

Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Music Therapy Association

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 22, 2008 7:30 AM

AMTA NATIONAL CONFERENCE
ST. LOUIS, MO

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	The agenda for the MAR business meeting was provided to those present at the meeting.		
CONCLUSIONS	Motion to approve the agenda as presented—Mary Boyle; motion carries.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
None identified	n/a	n/a	

II. Approval of Minutes

BRIAN ABRAMS

DISCUSSION	Copies of the minutes from the 3/27/08 business meeting, held in Cherry Hill, NJ, were distributed to the membership at the start of the meeting.		
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	K. Brennan	ASAP	

III. President

BRIAN ABRAMS

DISCUSSION	B. Abrams emphasized the importance of retaining and recruiting members. He requested that each member present begin to think about why they are members and what keeps them coming back each year. B. Abrams referred members to his report in the recent newsletter.		
CONCLUSIONS	B. Abrams praised the efforts of the membership for working towards the advancement of both our region and our profession.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
None identified.	n/a	n/a	

IV. President-Elect

DEBORAH BENKOVITZ

DISCUSSION	D. Benkovitz reported that the Constitution and Bylaws committee is still working on reviewing the document and will present the recommended changes at the spring membership meeting. D. Benkovitz thanked the members of the committee: Eleanor Denis, Carol Thomas, Sue Shuttleworth, Barbara MacLean and Kathy Murphy. The proposed changes will be posted to the website for review prior to the spring meeting. If members have any concerns or proposed changes, they can send them to D. Benkovitz to bring the committee for review. B. Abrams encouraged a dialogue regarding how the constitution and bylaws are important to our membership. K. Murphy stated that the document is important for clarity and operating transparency. It ensures that everyone is treated fairly. It is important for members to be familiar with the document so that they can identify any errors or redirect executive board members to their duties if needed. K. Murphy also clarified policies and procedures, as separate from the constitution and bylaws.		
CONCLUSIONS	None.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
None identified	n/a	n/a	

V. Immediate Past President

KATHY MURPHY

DISCUSSION	K. Murphy is in the process of putting together the nominations committee. She explained the importance of the nominations committee/elections to the membership. The committee is currently comprised of Gary Verhagen, Joanne Loewy, D. Benkovitz, and K. Murphy. M. Boyle clarified that members can also be nominated from the floor during the general membership meeting.		
CONCLUSIONS	Members interested in running for a position should contact a member of the nominations committee. The committee will put forth the best slate possible for the membership's consideration. K. Murphy thanked everyone for their willingness to serve on the committee. She can be contacted via email (found in the newsletter). Job descriptions elected positions can be found in the constitution and bylaws. B. Abrams emphasized the importance of reaching out to new members to serve.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
None identified	n/a	n/a	

VI. Membership

GENE BEHRENS

DISCUSSION	Aside from research, AMTA is putting a strong emphasis on increasing membership numbers. Increased numbers mean that there will be more professionals to get work done and more revenue to fund the work. There is a decrease in membership numbers as compared to last year. The key to increasing membership is to bring in new		
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professionals. The MAR membership numbers are up from last quarter and currently we have a total of 934 members. This also represents an increase from this same time last year. The smallest increase in membership is in the professional category and the largest increase is in the students and graduate students category. All members are encouraged to pay their dues on time so that the region receives the per-member contribution during the first quarter. B. Brunk stated that she was started to hear that the region only receives \$15 per member from AMTA. G. Verhagen clarified that the region actually receives \$13.50 per member due to a processing fee. Lauren Williard asked what the per-member contribution is for student members. G. Behrens will look into this issue. G. Behrens reminded members of the availability of the membership support fund through the MAR, and installment payment plans through AMTA. AMTA is willing to work with members to help them pay their dues. G. Chardos reminded members of services that the MAR is offering to new professionals that other regions are not, such as the "Welcome to the Profession" packet and the new professional mentorship program. G. Behrens stated that overall AMTA membership numbers are down across the country. G. Behrens encouraged all educators and internship directors to remind students to fill out the New Professional form on the website. This form should be emailed directly to G. Behrens, as well as sent to AMTA. The New Professional packet includes valuable discount coupons. G. Behrens stated that she is also working on developing a database to track new professional members. G. Behrens distributed the list for members to sign up if they are willing to mentor new professionals. She explained the details of the mentorship program. AMTA decided that there will be another Call-a-Thon membership drive. Members interested in helping with the membership drive should contact G. Behrens. This drive will also be coordinated with the student membership drive. G. Behrens discussed the new benefits of being a member of AMTA. The membership task force developed membership surveys. The information still needs to be written into a report and the committee will make recommendations. The membership committee was charged by AMTA to increase membership by 200. G. Behrens asked that membership notify her if they become aware of new therapists moving into the region. G. Behrens provided some tips for members who are speaking with non-members. G. Chardos reviewed the scholarships offered for and by students.

