



American Music Therapy Association Mid-Atlantic Regional Chapter

Delaware • D.C. • Maryland • New Jersey • New York • Pennsylvania • Virginia • West Virginia

NOVEMBER 14, 2009 7:00 AM

AMTA NATIONAL CONFERENCE
SAN DIEGO, CA

| | |
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| MEETING CALLED BY | Deborah Benkovitz, <i>President</i> |
| TYPE OF MEETING | General Membership Meeting |
| FACILITATOR | Deborah Benkovitz, <i>President</i> |
| NOTE TAKER | Gretchen Chardos Benner, <i>Secretary</i> |

Agenda topics

I. Approval of the Agenda

DEBORAH BENKOVITZ

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| DISCUSSION | The agenda for the MAR business meeting was provided to those present at the meeting and A. Snell was added to the agenda for a brief announcement. A. Snell shared gratitude to speak on the agenda with such short notice. She explained that MSU was the first program in 1944. Some employees at the university chose to eliminate the program and dozens of other programs. Letters from AMTA Members have greatly assisted the process. The university is interested to hear proposals as a result of the public attention in order to ensure proper procedures. A. Snell will distribute a call to action to regional presidents and the Music Therapy E-news to show to press. Additionally copy the Chairman of the Trustees to increase pressure. Members are requested to send a letter describing their personal experiences of music therapy. MSU is also one of the few doctoral programs in the country. A. Snell again expressed gratitude for prior support and support in the future. She also requested letters and copies of previously submitted forms. | | |
| CONCLUSIONS | Motion to approve the agenda as amended; Mary Boyle, motion carries. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
| None identified | n/a | n/a | |

II. Approval of Minutes

DEBORAH BENKOVITZ

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| DISCUSSION | Copies of the proposed minutes from the March 2009 Business Meeting held in Richmond, VA were distributed. | | |
| CONCLUSIONS | Motion to approve the minutes as presented—M. Boyle; motion carries. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
| Send the minutes to the website for posting. | G. Benner | ASAP | |

III. President

DEBORAH BENKOVITZ

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| DISCUSSION | D. Benkovitz thanked members in attendance at meetings and the national conference. She expressed gratitude for professional support during her presidency. She individually thanked the following people: Sr. Mariam Pfeifer for hosting annual board meeting at Marywood University in Scranton, PA; and Parliamentarian B. MacLean. She shared experiences from attending Regional President's Meeting a few days ago. Other regions are experiencing similar problems. Thankfully there will be an electronic forum under <i>The Big Tent</i> to allow regional presidents do discuss projects and increase communication. One problem that many regions experienced dealt with the absence of committee members at national | | |
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| | conference. D. Polen was applauded for ensuring that enough Assembly Delegates were in attendance. | |
| CONCLUSIONS | D. Benkovitz praised the efforts of the membership. | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| None identified. | n/a | n/a |

IV. President-Elect

**DEBORAH BENKOVITZ ON BEHALF OF
KRISTEN BRENNAN**

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| DISCUSSION | D. Benkovitz reported that K. Brennan is absent to attend her wedding, today! There are two committees that she will lead and chair as the President-Elect. The Constitution & Bylaws Committee includes B. MacLean, B. Abrams, and D. Benkovitz. Secondly there are many policies within the region that are fragmented. K. Brennan received a team to gather such policies. | |
| CONCLUSIONS | K. Brennan will continue to lead both Constitution & Bylaws Committee and the Policies Committee. | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| None identified | n/a | n/a |

V. Immediate Past President

BRIAN ABRAMS

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| DISCUSSION | B. Abrams explained one of his current projects to receive volunteers from the region. The movement is called <i>MAR Needs You!</i> If anyone is interested or knows somebody that would like to be locally involved then they could be extremely important for the region. It aids volunteers to become directly involved within the MARAMTA. | |
| CONCLUSIONS | Members are encouraged to recruit volunteers for the special project and refer them to B. Abrams. | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| None identified | n/a | n/a |

