if the board goes into closed session. However, the parliamentarian could still be invited to join the closed session by the president. Article VIII section 3: The committee is asking membership to consider the addition of registration chair to the regional conference committee with the rationale being to provide continuity in conference planning process. Motion to dispense with the reading of the rest of the constitution and bylaw changes: Mary Boyle; motion carries. Members were encouraged to review the rest of the changes independently.	
CONCLUSIONS	Issue revisited on Day 2, 3/27/09: D. Benkovitz mention an additional change that needs attention. Article VI section 5: changing the term of the treasurer to align with the current fiscal year (7/1-6/30). Motion to vote all changes as a block with exception of three discussed: E. Abbott. Discussion: Mary Boyle spoke against the motion to vote. Amendment: vote on all as a block—G. Behrens; motion carries. Motion to vote on all changes as presented: M. Boyle. Discussion: John Foley referred attention to article VI section 3: how does a member get elected in special election if there is no opposition? Brian Abrams pointed out that this is not part of motion on floor. The issue will refer to C&B committee for future review. Motion to refer article VI section 3 to C&B committee for review and clarification—John Foley; motion carries. Vote on original motion (vote on all presented changes): motion carries.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None identified	n/a	n/a

V. Immediate Past President

KATHY MURPHY

DISCUSSION	K. Murphy presented the slate of nominations and thanked the members of the nominations committee: Mark Ahola, Debbie Benkovitz, Kathy Murphy, and Joanne Loewy. K. Murphy presented the slate of nominations during today's meeting. The floor will be open to nominations during the second half of the meeting (tomorrow). G. Behrens photographed all candidates for posting on the website/in newsletter. Candidates will also be asked to provide a short bio	
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for the website for the membership to review. Ballots will be counted by Joanne Loewy.		
CONCLUSIONS	Day 2: Topic resumed by opening the floor for nominations. Motion to close nominations for president-elect: Ruthlee Adler; motion carries. Motion to close nominations for vice president for conference planning: John Foley; motion carries. VPCP-elect: Melissa King nominated Andrea Scheve—declined. Motion to close nominations for VPCP-elect: Ruthlee Adler; motion carries. Motion to close nominations for VP membership: Ruthlee Adler; motion carries. Motion to close nominations for PR chair: Gretchen Chardos; motion carries. Motion to close nominations for GR chair: Betsy King; motion carries. Motion to close nominations for treasurer: Betsy King; motion carries. Motion to close nominations for assembly of delegates: Gene Ann Behrens; motion carries. Slate of nominations is final.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None identified	n/a	n/a

VI. Membership

GENE BEHRENS

DISCUSSION	The MAR currently has 942 members as of the end of 2008. The represents a 4.3% increase from the same time in 2007. The biggest increase has been seen in the graduate student category. As of 3/24/09 we currently have 696 members which represents an 8/8% decrease from the same time last year. G. Behrens encouraged people to renew membership as soon as possible. G. Behrens reminded members of the current membership programs: membership support fund, new membership packets and mentorship program. A new request was received from the MAR board meeting: examine the membership needs in terms of the current economic climate. Watch for information on the listserv. Members are encouraged to assist with the call-a-thon if they are able to do so. Email G. Behrens for information on how you can help. AMTA.Pro services are available to members. See flyers in conference packets. Continue to watch for more opportunities to come.	
CONCLUSIONS	None.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None identified.	n/a	n/a

VII. Conference

A. 2009 CONFERENCE UPDATE

ANDREA SCHEVE

DISCUSSION	A. Scheve welcomed the members to Richmond on behalf of the local conference committee. She also thanked the local committee for all of their hard work, and especially to the local co-chairs Melissa Owens and Katherine Leonard, and the volunteers. A. Scheve also extended thanks to Melissa King, Tracy Souhrada and Karen Jasko. 51 people attended the preconference institute. The conference committee worked very hard to present the conference in a cost-savings manner while maintaining quality. Thanks were also extended to Diane Austin, the "Us Band", and 3 singer-songwriters for provided the conference entertainment. A. Scheve reminded members to bid during the silent auction.	
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CONCLUSIONS	None.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None identified.	n/a	n/a

B. 2010 UPDATE

MELISSA KING

DISCUSSION	The 2010 conference will be held 3/17/10-3/20/10 in Pittsburgh, PA. The local co-hosts will be Bob Miller and Jessie Mull. The conference will most likely be held at the Radisson in Greentree, PA. The 2011 conference will be held during the last weekend in March in Saratoga, NY. Barbara MacLean will serve as a local co-host for that conference.	
CONCLUSIONS	None.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None identified	n/a	n/a

