

NCMTA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 8, 2020, 10:00 am

Video Conference Special Meeting

Summary of motions made during this meeting:

1. Based on the research from our state treasurer that there is sufficient funding, the board approves up to \$600 to upgrade our website.
2. Minutes from May 16, 2020 meeting were approved.

I. Meeting commenced at 10:00 am

Members present: Jeanine Skinner, Eden Esters Brown, Kent Lyman, Victoria Fischer Faw, Annette Stowe, Allison Gagnon, Nicolas Lira, Diane Higgins Annie Jeng, Dottie Buster, Dylan Savage, Diane Blanchard, Carol Ann Barry Bonnie Walker, Frank Pittman, Jennifer Paschal, Barbara Furr, Margaret Norwood, Mark Tollefsen.

II. Approval of the Minutes from 5/16/20 meeting

Motion/Seconded: Kent Lyman/Diane Higgins

III. Website Proposal- Cathy

Cathy will need to purchase the WordPress templates (\$350/year)

SSL security certificate \$80

Vimeo, a video sharing service yearly subscription- \$60-\$150

Private registration of the NCMTA domain- \$20

Total-\$200-\$600 yearly

Frank- use of Vimeo is the preferred platform. If using for the honors recital, both YouTube and Vimeo will only allow 1 user to upload videos. He will be happy to talk to Cathy about this. Annie said YouTube is more widely used. However, YouTube has pop up websites and advertisements that is not optimal for our purpose. Vimeo is preferred because there are no advertisements and goes directly to the videos. Vicky- we did approve, at last spring's meeting, that the website be updated. Denise sent comments that \$600 is doable according to the budget. Frank- since it has already been approved, then our discussion is about if the \$600 is ok.

MOTION: Based on the research from our state treasurer that there is sufficient funding, the board approves up to \$600 to upgrade our website. Kent Lyman/ Barbara Furr PASSED

IV. Performance Festival-Frank

There seems to be a need to consider a 2021 online festival again. We already used an online format this past year 2020. Frank showed us a picture of the proposed website which has an easier service for the performance Festival. The judge would see 2 screens, the performer on the left and the scrollable music score on the right. Logistics still need to be worked out as to how the students will upload videos. There would be no concern for privacy since Frank owns the server at his private studio. As the administrator on the site, Frank would assign each performer to the different judges. Comment sheets go directly to teachers. Cost would be a couple thousand dollars. There would be a \$5-\$7 fee per student to help with the costs. In the end, NCMTA would be saving money. The fee is \$25 currently. Normally, we have up to 450 students who participate. Frank is not suggesting that we increase the registration fee but that \$5-\$7 of that \$25 would be used to differ upfront costs that he incurs.

Kent-added that there is a possibility that the performance festival will be able to be in person next year.

Frank-wants to be proactive and would rather be ready to do the online now. He doubts that we will be able to have it in person. Universities are in a “wait and see” mode about the winter/spring.

Kent-judged recently for an online competition and there are some very good points to it. Kent asks if Frank is using his personal studio and if it is easily transferrable once he is no longer in his position.

Frank-says it can be transferred.

Eden-asks if it would be easier to separate the NCMTA performance festival platform from Frank’s studio.

Jennifer-It seems less ambiguous to search other options that will be out there as well as consider Frank’s option. We could contract Frank to do this on a year by year basis.

Jeanine- asks if it would be wise to experience what Frank has available, then reevaluate next year.

Diane Blanchard- is concerned about having our huge NCMTA connected to a private studio.

Vicky- likes the idea of taking a step back and taking some time to understand all of the ramifications of this.

Eden- would like a way to have a second person help administrate so that Frank is not the only administrator of the site.

Frank- replies that the district chairs would have access as well. Frank is concerned that we have enough time to implement this.

Kent- Can we vote via email once we gather a bit more information?

Vicky- believes the executive board can vote on anything between meetings via email. It was decided to table this issue to take some time to investigate other options.

Diane Higgins- supports another Video Conference in June to vote on this and it was decided to meeting again June 26, 2020 at 10:00 am via video conference.

Frank- asks others to look for other options because he hasn't found any.

