

Candidate 1

Describe how your background and experiences could contribute to being the Vice President of Membership for the MAR-AMTA.

I recently received my master's degree in music therapy from NYU. During graduate school, I started a MAR-AMTA student chapter and served as Vice President. As a current professional member of the American Music Therapy Association, I aim to speak with and learn from music therapists in our region and around the country. One of my great passions is being involved in groups that foster a sense of community. When I moved to New York City three years ago, not knowing anyone, I found that forming relationships with fellow music therapy students and professionals provided crucial support that I needed to pursue my chosen career. If elected as Vice President of Membership, I will embrace the opportunity to connect with, listen, and respond to all members and non-members of the MAR-AMTA.

When my grandmother passed away in 2015, I was inspired to become a hospice volunteer. My desire to continue compassionately connecting with humanity through music led me to pursue a career in music therapy. Working with adults at the end of life, to serving children with terminal illnesses and developmental differences, I have witnessed the value and continuity of music across one's lifespan. I believe music to be indispensable during treatment and care at any age. My wish is to assist MAR-AMTA to be as much of a community organization for music therapists as it is a professional association.

What motivates and interests you about being Vice President of Membership for MAR-AMTA?

I am motivated by my curiosity as to what drives individuals to become members of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Music Therapy Association. In order to make improvements in membership and advocacy, my focus will be on creating open paths of communication and expression. The growth and development of our organization depends on our ability to understand our members, ask questions, listen, and learn from one another. I am inspired to help our organization develop and grow by exploring members' concerns and understanding how and why our association is successful. Helping you stay informed is a priority that we can advocate for united change.

The current Executive Board of MAR-AMTA is invested in a long-term plan to examine and dismantle oppressive structures that create harm for historically marginalized groups within our region. If elected, how will you commit to engaging in this process with humility and awareness of the impact of your sociocultural identities? What do you feel you could contribute towards the goal of creating a more inclusive, equitable, and just environment for all members and non-members of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Music Therapy Association?

My promise as Vice President of Membership, is to embrace humility, authenticity, and curiosity. I am committed to understanding the impact of my sociocultural identities in

order to recognize and change my participation with marginalized groups and systems of inequity. Exploring my personal biases, I will not shy away from uncomfortable or challenging situations in the spirit of examining and dismantling oppressive structures that harm our community. Acknowledging my racially based privilege, my intention is to continue to learn, stay open-minded, and apologize when I make mistakes. I will continually invest in developing my self-awareness through self-reflective experiences and culturally-responsive practice. My sincere desire to truly understand the membership of our organization will contribute to our goal of making improvements in order to create a more inclusive, equitable, and just environment for all music therapists and members of the MAR-AMTA.