CONCLUSIONS	Contact G. Behrens if you become aware of new professionals or non-members. All questions or comments related to membership should be directed to G. Behrens. Contact G. Behrens if you are interested in helping with the call-a-thon.
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ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None identified.	n/a	n/a

VII. Conference

A. 2009 LOCAL CHAIR UPDATE

ANDREA SCHEVE

DISCUSSION	The 2009 regional conference will be held 3/25/09-3/28/09 at the Omni Richmond Hotel in Richmond, VA. The conference local co-hosts are Rachel Reynolds and Melissa Owens. Proposals are being accepted until 12/12/08. Please see the website for A. Scheve's updated contact information.
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CONCLUSIONS	None.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None identified.	n/a	n/a

B. 2010 UPDATE

ANDREA SCHEVE

DISCUSSION	The conference strategic planning committee continues to work on identifying a location for the 2010 conference. The committee is working with HPN to help identify hotels in target cities. Contact A. Scheve if you are interested in being a local co-host. K. Murphy thanked members for filling out the conference survey. Good information was received and hopefully members will see changes as a result of the survey. Members are encouraged to continue to fill out conference surveys. The idea of having a mini-conference in remote places of the region was discussed. A. Scheve informed members that registration materials will be online and members will receive a postcard to alert them when information is up on the website.	
CONCLUSIONS	None.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None identified	n/a	n/a

VIII. Finances

ELAINE ABBOTT

DISCUSSION	The current balance is \$32,485.72. \$10,000 was moved from the checking account to the Vanguard account to cover liabilities for the regional conference. The Vanguard account has around \$16,000 and was not affected by changes in the stock market. Contact E. Abbott for more detailed information about the budget. Reimbursement forms are available for national committee representatives and assembly delegates.	
CONCLUSIONS	None.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None identified.	n/a	n/a

IX. Government Relations

CAROL ANN BLANK

DISCUSSION	National committee business: AMTA is currently doing outreach to President-Elect Obama's transition team to forge early connections. The committee is working towards inclusion in the 2009 re-authorization of IDEA. Ten active state task forces have been added this year, bringing the total to 28. The latest draft of the MDS, which includes music therapy, may be out in 2009. AMTA will be attending Arts Advocacy Day in Washington DC from 3/30-3/31/09. Members should contact C. Blank if they are interested in participating. Advocacy trainings will be offered at upcoming regional conferences. Megan Smith is the MARAMTS government relations representative. C. Blank encouraged participating in grass roots efforts. Members should contact C. Blank to report government relations happenings in their state.	
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CONCLUSIONS	None.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
None identified.	n/a	n/a	

A. NJSTF

KATHY MURPHY

DISCUSSION	K. Murphy reviewed the most recent task force meetings with legislators. She also extended her gratitude to all members, for without dues payments the legislative consultant could never be funded. There is large support for music therapy in NJ. K. Murphy discussed the idea of licensure in NJ, including being under the nursing board and difficulties with including registry designations. This year 12 new jobs were created in NJ. The membership applauded the work of the task force.		
CONCLUSIONS	None.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
None identified.	n/a	n/a	

