

**NER General Membership Meeting
Hotel Viking
Newport, Rhode Island
March 31, 2017**

President Jennifer Sokira called the meeting to order at 12:07 pm.

1. Welcome and Introductions- Jennifer introduced the current sitting Executive Board, Committee Representatives and the NER-AMTAS Board.
2. Approval of Minutes- There were copies of the November 12, 2016 General Membership Meeting minutes distributed on the tables. Jennifer asked everyone to review them. She asked for a motion to accept the minutes. This was completed. Jennifer Debedout made the motion. Eve Montague seconded the motion. The motion carries.
3. NER Strategic Plan- Jennifer Sokira reviewed this year's Strategic Plan.
 1. **Membership:** a. Increase NER-AMTA membership to approximately 50% of the regional MT-BC's by supporting ongoing National Membership committee efforts and via the establishment of the NER Membership Support Program; b. Increase the benefits of membership- the NER will launch the Member Support Program; and the board will continue to disseminate beneficial information for members via all communication channels; and c. Increase member engagement- the NER will communicate and disseminate information regarding member activities to regional embers and the NER will continue to include regional members in regional tasks as appropriate.
 2. **Fiscal Responsibility:** a. The Board will continue to work to maintain the current income/profit momentum; b. The Board will explore the establishment of a permanent Regional Financial Committee; c. The Board will continue to responsibly manage conference costs.
 3. **Advocacy/Growth of Profession:** a. We will actively encourage growth and recognition of Music Therapy in New England and in communities via state task forces and other opportunities that arise; b. We will collaborate with related professional and persons/organizations who may be advocates and community
4. Financial Update- Bekah Demieri
The New England Region is financially sound and doing well.
Bank Account Balances
 Checking: \$51,920.49
 Savings: \$10,093.24
5. Communications Team- Jennifer Sokira introduced the Communications Team: Jennifer Debedout, Cassandra Mulcahy, Kari O'Briant. Jennifer explained each of their roles on the team.

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6. Government Relations in NER- Jennifer Sokira announced that Connecticut Music Therapists are in the process of licensure after receiving Title Protection last year. She encouraged everyone to monitor the Government Relations' news through the AMTA website and news that Judy Simpson shares.

7. NER Initiatives-
 - Financial Task Force- Dorothy (Dory) Stapleton
Currently, 100% of our fundraising efforts are put towards the NER Membership Support Program. At last year's regional conference, through the Sand Tray experience, the Yard Sale and the donations given at the luncheon, the money raised totaled: \$651.20. In the past year, since the last conference, through Barefoot Books online fundraiser, hosted by Marissa Scott, we have earned: \$31.69; Amazon Smile has earned: \$6.77; and a fundraiser at RiRa's Irish Pub and Restaurant in New Hampshire brought in \$679.00. This event was organized by Marissa Scott as well. Thank you, Marissa, for all you have done this year. The total money raised in this fiscal year has totaled \$717.46!!! Thank you to everyone who has passed along new fundraising ideas. If you have any new ideas, please contact Dory. Thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraising efforts. At this conference, in addition to the Music Yard Sale, we look forward to debuting the Craft Table tomorrow just before the closing session. Look for it and the Music Yard Sale tables in the vendor's area tomorrow. Thank you, again, for your continued support. Your support allows NER members to help other NER members.
 - Membership Support Task Force- (Adrienne Flight)
The Membership Support Program allows NER to help support membership to AMTA; This year NER awarded 25 awards totaling just over \$4,000.00 in awards. The assistance given is 20-80% of each membership fee. The task force is looking for more members. Let Adrienne know if you didn't receive notices about the program.

8. NER-AMTAS/SAAB Report- Calvin Eng and Kayla Daly
Calvin thanked NER and the faculty from Berklee College, Ana Maria and Lesley University. This past Passages conference had 117 participants; Calvin thanked everyone for their support. 17 students attended national conference in Ohio. NER-AMTAS was awarded \$400 from AMTA in November. NER-AMTAS awarded many scholarship to many students.

9. By-Laws- Judy Engel
Judy presented the information explaining that the proposed changes were distributed to the membership digitally recently.
Motion: To adopt the newly merged Bylaws as the governing document of NER with all of the changes and rationales listed.
Rationale: This merge will allow us to align our governing document with that of AMTA and other regions. In addition, it allows for general language to be used which will be more inclusive and forward thinking, to delineate elected officers versus appointed officers and to clarify their role, as well as update and include additional positions to the current leadership that are not listed in NER's current documents. This merged document will be called the New England Region-American Music Therapy Association By-Laws, effective March 31, 2017.

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Discussion was requested; there was no discussion. Judy asked for a motion and second to accept the changes. The motion carries.

Thank you to Christine Routhier and Linda Bosse for their assistance in creating the document. Jennifer thanked Judy, Linda and Christine.

10. Election of Officers- Heather Wagner, Past President

Heather presented the unopposed slate of nominees.

President-Elect: Adrienne Flight

Vice President-Elect- Channing Shippen

Treasurer- Rebekah DeMieri

Secretary- Kari O'Briant

Assembly Delegates- We need to fill 4 positions. There are six nominees: Joy Allen, Julie Andring, Emily Bevelaqua, Eve Montague, Meredith Pizzi, Heather Wagner

Those not elected into the vacant positions will be alternate assembly delegates.

