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NER General Membership Business Meeting
Kalahari Resorts
Sandusky, Ohio
November 12, 2016

There are 38 people in attendance.

The meeting began at: 8:00 am

1. **Introductions-** Jennifer Sokira asked everyone to introduce themselves and name a song that continues to give them meaning throughout this week.
2. **Agenda Reviewed**
3. **Approval of Minutes from April 29, 2016-** Jennifer Sokira asked for approval of the minutes. It was noted that the minutes were unable to be located on the website by the membership. Dory Stapleton and Jennifer Sokira were certain that they were posted. Dory Stapleton will have them re-posted on the website. As a result, the approval of the minutes was tabled until the next Business Meeting in March 2017.
4. **Financial Update- (sent in by Bekah DiMieri)**

Treasurer's Report-

Bank Account Balances:

Checking: \$13,866.95

Savings: \$25,091.38

PayPal: \$0.00

NERAMTAS checking: \$1046.79

Year-to-Date Expenses/Income:

Expenses:

Tiger Tech: \$41.75

Conference 2016: \$2595.18

Income:

Savings: \$0.76

AMTA Quarter Check: \$411.76

Fundraising: \$679

Conference 2017:

The second deposit of \$2500 was paid to The Viking Hotel on November 1st.

Fundraising:

Remember to keep using AmazonSmile when purchasing items on Amazon. Last quarter, we received a payout of \$5 from AmazonSmile.

Audit:

Judy Engel (board member) and Natalie McClune (AMTA member) have volunteered to participate in an internal audit of 2015-2016 fiscal year documents. This will be completed in December 2016. Thank you.

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5. **Communications (Jennifer Debedout)-** Jennifer reported that the three members of the Communications committee: Kari O'Briant (E-mail Blasts), Jen Debedout (Social Media) and Cassandra Mulcahy (Website). Everyone is encouraged to use these paths of communication to disseminate information.
6. **CT State Task Force- (Jennifer Sokira and Courtney Biddle)-** The law for Title Protection for Music Therapists in CT went into effect on October 10, 2016. If anyone knows of anyone misrepresenting Music Therapy, please speak with a member of the task force.
7. **Membership in AMTA-** NER is currently at 37% for membership and the AMTA goal is to have 50% of Music Therapists join AMTA.
8. **NER Initiatives-** Dory Stapleton reported that the Financial Task Force raised money last year to help fund the Membership Support Program. She reported on the newest fundraiser- collaborating with Barefoot Books. Dory reported that ongoing fundraisers (Donation button and Amazon Smile) are still in place. The Musical Yard Sale will again occur at the Spring Conference. We will also be having a craft table in which NER members can make a craft and donate it to NER. Dory will be looking into restaurants around the Viking Hotel that may be able to help us with a fundraiser. Adrienne Flight spoke on the Membership Support Committee. She explained that the NER, having done fundraisers, is able to assist NER members with their membership dues with a 'pay it forward' theory. The 'pay it forward' plan will allow those who receive support with their dues to serve the region in some capacity. More will follow through the communications team. Applications will be due by Jan. 20, 2017 and decisions will be made by Feb. 15, 2017. Jean Nemeth reported that AMTA is very interested in the sliding scale that the Membership Committee is proposing. Meredith Pizzi encouraged people to spread the word and reach out to others. The Communications team will help spread the word. Annette Whitehead-Pleaux explained that only a small portion of the Music Therapists are 'carrying the load' of all Music Therapists.
9. **NER-AMTAS/SAAB-** Calvin Eng reported on Passages. Passages occurred October 29, 2016. There were 117 people in attendance. Yesterday, NER-AMTAS received \$400.00 from the scholarship from AMTA. Student attendance at this conference is great. They nominated 2 students to the AMTAS national board. Christine Routhier has stepped down from the SAAB position and transitioned with Kayla Daly.
10. **Conference 2017-** Courtney Biddle reported on the 2017 NER Spring Conference. The dates for the conference are March 30, 31 and April 1. It will be at the Hotel Viking in Newport, RI. The theme for the conference will be Empowerment. The Call for Papers was already distributed. The conference committee is looking forward to having many presenters at the conference. There will, again, be a Research poster session. There will, again, be the Musical Yard Sale. There will also be a craft table with donated craft items from the members of NER. More will be published through the communications team. There will, again, be many self-care sessions.