B. NYSTF

DONNA POLEN

DISCUSSION	The task force in the process of watching and waiting. D. Polen reviewed the issues at hand. The task force examined the exclusion of music therapy from the 9/11 benefit fund due to a lack of evidence-based research. They are currently trying to initiate conversation with key people. The task force continues to monitor issues surrounding the LCAT. Currently, there are problems related to the type of setting in which person is working, qualifications of an LCAT supervisor, where the supervisor works, and the legality of certain agencies to employ certain professions depending on the regulations under which the agency was first set up. Social workers and psychologists are having the same problems. The task force has been in touch with the NYS alliance of LMSWs and will be going to the open state board meeting on 12/11/08. The task force will give a panel presentation in Richmond with educators from five NYS schools regarding their school's response to the LCAT. B. Abrams applauded the efforts of the NYSTF. Motion to commend D. Polen for outstanding quality of services and tireless efforts to promote the welfare of clients and music therapists in the state of NY—M. Boyle; motion carries.		
CONCLUSIONS	None.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
None identified	n/a	n/a	

C. PASTF

BRIAN ABRAMS FOR VAL USCHOCK

DISCUSSION	B. Abrams summarized the effort of the PASTF. The task force is currently working to keep LPC's apprised of how to maintain their licensure. The PASTF is comprised of Val Uschock, Dena Condrón, Betsy Zimmerman, Jerry O'Leary, and Maria Fay.		
CONCLUSIONS	None.		

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

X. Public Relations

MARY CLAIRE HOLLIDAY FOR
SUE HADLEY

DISCUSSION	The Public Relations committee is working to connect with career websites who do not currently list music therapy as a potential career. The committee will send out a follow-up letter if the site does not respond in 30 days. Members are encouraged to reference page 44 of their conference programs regarding information about the JOIN MT program. The committee will be contacting educators to get their opinions on top tips for interviewing techniques and resume writing. K. Murphy suggested that the committee also contact supervisors who are actually hiring music therapists when gathering the tips. Concurrent sessions will be provided at next year's conference on writing job proposals and developing private practice.	
CONCLUSIONS	None.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None identified	n/a	n/a

XI. Student Affairs

JOKE BRADT AND DANA FRISHER

DISCUSSION	Passages was held at Immaculata University this fall. 75 attendees were present with 12 sessions to choose from. The next Passages will be held at Nazareth. Immaculata will be donating food for the next Passages. There are several scholarships available to students: two club scholarships at \$250/each, the Jenny Shinn Memorial Scholarship for music therapy interns, the sophomore scholarship and the junior scholarship. The student fundraiser this year will be car magnets to promote music therapy awareness. The students have begun a sibling school advocacy project to increase activity in inactive schools around the region. D. Frisher reviewed exciting activities from region schools. Motion that the professional members of MAR commend the fine work of MARAMTS—S. Knechtel; motion carries.	
CONCLUSIONS	None.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None identified	n/a	n/a

XII. Assembly

DONNA POLEN

DISCUSSION	The Assembly of Delegates met during this conference. The Education and Training Advisory Board presented the revised definition of advanced levels of practice and standards for master's degree programs. A motion was made to rescind the section on specialized training. The final meeting of the Assembly will be today. D. Polen reminded the	
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membership that meetings are always open to the membership.		
CONCLUSIONS	None.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None identified	n/a	n/a

XIII. Academic Program Approval

SUE SHUTTLEWORTH

DISCUSSION	The committee reviewed current programs up for re-approval and new academic proposals. The committee reinstated the Cleveland Consortium of Schools. Nazareth College and SUNY New Paltz were approved to offer master’s degree programs. The Assembly voted to remove the minor in music therapy. This was communicated to NASM, who will draft language and continue to communicate with the APAC. A subcommittee was formed to discuss distance learning programs. The APAC also met with the Association Internship Approval committee during this conference.	
CONCLUSIONS	None.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None identified	n/a	n/a