VI. Membership

GENE BEHRENS

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| DISCUSSION | G. Behrens shared that we are only as strong as our members. She suggested that members write a date on their calendars for a personal timeline to pay their national membership. It has been a busy year with regional and national membership. Currently there are over eight hundred members. MARAMTA is the only region that lost members despite all of the many efforts. Professional and graduate students are down four percent and undergraduate students are down eight percent. AMTA charged for another call-a-thon. The following members spoke with approximately ninety non-members and left messages with main other people: R. Adler; M. Phillips; C. Blank; K. Murphy. This project shared information that non-members were uncomfortable with the high costs for membership. Additionally non-members were concerned with inability to access CMTEs outside of conference. As a result there will be a proposal to CMTE to receive credits for an online podcast. Also another suggestion is to create a Part-time Professional Membership category. Thirdly, G. Behrens will investigate ways to directly connect with students. Two members applied for support through the Membership Support Fund. New members continue to receive packets. G. Behrens reminded internship directors and academic advisors to request packets. Additionally G. Behrens requested heads-up for new members that move into or return to MAR. Approximately 20 new members were recognized during the last MARAMTA Conference. The mentorship program is still in progress. Cards of support are continuing to be sent to members with celebrations or grave concerns in their lives. Another call-a-thon will be organized that will require mature members that to assist. She thanked members for their support as she concluded the conference. | |
| CONCLUSIONS | Contact G. Behrens if you become aware of new professionals or non-members within the region. Continue informing music therapy interns about professional membership packets available to them following the completion of their internship. | |

| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
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| Refer eligible candidates to the MARAMTA website for applying to the Membership Support Fund. | Members | Roughly set for November 15, 2009. |

VII. Conference

2009 LOCAL CHAIR UPDATE

NINA GALERSTEIN

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| DISCUSSION | All members were invited to attend the upcoming regional conference to be held in Pittsburgh, PA. The <i>call for papers</i> deadline is November 30, 2009. There will be a blind review because of the increased amount of submitted proposals! A silent auction will require donations. There will be a research track in addition to a student's track. There is a secretive plan for the closing session. K. Jasko shared a deadline of December 31, 2009 for the <i>Earlybird Deadline</i> to include free conference registration for vendors with booths. This information is available online, in the Exhibit Hall and in person. There is a decrease in registration costs and the room rates are merely \$92.00 per night. N. Galerstein shared gratitude for support! | |
| CONCLUSIONS | None. | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| None identified. | n/a | n/a |

A. 2010 LOCAL CHAIR'S UPDATE

MELISSA KING

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| DISCUSSION | Pre-conference begins March 24, 2009. Hotel amenities include free parking, an indoor pool, free wireless internet and more! | |
| CONCLUSIONS | None. | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| None identified | n/a | n/a |

B. 2011 CONFERENCE UPDATE

MELISSA KING

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| DISCUSSION | B. MacLean will host the conference in Saratoga Springs, NY March 30, 2012 – April 2, 2012. The hotel room rate will be \$119.00. A co-host for the 2013 conference in Maryland is still needed. | |
| CONCLUSIONS | Members were encouraged to send interested candidates for chairing 2013 conference to M. King. | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| None identified | n/a | n/a |

VIII. Finances

ELAINE ABBOTT

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| DISCUSSION | Any assembly delegate and executive board member must complete reimbursement forms. The operating budget is nearly \$35,000 prior to conference reimbursements. The conference account balance is \$3,000. The Vanguard Balance is up to \$27,083.70. The region has secure monetary reserves and stability. New finance Committee: B. Sutton, D. Benkovitz, K. Brennan, and B. Abrams. Additionally J. Sharder shared willingness to participate. E. Abbott thanked members for their support. | |
| CONCLUSIONS | None. | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| None identified. | n/a | n/a |

IX. Government Relations

CAROL ANN BLANK

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| DISCUSSION | C. Blank shared blessed action of a third annual student from the MARAMTS Executive Board. Elaine Vuong and C. Blank plan to present at the 2010 MARAMTA Conference related to advocacy strategies for | |
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| | members. On a national level as soon as there is a call to action then C. Blank will inform members. There are three leading task force chairs. | |
| CONCLUSIONS | Refer regional government relations concerns outside of NJ, NY and PA to contact C. Blank. | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| None identified. | n/a | n/a |