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11. NER Strategic Plan Report 2015-16/Presentation of Report for 2016-17-(Heather Wagner)

Heather reviewed this past year's 3 goals. Membership Engagement: We strove to increase our numbers within the region and involve more Music Therapists in the region. Strengthen Communication: Judy Engel examined platforms for video conferencing so as to allow for more frequent communication among the leaders of the region. In addition to video conferencing, the Board worked toward fostering leadership development by providing leadership training opportunities so as to cultivate cohesion among the Board members. Fiscal Responsibility- Jennifer Sokira appointed a fiscal task force charged to raise \$500 for the region by June 30, 2016. We made great progress on each of these goals.

The 2016-17 goals are:

1. Membership- Increase membership - goal is to increase AMTA membership to approximately 50% of regional MT-BCs; Increase benefits of membership; Launch Member Support Program; Formation of a task force to research financial and non-financial forms of board support for members; Ongoing additions of beneficial information to the website; Increase member engagement; Communicate and disseminate information regarding member activities to regional members; Continued inclusion of regional members in region tasks as appropriate
2. Fiscal responsibility- Maintain income/profit momentum; Establishment of Financial Committee will be explored; Responsible management of conference costs
3. Advocacy/Growth of Profession-Growth and recognition of music therapy in New England and in communities; Collaborate with related professionals and persons/organizations who may be advocates and community partners

12. Assembly and Standing Committee Brief Reports

***Workforce Development and Retention Committee (Courtney Biddle)**

We have identified 3 main tasks for the next 6-12 months:

- We plan to work with the national and local conference committee for St. Louis 2017 National Conference to develop a student track at conference to encourage high school students to come and learn more about music therapy. This will include giving presentations at local high schools prior to conference to raise awareness.
- We will be developing and sending out a 'Why' survey to determine why music therapists decide to leave the profession.
- We are working to identify junior colleges within a 50 mile radius of approved Music Therapy programs in each region and explore whether they are already offering some kind of 'music therapy track' of programming.

***Professional Advocacy (Jennifer Debedout)**

The committee continues to educate membership regarding the evaluation of appropriate and inappropriate representations of music therapy. Efforts include: The Executive Board has charged the committee with initiating a decision tree infographic that can help promote work flow when cases of misrepresentation occur. They are currently being submitted for proper vetting and should be published on

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website soon. We continue to assist and monitor member's responses to advocacy issues. The committee manages and maintains a resource file of responses and have created a new committee google doc to store committee documents. The committee continues to update reports of committee action on the Members Only section of the AMTA website. Several representatives of the PAC will be presenting at regional conferences. The presentation is an updated version of that given at National conference which focuses on how to handle misrepresentation in an articulate and clearly understood manner.

***Reimbursement (Tom Hayden)**

Committee representatives continue to serve as a resource for members and provide presentations and/or networking opportunities at the regional level. Work is ongoing to develop new and update existing member resources including but not limited to: HIPAA guidance, Template Billing Forms, and ICD-10 resources. AMTA worked directly with MTM, Inc., a medical and transportation management company to facilitate enrollment of TX music therapists as "in-network" providers for a state Medicaid Waiver program. There is currently discussion of opportunities for inclusion of music therapy in other state Medicaid waiver programs through MTM, Inc. Comments were submitted to U.S. Department of Defense in support of proposed rules, which listed music therapy as a covered ancillary therapy for mental health and substance abuse disorder treatment under TRICARE basic program benefits. Preparing for national reimbursement survey for distribution in early 2017. We are encouraging everyone to participate so we can accurately track music therapy billing practices and successful payment from third party payers.

***Government Relations (Meredith Pizzi)**

- Congratulations and thanks to the members of the Oklahoma State Task Force. Governor Fallin of Oklahoma signed into law HB 2820 on April 26, 2016. This legislation created a music therapy license under the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision.
- Congratulations and thanks to the members of the Connecticut State Task Force. Governor Malloy of Connecticut signed into law HB 5537 on May 27, 2016, which provides title protection for board certified music therapists.
- In 2016, 16 states hosted Hill Days, 12 states introduced legislation, and 43 states have Task Forces involved in advocacy at various levels. As of November 2016, we are anticipating possible recognition legislation in 10 states in 2017.
- The National Education Association (NEA) recently launched a VIVA Idea Exchange to gather information and provide a unique, private, online platform for collaboration amongst Specialized Instructional Support Personnel (SISP) professions and ultimately influence decision makers about the crucial work of SISP. Approximately 150 AMTA members working in schools received an invitation to participate.
- AMTA submitted comments to the U.S. Office of Management and Budget requesting a "detailed" definition of music therapy be included in the "broad" group of therapies listed in the proposed 2018 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) definitions under the U.S. Department of Labor. We will continue to monitor the revision process as it moves forward.
- Arts Advocacy Day will be held March 20-21, 2017. We encourage members to

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participate in this event that emphasizes to congressional representatives the importance of the arts, creative arts therapies and arts based industries to the economy.