The ballots will be counted and the results will be presented later in this meeting. On the ballots, there is a place to mark whether the voter approves the slate as presented or not.

11. AMTA State of the Association Address- 2017- Jennifer Geiger, President of AMTA

Jennifer had an opportunity to visit the archives and found a picture from NER. She displayed it for the group. Jennifer spoke about the State of the Association. She shared the Mission of AMTA:

Mission- The mission of the American Music Therapy Association is to advance public awareness of the benefits of music therapy and increase access to quality music therapy services in a rapidly changing world.

Jennifer Geiger reviewed the following areas:

-Foundations of AMTA

-Nov. 2017 Slate of nominees- President Elect- Deborah Benkovitz Williams and Jean Nemeth
Vice President- Elect- Edward P. Kahler and Wendy Woosley

-Financial- Fiscal year is July 1- June 30

-FY 2017- \$1.8 Million

-AMTA is a 501(c) 3 organization

-Growth: Membership

Membership year: Jan 1- Dec. 31

Professional Membership Dues- 1998: \$170 and in 2017- \$250

Education and Training- 80 Academic programs, 164 National Roster

E- Course Library

Publications- more coming soon

Research

Advocacy thru 2016

2017 Legislative Efforts

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- National Advocacy
 - Collaboration- AMTA has 'A Seat at the Table'
 - Military
 - Moving Forward: NIH Workshop: "Music and the Brain: Research Across the Lifespan"
 - Work Continues: MLE
 - Cultural Competence- "Courageous Conversation Panel" at the 2016 Annual Conference
 - Sustainability Planning
 - AMTA National Conference- St. Louis- "A Mindful Approach to Music Therapy"- Nov. 16-19, 2018 at the Union Station
 - Connecting- Keeping connected with AMTA: www.musictherapy.org
 - "What does AMTA do for me?": "It advocates for each Music Therapist!"
12. NER-AMTA- 2016 Awards Ceremony-
Kayla Daly- SAAB- Introduced the NER-AMTAS Board
Lesley University- Becky Zarate- Graduating Student Award- Cinamon Blair
Continuing Student Award- Eva Steward
Anna Maria- Lisa Summer- Continuing Student Award- Laura Cabral
Continuing Student Award- Mary Reinsch
Berklee College- Joy Allen-Graduating Student Award- Calvin Eng
Continuing Student Award- Meera Sinha
This year's NER Conference Scholarships were awarded to:
Patrick Lambdin, Emily Boyce, Marsha Johnson Weiss
13. Service Awards- Jennifer Sokira
Presidential Service Award- Dorothy Stapleton
Presidential Service Award- Annette Whitehead-Pleaux
14. Announcement of Election Results-
The submitted slate of nominees was approved:
President-Elect: Adrienne Flight
Vice President-Elect: Channing Shippen
Treasurer- Bekah Demieri
Secretary- Kari O'Briant
This slate of nominees will join President Judy Engel and Vice President Courtney Biddle.
Assembly of Delegates- Judy Engel
Heather Wagner
Eve Montague
Joy Allen
Meredith Pizzi
Alternate Assembly Delegates- Emily Bevelaqua
Julie Andring
15. Conference Report and Updates- Meg Capen and Courtney Biddle

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Meg recognized the Conference Committee: Nancy Perkins, Courtney Biddle, Bekah Demieri, Cassandra Mulcahy, Dory Stapleton, Julie Andring and Elizabeth Ferguson. Meg asked the membership to feel free to give feedback regarding the conference and encouraged everyone to fill out conference evaluations; Meg announced that there were 207 people registered for conference; Please consider submitting for national conference. Deadline for submission is April 10, 2018.

Courtney announced that the 2018 NER Regional Conference will be in Westbrook, CT: April 19-21, 2018 at the Water's Edge.

Courtney announced that there are a number of items left from last year in Lost and Found. Please see Courtney about them. Courtney reminded everyone to complete the conference evaluations and submit them at the registration table tomorrow morning. She reminded everyone about the cabaret. She also reminded everyone about the Hotel Viking WiFi codes and the NER Conference Guidebook.

16. Old Business- Jennifer Sokira asked for any old business. There was none.

17. New Business- Jennifer Sokira asked for any new business. There was none.

18. Good and Welfare Announcements-

*Meredith Pizzi thanked everyone for attending the Leadership Academy

*Marissa Scott announced an available position at The Sonatina Center

*Becky Zarate shared that Shara Katz is debuting her film April 27

*Kayla Daly announced a part time Music Therapy position in Shrewsbury, Ma.; Wooster Center- looking for a professional.

*Nicole Craven announced an open Music Therapy position on the South Shore of Mass. with weekend hours now.

*Janna Freulich announced that she leads a Song and Drum circle currently happening;

*The NER-AMTAS President requested that everyone please like the NER-AMTAS page on FB. Also: 6:15pm NER-AMTAS meeting tonight with pizza.

*Jennifer Sokira announced a thank you to Christine Routhier for her SAAB years of service; and welcome to Kayla Daly.

*Sally Harrison- flute choir tonight.

*Kathy McCann- Roman Music Therapy Services announced positions open.

19. Adjournment-

Jennifer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jean Nemeth and Annette Whitehead-Pleaux seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm.

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

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