A. NJSTF

KATHY MURPHY

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| DISCUSSION | K. Murphy explained that recent events “slammed the door” on the drafted bill. As a result of the sequence of events the task force is “back to the drawing board.” Additionally there was a new governor elected into office. There will be new people working in Consumer Affairs, an Attorney General and the Department of Education. There may be a two-phased process for the state’s legislative. Additionally one of the oldest music therapy programs in the state received a visit by the Department of Education. The visit deemed that music therapists must be supervised by a music educator. Also, music education was not being provided. In addition the program is no longer able to receive practicum students, only interns. These actions may affect other private schools with music therapy. B. King shared concerns related to IDEA and K. Murphy differentiated the settings of a private school. | |
| CONCLUSIONS | If interested in joining list serve, send e-mail to K. Murphy. | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| None identified. | n/a | n/a |

B. NYSTF

DONNA POLEN

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| DISCUSSION | The NYSTF is comprised of Mary Boyle, Beth McLaughlin, D. Polen, Evelyn Selesky, and Madelaine Ventre. There were several unintended consequences as a result of LCAT. There is a bill in the assembly and the senate that would grant exemptions for those employed by non-profits, and business corporations if registered by the education department. Secondly it would extend the expiration of provisions of law for licensed professionals in municipal settings. Thirdly, it would direct work groups to be formed by members of the professions. The first provision would deal with facilities like nursing homes. With the new law the licensed professionals are in violation of the new law. B. King inquired about the issue of supervision and she was tabled. D. Polen shared that she attended a meeting in October 2009 that dealt with other unintended consequences. Issues included the endorsement (portability) of professionals that move to NY. Also, the issue of supervision (relationship of supervisor to the setting, and approved settings). Additionally they are looking into internship issues. D. Polen shared that the recent decisions have positive feedback since so many professions were effected like social workers and psychologists. There was development related to the exclusion from the law developed after 9/11. Horticulture and music therapy were banned from providing services. After a meeting a letter went to Joanne McLean– Director of 9/11 Fund with various signatures of state and national-based organizations. As of 11/8/09 there was no response from J. McLean’s office related to scheduling a meeting to discuss the letter. D. Polen shared that Randy Mulder is assisting to coral various creative arts professionals to collaborate in their legislative actions. Diana Georgia continues to work for the NYSTF related to conference issues. There was positive feedback from MARAMTA and the AMTA to support funding. Joni Milgram-Luterman inquired about funding. D. Polen explained that the letter of clarification from 2006 is still valid. | |
| CONCLUSIONS | Members are encouraged to remain educated about legislative updates from their state task force. | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| None identified | n/a | n/a |

C. PASTF

**CAROL ANN BLANK ON BEHALF OF VAL
USCHOCK**

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| DISCUSSION | V. Ushock wanted to share gratitude towards task force members – D. Condron, M. Walburg, _____, and _____. The PSTF is interested in a MARAMTS volunteer to serve as a student member with the group. Counselor of the LPC regulations is pondering adjusting them. Contact PSTF via phone or e-mail Pastate.task.force@gmail.com to share developments. V. Uschock and D. Polen recently presented at MAR Passages Conference held at Nazareth College in October 2009. A development from their presentation was a request from the students to receive a fact sheet clarifying and demystifying legislative issues. P. Nolan inquired about the practice act and C. Blank stated that she was unaware of its implications on undergraduate students. K. Murphy suggested that C. Blank receive a copy of the CA | |
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| | legislative passed that was already accomplished. Flo ledar inquired if other creative arts therapists were collaborating in this process. C. Blank explained that art therapists approached the task force. P. Nolen requested clarification about the collaboration with other creative arts therapists. T. Meadows inquired if it dealt with LPC regulations or a licensure development. C. Blank explained that the legislation deals mostly with LPC and that there are no other details to be addressed. | | |
| CONCLUSIONS | None. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
| None identified | n/a | n/a | |

X. Public Relations

MEGHAN HINMAN

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| DISCUSSION | There will be a survey about music therapists going into private practice. Career websites will again be contacted requesting the inclusion of music therapy as a career option. The PR and Employment Committee will present at a future conference about basic tips to presenting in the media and in the elevator. B. King inquired about the AMTA Website development. M. Hinman shared concerns about the lack of technological updates to the website. B. King suggested that members inquire with potential spouses that are skilled with website development. M. Holliday shared that the website deals with the AMTA Board of Directors prior to changing the website. M. Hinman shared excitement from other regions that MARAMTA Members are able to receive complimentary PR brochures, DVDs on loan, fliers, etc. The PR Board is also researching prices for technology equipment. | | |
| CONCLUSIONS | Members interested in serving with public relations should contact M. Hinman and/or B. Abrams. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
| None identified | n/a | n/a | |