VIII. Finances

ELAINE ABBOTT

DISCUSSION	The treasury is holding steady, thanks to the good planning of previous treasurers. Currently the Vanguard balance is about \$17,000. Currently the checking account balance is approximately \$26,000. Dues and conference proceeds have not yet been processed. Continuing to fund legislative consultants remains our greatest financial challenge.	
CONCLUSIONS	Members are encouraged to contact E. Abbott with any questions about finances.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None identified.	n/a	n/a

IX. Government Relations

CAROL ANN BLANK

DISCUSSION	C. Blank introduced the state task force chairs. She reported that there is a lot of national action and encouraged members to attend the GR session tomorrow for more information about advocating for our profession.	
CONCLUSIONS	None.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None identified.	n/a	n/a

A. NJSTF

KATHY MURPHY

DISCUSSION	K. Murphy reported on the many challenges in advancing the profession in the state of NJ: The Division of Child and Behavioral Health Services currently allows for the provision of MT but only for licensed professionals. The Division of Early Intervention states that music therapy can be included in the IFSP, but MT's are not technically qualified to practice in NJ under current regulations. NJAMT and the NJSTF had a very successful Hill Day in December. Many	
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legislators attended the event, including Senate President Codey who presented the proclamation in person. Thanks to the generosity of MAR, AMTA and CBMT, the NJSTF has been able to employ a legislative consultant. Legislators in NJ agree that music therapy needs to be protected. Assemblyman Prieto will sponsor a bill that licenses the profession of MT in NJ. We will be seeking a two tiered license: Music Therapist and Advanced Practice Music Therapist. The license will be administered by the nursing board because having an independent board would be too costly for us. Also, MT has the same educational structure as nursing and music therapists are able to work in all of the same settings. If it were not for the support of the MAR we would not have been able to accomplish any of this. The NJSTF will host meetings throughout the state to provide members with more information. This license will require some changes in education and training requirements. Sign up to the MAR listserv for more information. All questions should be directed to the NJSTF email address: njtaskforce@yahoo.com. K. Murphy thanked the task force and advisory board members for their continued work.

CONCLUSIONS	None.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
None identified.	n/a	n/a	

B. NYSTF

DONNA POLEN

DISCUSSION D. Polen thanked the task force and advisory council members. The NYSTF continues to monitor changes in the LCAT. Beth McLaughlin and D. Polein attended the state board meeting for mental health practitioners in Dec. The board is beginning to identify the unintended consequences of law. Many consumers have limited access to service because practitioners are being barred from work. Areas of concern: qualifications of supervisor, relationship of supervisor to setting, qualifications of setting (due to corporate practice law), etc. The board needs to take steps to correct these issues. The NYSTF will provide continued encouragement for corrections to occur. The State board is also talking about moving application process to an online procedure. The NYSTF is looking at municipal settings who are exempt from license until 2010 sunset period to extend. Issues are also raised regarding portability of the license in other states. The task force is encouraged that these issues are being discussed, although no decisions have been made yet. Other issues: The NYSTF continues to work on the 9/11 benefit fund, where CAT's were specifically excluded as being pre-approved providers. The NYSTF continues to work on contacting the director of the fund to work on this issue. The NYSTF is facilitating a panel discussion during the conference for five schools in NYS to discuss how they have responded to the LCAT. Members are encouraged to attend.

CONCLUSIONS	None.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
None identified	n/a	n/a	

C. PASTF

VAL USCHOCK

DISCUSSION No report. See website for latest information.

CONCLUSIONS	None.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None identified	n/a	n/a

X. Public Relations

SUSAN HADLEY

DISCUSSION	The MAR website has been redesigned thanks to webmaster Felice Macera. The new website includes an extensive PR section displaying available PR materials and the form for requesting materials. PR materials are free to members. S. Hadley reminded members that the MAR pays for materials on behalf of the members, so members should be conservative when making requests. Glossy reprints have a cap of 50. The PR committee is discussing the idea of having an LCD display at conferences showing the uniqueness of the MAR. This would be more portable and easily updated.	
CONCLUSIONS	None.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None identified	n/a	n/a

XI. Student Affairs

JOKE BRADT AND KRISTEN VOGT

DISCUSSION	J. Bradt has completed her term as student affairs advisor. The students will vote tomorrow to elect a new advisor. The scholarship winners will be announced during closing session. This year, the student service project is geared towards raising money for a foundation that helps bring music to children in war/high trauma zones. Students are also selling car magnets to raise money for the student scholarships. This year, Passages will be held at Nazareth College on 10/24/09. The students again acknowledged the generosity of Immaculata for fully sponsoring last year's Passages conference.	
CONCLUSIONS	None.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None identified	n/a	n/a

