

Business Meeting  
April 29, 2016  
Seacrest Hotel North Falmouth, Mass.

1. Welcome/Seating- Jennifer began the meeting at 12:20.  
Jennifer Sokira, NER President, welcomed everyone.
2. Introductions of Executive Board Members and Committee Members-  
Jennifer introduced the Executive Board and Committee Members.
3. Approval of Minutes- Jennifer asked everyone to browse the minutes from the Business Meeting held on November 14, 2015 located on the website. Jennifer asked for approval. Lisa Kynvi made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Mary Carla Macdonald seconded the motion. Motion carried.
4. Remarks and Updates
  - NER Strategic plan-Jennifer reported that the NER has a Strategic Plan. Judy Engel, Jennifer Sokira, Eve Montague and Heather Wagner met with Bill Hogan. Bill Hogan worked with the sub-committee from NER to determine a set of goals for the New England Region. The goals are centered in three particular areas: Member Engagement, Communication and Fiscal Responsibility. Systems to address these goals are now in place. Membership Engagement: We really need to increase our numbers within the region and involve more Music Therapists in the region. Strengthen communication: Judy has been examining 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 is working toward fostering leadership development by providing leadership training opportunities so as to cultivate cohesion among the Board members. Fiscal Responsibility- Last year, Judy distributed a conference survey addressing registration prices. Jennifer appointed a fiscal task force charged to raise \$500 for

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the region. Dorothy Stapleton is the chair of the Financial Task Force.

- NER Financial Update- Bekah DeMieri reported on the fiscal finances. As of April 30, 2016:

**Bank Account Balances:**

Checking: \$45,681.38  
Savings: \$10,090.11  
PayPal: \$0  
NERAMTAS checking: \$696.68

**Year-to-Date Expenses/Income:**

**Expenses:** Tiger Tech: \$79.50

Conference: \$2069.18

Assembly Delegate: \$205

Sunshine Fund: \$62.99

AMTA Insurance/Tax Prep: \$513.91

Treasurer's Supplies: \$7.35

State Task Force: \$124.09 (ME state task force)

**Income:** Savings: \$2.66

AMTA Quarter Check: \$3072.39

Fundraising: \$774.79

Conference Income: \$30,836.89

- NER Communications- Jennifer explained that the communications committee includes: Cassandra Mulcahy, Jennifer Debedout and Kari O'Bryant and our communications are through Facebook, e-mail blasts, mail chimp, newsletter, the website and twitter.
- Connecticut State Task Force-Emily Bevelaqua reported that a bill was recently raised for Music/Art in Connecticut. It passed through some difficult hurdles. Connecticut is currently facing some major budget cuts. As a result, licensure probably won't happen until 2017. However, statutory recognition will likely happen in 2016.

## FINAL

- NER- AMTA Membership- Jennifer reported that only 32% of Music Therapists are members of AMTA; NER is at 37%. Elizabeth Ferguson is our Membership Committee Representative.
  - NER Leadership Opportunities- Jennifer reported that there are many committee openings. Please see Jennifer if you would like to fill a position on a committee.
  - NER Initiatives: Membership Support Task Force, NER Financial Task Force. Meredith Pizzi spoke about the Membership Support Task Force. The group will meet to create procedures around the Membership Support Program. There will be more information coming on this. Dorothy spoke about the NER Financial Task Force. The Task Force has been charged with raising \$500 to support the Membership Support Program. There are many fundraisers happening currently at this conference. Our goal is to reach \$500 by June 30, 2016. If anyone has any suggestions for fundraisers to help reach that goal, please see Dorothy.
  - NER-AMTAS/SAAB Report- Christine Routhier and Phil Didlake, President of NER-AMTAS. Phil reported that the students met 10 times this year. Activities and projects have included: Improved internal communication; Passages; Cayman Trip (“a summer camp without borders”); Amy Furman skyped in to Passages to talk about the importance of membership. The students presented 150 signatures to advocate for Music Therapy in South Carolina. This student board has gone above and beyond and should be commended for the work they have done in such a professional manner.
  - RAFFLE PRIZES.....Courtney Biddle and Meg Capen drew names for raffle prizes.
5. AMTA Presidential Address- AMTA Vice President, Jean Nemeth, spoke for AMTA President Jennifer Geiger. Jean reported: “The Mission of AMTA is to advance public awareness of the benefits of music therapy and increase access to quality music therapy services in a rapidly changing world.” The work includes: Research, Advocacy, Education and the