Jennifer-suggests that a task force be formed with the voice performance chair (Margot Hafner), Piano Performance Festival chair (Frank Pittman) and others to investigate other options. [Postscript: it was decided after the meeting to have 3 impartial members on an ad hoc committee to study this proposal and to research comparable online festivals from other vendors. Members are Jennifer Paschal, Margot Hafner, and Amy Work]

Spring Journal- Jennifer will be able to get this distributed within the week. The Conference Bulletin submission deadline is usually in July, but we may discover we don't need one. There will be a fall journal and Jennifer will set that deadline date.

V. 2020 Virtual Conference- Kent

Members of the Conference Committee are Frank Pittman, Mark Tollefsen, Eden Esters Brown, Jeanine Skinner, Kent Lyman and Cathy Pesceovich Kreplin.

They have been working on the call for proposals and conference schedule spanning two Saturdays in October.

The proposed theme is *2020: Looking Forward with Vision, Looking Back with Clarity*
Proposed Virtual Conference Dates: October 17 – 24.

- Sat. Oct. 17 could include the business meeting, section meetings for piano, voice, instrumental, planning senate meeting, college forum and independent music teacher's forum. There could be one master video conference meeting then break out into meeting sections.
- Content would roll out on Oct. 17th with member presentations, performance festival honors students and student composer recitals.
- Oct 24 Performances from competitors in MTNA competition and a QandA follow up session.
- Content would be removed from the site by Wed. October 28.

Kent is working on the Call for Proposals to include presentations that would go well on the online format. Proposed deadline would perhaps be Friday, July 18, 2020. Length would be about 50 minutes with time for QandA. They will need to know what format to upload their proposal in, i.e. YouTube or Vimeo. There are good ideas on video presentations on the MTNA website from our National Conference. Deadline for the video presentation would be perhaps the middle of September. This gives a month's lead time. Presenters could be approved soon after submission by having a rolling acceptance.

Vicky- How many sessions do we need?

Kent- is looking to have 10-12 presentations from the membership and those outside the membership. We will most likely make this available to everyone, not just members. This could be a good marketing tool for us to get new members.

Regarding the section meetings, Jeanine asks to not have the meetings concurrently so anyone who wants to attend multiple meetings may do so. Meetings could be scheduled at other times, not just those two Saturdays.

Annie- asks regarding panel sessions proposals; would it be better to have a panel already in the schedule?

Kent- suggests submitting a proposal with her ideas.

Allison- supports having a real time discussion in a panel and later archived so people can listen to it later. Oct. 24 may be the best placement for this. Could there be a lunch panel meeting at lunch time?

Dottie- Would Independent Music Teachers meeting also be a video conference? It is usually a well-attended meeting at lunch time. She requests an early afternoon time for the meeting.

Allison-Can we schedule the meetings in succession instead of concurrently?

Mark-Meetings could be archived so those who can't attend can hear the meeting.

Is there a way to get emails from those who attend the conference who aren't members?
Cathy could probably see the viewership of those watching the conference and perhaps this could help us recruit new members.

Jeanine- Could the hosts of the meetings/forums submit a form/survey as to when they want to have their meeting? As a reminder, the planning senate meeting is a closed meeting.

Diane Blanchard-When would awards be given like those given out at the banquet?

Kent- Possibly the opening session.

Jeanine- Kent and I are discussing doing a video greeting on our website.

Vicky- suggests having the Board of Directors meeting the week before the conference instead of the night before.

Dylan- What about soliciting scholarship donations that is usually done at the banquet?

Diane Blanchard- MTNA made some changes and found that their donations went up when they asked for online donations.

Jeanine and Tonya- can work on this. There could be a link to donate online.

Further comments- Social awareness is encouraged in the conference theme.

Jeanine- Arts Awareness and Advocacy Forum would be a good area to highlight this.

Kent- Are there alternate words for the theme other than “back” are, “growing with clarity, learning from the past, reflecting, reimagining, and looking back with clarity.

Mark- Online MTNA competition is still being formulated and will work with Kent for inclusion of this event on some level in the virtual conference. They are requiring results to be ready by November. This may mean we need to require our members to submit their entries earlier. Mark will put together a video to announce the winners. Results should be able to remain secret until the winners are announced.

Kent- thanks everyone for their valuable input today.

VI. Announcements:

Our next meeting will be Friday June 26, 2020 at 10:00 am via Zoom.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Ravonda Mormann