Meeting recessed at 6:16pm

Meeting reconvened at 5:12pm on 3/27/09

Readdressed nominations under "Immediate Past-President" report

XII. Assembly

DONNA POLEN

DISCUSSION	During the Assembly meeting at the 2008 AMTA conference in St. Louis, Kathy McKinney was elected as the 4 th alternate to the board of directors. The assembly made clarifications to guidelines for national roster internships	
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and addressed NASM action items. Debbie Bates was elected to a 4-year term on the ethics board. The advanced		
competencies were approved. Members were encouraged to check out the AMTA website for assembly news and		
committee updates.		
CONCLUSIONS	None.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None identified	n/a	n/a

XIII. Academic Program Approval

SUE SHUTTLEWORTH

DISCUSSION	The summer MAR newsletter will include a listing of graduate student research. Two new academic	
	programs have been approved in our region: Master of Science in Music Therapy at SUNY New Paltz and a Master of	
	Science in Creative Arts Therapies at Nazareth College. The new professional competencies have been passed and are	
	available for review on the website. The winter newsletter issue highlighted the changes made in the new document.	
	John Foley asked about the status of the Michigan State University program. E. Abbott stated that it is almost definite	
	that the program will be closed.	
CONCLUSIONS	None.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None identified	n/a	n/a

XIV. Continuing Education

TRACY SOUHRADA

DISCUSSION	The preconference institute was very successful with 44 people registered to attend. 137 people have	
	registered for CMTE's. There is still room available if members are interested in attending one of the four remaining	
	CMTE's. A new policy was passed by the executive board stating that CMTE presenters will receive a pro-rated fee if there	
	are not enough registrants. All members are encouraged to present CMTE sessions.	
CONCLUSIONS	None.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None identified	n/a	n/a

XV. International Relations

FLOSSIE IERARDI

DISCUSSION	The Canadian Musc Therapy confernece will be held from 5/6/09-5/9/09. The world congress will be held	
	in Toronto from 7/5/09-7/10/09. Contact F. Ierardi if you are interested in sharing international perspectives in the	
	newseltter. G. Behrens is the North American liason for the world congress. She stated that the actual location of the	
	next world congress is still under consideration. The final location will be announced in the near future.	

CONCLUSIONS	None.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None identified	n/a	n/a

XVII. Research

ANTHONY MEADOWS

DISCUSSION	Kathy Murphy spoke on behalf of A. Meadows. Seven concurrent sessions focused on research were offered during the conference. These sessions examined the implications of evidenced-based practice in clinical work. The research sessions will conclude with the research poster session held prior to closing session. The research committee is looking for feedback so that they can better plan for future conferences.	
CONCLUSIONS	None.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None identified	n/a	n/a

XVIII. Other Business

DISCUSSION	Michael Viega: Joke Bradt stated that registration forms for the Passages conference are available in the back of the room. Newsletter report: Terri McManus and Lee Morris gave a musical report announcing their retirement, informing members of the cost-savings of the electronic newsletter, how the cost-savings benefit the region, and encouraged all members to volunteer to serve the region. Board of Directors report (Kathy Murphy and Ruthlee Adler): In celebration of 10 years of unification AMTA has developed a Unity pin. There are two levels of sponsorship—champion (\$35) and ambassador (\$100). During the 60 th year anniversary of music therapy there will be a second piece to accompany the pin. All members are encouraged to show their support by purchasing a pin. The MAR is well represented on board of directors (Kathy Murphy, Ruthlee Adler, Bryan Hunter, Donna Polen, Barbara MacLean all serve.). Members are encouraged to contact AMTA to provide information on job gains/losses for use in podcasting. AMTA is working on converting a CMTE on research into online offering. The available date has not yet been determined. The deadline for proposals for the 2009 AMTA conference is 4/10/09. Members were encouraged to watch the E-News for updates regarding the San Diego conference. Carol Shultis: A DVD documentary of Sr. Donna Marie Beck is now available in the archives. A documentary is beginning on the work of Clive Robbins.	
CONCLUSIONS	None.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None identified	n/a	n/a

XIX. Good and Welfare

DISCUSSION	Brian Abrams wished Sue Shuttleworth well in her retirement. The meeting attendees gave a standing ovation recognizing Sue Shuttleworth. Elaine Abbott recognized Lee Morris and Terri McManus for their service as newsletter editors. B. Abrams thanked all members for their trust and patience with him as he worked to serve the region as president. He also thanked the board, especially Kathy Murphy, Kristen Brennan and Barbara MacLean. He expressed confidence in Debbie Benkovitz and asked for applause to lend support during the transitional period. John Foley expressed thanks to B. Abrams for his leadership. The membership gave a standing ovation.		
CONCLUSIONS	None.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
None identified	n/a	n/a	

MOTION TO ADJOURN	John Foley; motion carries
MEETING CLOSED	6:09pm
NEXT MEETING	November, 2009; San Diego, CA at the AMTA National Conference