***Clinical Practice Networking Committee (Kelsy Gati)**

- Clinical Practice Networking Committee representatives continue to expand networking and mentoring opportunities by organizing and supporting networking events at regional conferences.
- Yesterday, our committee joined forces with the Standards of Clinical Practice Committee to facilitate a vibrant and constructive Clinical Practice Networking Luncheon. More than 110 professional and student participants attended and engaged in lively dialogues within 12 different practice areas.
- To maximize engagement of attendees in networking at the annual conference, we plan to propose a motion to reformulate the clinical practice networking session to utilize a concurrent session timeslot.
- Please report any networking or mentoring opportunities occurring in the region to your CPN Committee regional representative, so that we can help support and keep track of such events.

***Affiliate Relations (Joy Allen)**

- When people present to non-MTs, please include practical ways others can use music with their populations that are helpful and maintain professional boundaries/remains within their scopes of practice. It helps build collaborative relationships.
- Sent a list to our council coordinator of associations/non-profits with whom we would like to cultivate relationships. Please let your regional rep know if there are organizations you would like to recommend.
- Sent a Google form to our Council Coordinator for approval by the board to collect data about dually certifications and presentations at non-MT conferences.
- Working on identifying people to update the AMTA population specific fact sheets (on the AMTA website). The goal is to have a diverse group of 3-4 music therapists for each population (mix of researchers, clinicians, theoretical orientations, geographical locations).

***Continuing Education (Julie Andring)**

40 CMTEs offered at the conference this week, including 14 Intensive Pre Conference Sessions and 9 FREE CMTEs. Electronic Course Evaluations will be opened until midnight Monday night. The evaluation must be completed to get the attendance certificate(s) for the CMTE(s) you attended. Laurie is sending emails to all participants, you can follow the link to complete the evaluation if you have not done so already.

***Judicial Review (Julie Andring)**

We will work with the Ethics Board to come to mutual understanding of responsibilities of each Board. We will work on developing the process of conducting a Judicial review. We will review necessary changes to the By-laws and present them at the 2017 conference.

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***Research Committee (Xeuli Tan)**- no report available

***Diversity and Multicultural (Ruth Kahn)**- no report available

***APAC- Academic Program Approval Committee (Becky Zarate)**

Programs approved since last conference:

Concordia University (Nebraska) - Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy

Florida Gulf Coast University - Bachelor of Music Therapy

Wartburg College - Master of Arts in Music Therapy

West Virginia University - Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy

Programs re-approved since last conference:

Arizona State University - Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy and the Master of Music in Music Therapy

East Carolina University - Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy and Equivalency in Music Therapy program

Other tasks:

Submitted motions to the Assembly to clarify the education requirements for full-time undergraduate and graduate faculty members and to address confidentiality of supervision. Currently revising applications for approval of graduate and distance programs, looking toward the possibility of online submissions in the near future. Currently revising policies and procedures to better meet the needs of the organization. Responding to various inquiries regarding Music Therapy Education and Clinical Training.

***AIAC- (Eve Montague)**

NER currently has 5 National Roster Internship sites. National Conference free CMTE "Supervising the MT Intern" had 52 participants. Is there an interest in presenting this

for

NER conference? Please remember that the regional representative is here to help prospective applicants navigate the national roster internship application process. As reminder to all National Roster Internship Directors that the acceptance letter you

send to

the university, needs to include:

the applicant has accepted the internship

when it will begin

target date for formulating the internship agreement

status of the legal affiliation agreement

all other site specific requirements as applicable.

A copy of this letter shall be sent to the regional representative of the Association

Internship

Approval Committee (AIAC).