## FINAL

Preservation of our Archives. Challenges to the profession have included: growth of the profession and a variety of clientele; Outside of the profession, challenges have included: advocating and educating; Navigating the challenges are the Board of Directors, Assembly of Delegates, Appointed positions to the Board, Council Coordinators (Council on Assoc. Services; Council on Education & Clinical Training; Council on Professional Practices). Additional Boards include: Education and Training, Ethics, Judicial, Student Affairs Advisory Board, Work Groups, National Office Staff and Consultants. Music Therapy is featured this month in the NCCH-Clinical Digest- "Autism Spectrum Disorder and Complementary Health Approaches"; Other areas of work include: AMTA Protecting and Safeguarding, AMTA and the Military, Membership Resources, CMTEs via E-Courses at [www.musictherapy.org](http://www.musictherapy.org) and the AMTA/CBMT State Recognition Operational Plan. States with Legislation in 2016: 44 active state forces; (NER: Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Massachusetts). Other work areas include: Music Therapy Research MTR 2025 Symposium and the Masters Level Entry Subcommittee. Jean announced the AMTA National Conference in Nov. 10-13, 2016 at the Kalahari Resort in Sandusky , Ohio.

Meg and Courtney drew for more raffle prizes.

6. NER and NER-AMTAS Awards Ceremony-Christine Routhier asked each of the academic site representatives to present their awards to their students:
  - Berklee College of Music- Suzanne Hanser
    - Graduating Student Award -Philip Didlake
    - Continuing Student Award-Calvin Eng
  - Anna Maria College- Lisa Summer
    - Two continuing Student Awards: (no graduating students this year)
      - Amanda Nadeau
      - Bryanna Tobin
  - Lesley University- Becky Zarate
    - Graduating Student Award -Ian Kovac
    - Continuing Student Award-Hannah Shefsky

## FINAL

The three Conference Scholarship winners were announced: Natalie McClune, Lisa Rue and Rachel Choi. Jennifer presented the Presidential Achievement Award:(skyping in) to Brian Harris, Neurologic Music Therapist, founder of Med Rhythms and Lesley Grad Student. The Presidential Service Award was presented to Connecticut Representative Matthew Ritter for his work in advising the CT State Task Force to introduce licensure legislation. Jennifer also presented a Presidential Service Award to: Renee Toper, Abigail Toper and Brooke Gustafson- supporters of the Music Therapy State licensure bill in Connecticut. They recently spoke at the Legislative Office Building in Connecticut in support of the bill for licensure.

7. NER Conference Report-Meg and Courtney reported that there are 225 attendees (93 of them are students) and many guests; the hotel has been great to work with; everyone is encouraged to help and take part in the conference; thank you to Nancy Perkins, our NER Site Maven; comments and feedback are welcome; thank you to Lesley University for providing the conference bags; Jennifer personally thanked: Courtney, Meg and Cassandra for a wonderful job in putting the conference together.
8. Good and Welfare/Adjournment-
  - There are MMTA Tote Bags for sale at the MMTA table
  - Janet Fall challenged everyone at the luncheon to contribute \$1.00 to the fundraising campaign to raise the remaining \$150.00 for the Membership Support Program. (A collection was subsequently taken and raised approx. \$124.00) Thank you, Janet, for your challenge!!!!
  - Flute Circle practice later this evening
  - Job Openings- Please check the website for updated job openings
  - Christine Routhier- June 5th - Refueling Your Creativity – Christine Routhier and Marin Strauss (Expressive Therapist) are facilitating a self care workshop integrating music and the creative arts. Participants will receive 5 LMHC credit hours which can be used as CEU's for your MT-BC.
  - Jennifer Sokira and Heather Wagner will be giving an Ethics presentation at this conference
  - NER/AMTAS Raffle- Please stop by the NERAMTAS table at this conference

FINAL

Heather Wagner moved that the meeting adjourn. Judy seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Meg and Courtney drew tickets for more raffle prizes.

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