XI. Student Affairs

**BRIDGET SKIPPER ON BEHALF OF
NICOLE HAHNA & SUE HADLEY**

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| DISCUSSION | B. Skipper shared that the MARAMTS Executive Board recently changed their leadership positions. Eleven students are in attendance from the region. Current projects include the sibling advocacy project, fundraisers – t-shirts and key chains, and scholarships. Old fundraiser materials are also available in the exhibit hall including notebooks, guitar picks, and bumper sticker magnets. | | |
| CONCLUSIONS | None. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
| None identified | n/a | n/a | |

XII. HISTORIAN

CAROL SHULTIS

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| DISCUSSION | The Clive Robbins DVD should be available in the Archives by 2010. C. Shultis thanked the region for purchasing external hard drives to back-up materials from the archives. K. Myers is the student archivist who is in attendance at national conference. | | |
| CONCLUSIONS | None. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
| None identified | n/a | n/a | |

XIII. Academic Program Approval

EVELYN SELESKY

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| DISCUSSION | APAC reapproved Maryville University, California State University, Charleston Southern University, West Texas A&M University and Drew University. New program approval for Drew University, Sam Houston State University pending accreditation approval. APAC supported revisions for Advanced Competencies from AMTA. Both university affiliated and national roster internships must meet competencies of the Standards of Clinical Training. As a reminder, academic program advisors and internship directors will have a roundtable meeting on Sunday during the national conference. | | |
| CONCLUSIONS | None. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
| None identified | n/a | n/a | |

XIV. Affiliate Relations

NINA GALERSTEIN

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| DISCUSSION | AR Committee is in the process of revising and reorganizing tasks from AMTA. There will be another international survey dealing with activities in other organizations. The most recent survey occurred in 2005. The most important project was surveying hundreds of websites to link into the MARAMTA Website. There was a recent request from the Delaware Valley Art Therapy Association (DVATA) to link websites! P. Nolan inquired about a proposed conference for creative arts professionals to be held in 2011. K. Murphy clarified that the AMTA Board of Directors is still choosing its involvement. | | |
| CONCLUSIONS | None. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
| None identified | n/a | n/a | |

XV. AMTA Board of Directors

RUTHLEE ADLER

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| DISCUSSION | R. Adler shared her personal experiences of pride for the MARAMTA related to activities and included persons. She reminded members that she worked on the AMTA Board of Directors with many other regional members. R. Adler encouraged members to attend board meetings since they are open for attendance by any public members. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday at 9:00am and Sunday morning at 9:00am. Additionally, refer questions or concerns to R. Adler to best represent the regional members. There is an Assembly of Delegates page within the website. The newest additions to the website include the coordination a Board of Directors website to include meeting times and motions. She thanked members for their continued support. | | |
| CONCLUSIONS | None. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
| None identified | n/a | n/a | |

XVI. Association Internship Approval

MATTHEW PHILLIPS

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| DISCUSSION | No report was given. | | |
| CONCLUSIONS | None. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
| None identified. | n/a | n/a | |

XVII. Continuing Education

**BARBARA MACLEAN ON BEHALF OF
TRACY SOUHRADA**

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| DISCUSSION | The CBMT developed a new Scope of Practice to become effective in April 2010. The CBMT is revising the Recertification Manual and researching greater accountability for learning outcomes. By the end of this conference there will be 31 trainings, and 4 institutes. The CBMT website is being updated. Specific to the MARAMTA there needs to be a separate Continuing Education Committee Member to insure attending national conferences. Both positions have large responsibilities. | | |
| CONCLUSIONS | None. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
| None identified | n/a | n/a | |

XVIII. International Relations

FLOSSIE IERARDI

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| DISCUSSION | The WFMT Conference will be held in 2010 in Korea. The European Music Therapy Conference is scheduled for May 5-9, 2010 to be held in Spain. The Canadian Conference will be in May with an extended deadline for proposals. Members were encouraged to present at conferences regarding clinical experiences with clients whose first languages are not English. | | |
| CONCLUSIONS | None. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
| None identified | n/a | n/a | |