***Technology Committee- (Cassandra Mulcahy)- Emily Bevelaqua covered the meeting at this conference.**

Committee presented 3 concurrent sessions at this conference: Budget Friendly Technology Tools, Technology to Simplify Your Life, and The Good Stuff: Technology in Clinical Practice.

The committee discussed the current state of the TechStop, it's benefit to the membership

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and the importance of the committee task. With that, the committee refocused the upload schedule and content, and discussed the importance of our social media presence to reach the membership. Such changes will be in effect following this year's conference. We continued our discussion regarding collaboration with the Ethics committee on matters such as social media presence and HIPPA compliant technology. We will be reaching out to them to discuss the possibility of presenting a pilot concurrent session at one or more of the regional conferences. We will continue to reach out to tech savvy members and presenters to add to our specialist list. We plan to set another online meeting in the spring of 2017 to discuss our presence at next year's.

***Standards of Clinical Practice- (Adrienne Flight)**

Continue to work on our on-going task of maintaining and revising the Standards to reflect current music therapy practice. Worked on examining the document to identify areas that need additional attention – we always welcome feedback from music therapists regarding any changes they feel are needed in the document, or any concerns they have about the document. The committee is in the process of examining supporting documents from both AMTA and CMBT to inform revisions of the Standards document.

***International Relations (Meg Capen) Elizabeth Ferguson- sat in on this meeting**

Goals:

1. To insure the growth and development of AMTA by determining ways to increase membership.
2. To promote the value of all categories of AMTA membership.
3. To evaluate the needs of AMTA members.

Tasks:

1. To conduct annual membership drives at the national and regional levels (min. of two/year).
2. To encourage and coordinate membership drives with AMTAS.
3. To promote the value of membership in publications, inside and outside of the profession.
4. To update reports of committee action on the Members Only Section of the AMTA website.

***Membership Committee (Elizabeth Ferguson)**

2016 STATS-Highest Number of Total Members EVER | 4,095 Members (of those, 2,268 are professional members - highest since year-end 2011); Number of MT-BC's exceed 7,000 (32% of MT-BCs are professional members); (NOTE: Many professional music therapists can be in the graduate student category. Graduate student membership has increased over 400% since 1998)

2017 Planning Calling Drives-We need YOU! Please be available to volunteer if you are able. This is our first meeting, we will be planning drives during Saturday's committee meeting.

Other Information- #AMTA23Days of Thx; #WeAreAMTA; Enter the AMTA 2016 Conference app contest for a chance to win FREE conference registration for National Conference 2017. Upload a photo to the public photo album, taken somewhere at this conference that represents why you love being a member of AMTA. Tag it with #WeAreAMTA. Two submissions will be randomly selected; Find member benefits at musictherapy.org Click about Music Therapy > Membership in AMTA > Benefits of Membership; and explore

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the brand new membership section, recently added to the AMTA site!

***Assembly Report (Jennifer Sokira)**

The Assembly heard reports from the AMTA National Office staff, Executive Director, Government Relations and Treasurer. Also were updated by the Master's Level Entry Group. Approved two new Ethics Board members (Debbie Dackus and Kevin Hahn) and re-appointed Jennifer Sokira to another 4 year term. Approved some language changes to the Standards for Education and Clinical Training. The assembly also approved a task force to review it's role in association policy making.

13. Nominating Committee- NER 2017 (Heather Wagner)

Elections will take place for 2017. The positions that will be voted on are: President Elect, Vice President Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, 4 Assembly Delegates. Please let Heather Wagner know if you are interested in running for one of these positions.

14. Vice-President of AMTA-Jennifer recognized Jean Nemeth as Vice President of AMTA and thanked her for her work on this national conference. Jennifer Sokira recognized Eve Montague, Julie Andring and Emily Bevelaqua (who chair/co-chair a National Committee) and Annette Whitehead-Pleaux as Council Coordinator.

15. Good and Welfare- Jona Jeffcoat will be hosting a potluck event in Southington on Sunday, Dec. 11 from 4:30-7:00. Look for more information to be posted on the website. Jennifer Sokira asked Jona to please send it to the communications team for distribution. Calvin Eng asked everyone to visit and "like" the NER-AMTAS page on Facebook. Jenn Debedout reminded everyone that a job posting happens on the 15th of ever month within the NER.

16. Adjournment- Jennifer Sokira asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Adjourned 9:15. Heather Wagner made the motion and Eve Montague seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 am.

**Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Stapleton, MT-BC
Secretary, NER-AMTA**