XIV. Affiliate Relations

NINA GALERSTEIN

DISCUSSION	See report in the upcoming newsletter. The committee is working with affiliated professions to have links to AMTA posted on their websites.	
CONCLUSIONS	None.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None identified	n/a	n/a

XV. AMTA Board of Directors

RUTHLEE ADLER

DISCUSSION	The MAR is well represented on the Board of Directors. Board meetings are also open to the general membership. All members are urged to run for the Assembly. See report in upcoming newsletter.	
CONCLUSIONS	None.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None identified	n/a	n/a

XVI. Association Internship Approval

THERESA MCMANUS

DISCUSSION	There is a new listserv for national roster internship directors. See newsletter report. Internship directors are	
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reminded to send site evaluations to T. McManus and academic sites.		
CONCLUSIONS	None.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None identified.	n/a	n/a

XVII. Continuing Education

TRACY SOUHRADA

DISCUSSION	See newsletter for full report. All CBMT applications and manuals are being updated.	
CONCLUSIONS	None.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None identified	n/a	n/a

XVIII. International Relations

FLOSSIE IERARDI

DISCUSSION	This conference is offering an exciting umbrella grouping called "Not Born in the USA". The next world congress will be held in Toronto in the summer of 2011. The Canadian association conference will be held in May 2009. The international networking lunch is being held today.	
CONCLUSIONS	None.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None identified	n/a	n/a

XIX. Judicial Review

EVELYN SELESKY

DISCUSSION	No new grievances.	
CONCLUSIONS	None.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None identified	n/a	n/a

XX. Professional Advocacy

LEAH OSWANSKI

DISCUSSION	The MAR is a very active region. Any issues of misrepresentation should be emailed to L. Oswanski.	
CONCLUSIONS	None.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

None identified	n/a	n/a
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XXI. Reimbursement

RICHARD SCALENGHE

DISCUSSION	No representation at this conference.	
CONCLUSIONS	None.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None identified	n/a	n/a

XXII. Research

ANTHONY MEADOWS

DISCUSSION	A proposal has be put before the board of directors to put the abstracts for poster sessions online. It was recommended that the clinical practice research award of \$3,000 be re-offered. There was a discussion as to why research is important to the region.	
CONCLUSIONS	None.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None identified	n/a	n/a

XXIII. Special Target Populations

VJ HYDE

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

XXIV. Standards of Clinical Practice

RUTHLEE ADLER

DISCUSSION	The committee was charged to review the standards as related to substance abuse. The committee is in the process of reviewing the competencies and continuing to look at the language. Nothing has been decided yet.	
CONCLUSIONS	None.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None identified	n/a	n/a

XXV. Communications and Technology

KRISTEN BRENNAN

DISCUSSION	The committee is looking for members willing to be listed as technology specialists. Members would be able to contact these specialists for help using technology in their practice. The committee is also working on making connections with technology vendors. The committee is looking to sponsor a technology CMTE and concurrent session for the 2009 national conference in San Diego. Contact K. Brennan if interested in presenting.		
CONCLUSIONS	None.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
None identified	n/a	n/a	

XXVI. Other Business

BRIAN ABRAMS

DISCUSSION	Motion that the students thank the MAR—Sherrye Dobrin; motion carries.		
CONCLUSIONS	None.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
None identified	n/a	n/a	

XXVII. Good and Welfare

BRIAN ABRAMS

DISCUSSION	Congratulations to Sr. Mariam Pfeifer and Beth McLaughlin for their awards.		
CONCLUSIONS	None.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
None identified	n/a	n/a	

MOTION TO ADJOURN	Kathy Murphy; motion carries		
MEETING CLOSED	9:16am		
NEXT MEETING	March 2009, Omni Hotel, Richmond, VA		