XIX. Judicial Review

EVELYN SELESKY

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| DISCUSSION | No information was reported. | | |
| CONCLUSIONS | None. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
| None identified | n/a | n/a | |

XX. Professional Advocacy

KATHY MURPHY

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| DISCUSSION | K. Murphy and Cheryl Stevenson wanted to share that guidance and misrepresentation may be reported to L. Oswanski. There will be a conference assessment to introduce the self-assessment exam related to professional education and development. Soon the professional advocacy information will be revised within the MARAMTA Website. | | |
| CONCLUSIONS | None. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
| None identified | n/a | n/a | |

XXI. Reimbursement

ELAINE ABBOTT

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| DISCUSSION | MARAMTA is searching for an interested member to serve on the Reimbursement Committee. There are courageous members from other regions that are receiving reimbursement through Blue Cross Blue Shield and Etna. Any private practice therapist interested in third party reimbursement should contact MARAMTA. Members may listen to podcast about reimbursement for music therapy services through the AMTA Pro website. Requirements for successful reimbursement differ through various states. Music | | |
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| | therapists share that other professionals that duplicate services is problematic. Goals for 2010 include the development of online reimbursement support, webinars, etc. Also there may be training courses at upcoming conferences to explain reimbursement processes. | |
| CONCLUSIONS | None. | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| None identified | n/a | n/a |

XXII. Research

ANTHONY MEADOWS

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|---------------------|--|-----------------|
| DISCUSSION | He acknowledged committee members G. Behrens, M. Viega, A. Wilhunt, J. ____ B. Abrams recently stepped down and was thanked for his service. There are six sessions to be held during the 2010 MARAMTA Conference with divided tracks for students and professionals. The two emphases will relate to using research and providing a research grant for the amount of \$1,000. B. Abrams reminded members to prove research related to legislative concerns. T. Meadows thanked committee members. | |
| CONCLUSIONS | None. | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| None identified | n/a | n/a |

XXIII. Special Target Populations

SCOTT MCDONALD

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|---------------------|---|-----------------|
| DISCUSSION | This committee was charged with creating networking opportunities for professionals working with various populations. The recent luncheon was a successful event on November 13, 2009. Fact sheets are in the development for distribution on the AMTA Website. Additional populations include eating disorders, substance abuse and the committee is awaiting to receive feedback from professionals serving such populations. The member's section on the AMTA Website has expanded for the Special Target Populations Committee. There are more electronic opportunities that will be released soon. | |
| CONCLUSIONS | None. | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| None identified | n/a | n/a |

XXIV. Standards of Clinical Practice

**DEBORAH BENKOVITZ ON BEHALF OF
JOANNE LOEWY**

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| DISCUSSION | The Chair Annette Whitehead shared that there was an addition of a section related to supervision. Although the section covers a lot of information it is very general to allow peer supervision, and any number of professionals to be involved. | |
| CONCLUSIONS | None. | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| None identified | n/a | n/a |

XXV. Communications and Technology

MATTHEW PHILLIPS

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| DISCUSSION | The Committee is seeking names for other members who have experience and expertise in various technologies. The committee will also include vendors and presenters. Encouragement for presentations related to technologies. The Committee is considering an institute at the 2010 AMTA Conference with practicality and | |
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| | media appropriate. A Yahoo Group will be developed to increase communication amidst technology. The Fall Edition for the MARAMTA Newsletter will be available online in one week. | | |
| CONCLUSIONS | None. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
| None identified | n/a | n/a | |

XXVI. Other Business

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| DISCUSSION | B. Abrams provided brief acknowledgement to D. Benkovitz as acting president of the region. B. King introduced new faculty member from Nazareth College– Lory Keeoy as the third full-time faculty member. She has nineteen years of clinical experience. G. Benner shared two projects related to the AMTAS – <i>Professional Portraits</i> and technology tutorials by students for professionals in the conference’s exhibit hall. | | |
| CONCLUSIONS | None. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
| None identified | n/a | n/a | |

XXVII. Good and Welfare

DEBORAH BENKOVITZ

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| MOTION TO ADJOURN | G. Behrens; motion carries |
| MEETING CLOSED | 9:11am |
| NEXT MEETING | March 2009, Pittsburgh, PA |