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General Membership Meeting April 20, 2018 Water's Edge Resort and Spa

President Judy Engel called the business meeting to order at 12:07pm.

Judy welcomed everyone to spring conference. Thanks to AMTA President Weldon-Stephens for joining us. This is her fourth conference in 14 days. Thank you to Tom Sweitzer and colleagues for sharing their work. Thanks to Courtney and Channing, our conference chairs. Thanks to conference team, Cassandra, Meg... for making this happen for all of us. Had extended Board members stand to be recognized.

We have openings on the extended Board and would love to have you join us. At the end of our meeting we will take a few moments to honor music therapists who have died this year- invited members to come up and recognize individuals when the slide comes up.

1. Welcome and Introductions

President Judy Engel welcomed everyone to NER's spring conference and thanked AMTA President Amber Weldon-Stephens for joining us at her fourth conference in 14 days. She recognized and thanked Tom Sweitzer and colleagues for sharing their work, and Courtney and Channing, our conference chairs, and the conference team. Judy asked the extended Board members stand and be recognized.

Judy stated the openings on the extended Board and invited members to join the Board. She mentioned that there will be time at the end of the meeting to honor music therapists who have died this year, and invited members to come up and recognize individuals when that slide comes up on the agenda PowerPoint.

2. Approval of Minutes

Judy Engel entertained a motion to approve the General Membership meeting minutes from AMTA National Conference on November 18, 2017. A motion was made by Jennifer (Jen) Sokira to approve the minutes; Eve Montague seconded. No discussion. The minutes were approved as written and submitted.

3. Financial Update

Rebecca (Bekah) DeMieri reporting:

Bank Account Balances:

Checking: \$52,632.64

Savings: \$20,099.44

PayPal: \$0

NERAMTAS Checking: \$1002.35

Year-to-Date Expenses/Income:

Expenses:

Assembly Delegates: \$125

Tiger Tech: \$89.50

Conference 2018: \$525

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AMTA Insurance/Tax Prep: \$617.23
Conference: \$630
Membership Support: \$2135
Treasurer's Supplies: \$6.70
Sunshine Fund: \$44.87

Income:

Savings: \$5.30
AMTA Quarter Check: \$2678.63
Fundraising: \$122.40
Conference: \$25,599.67

Conference 2018:

Deposits paid total \$2500. We are waiting on final breakdown of expenses.

Budget Discussion:

Expense Line Items to Add

Fundraising: \$250
Grant: \$0
Board Support: task force created to determine policy
Digital Storage: determine pricing for year

Income Line Items to Add

External Grant: \$0

Judy recognized student treasurer Mary Reinsch for her work for NERAMTAS.

4. Strategic Plan

The current Strategic Plan was reviewed:

Membership

1. The NER will continue to address improve engagement with members and the music therapy community by:
 - a. Increasing member involvement in NER activities.
 - b. Increasing networking opportunities.
2. The NER will continue to actively increase membership on both the professional and student levels.
3. The NER will strengthen its member support programs, including conference scholarships, dues assistance, and educational opportunities. a. The NER will explore research and grant funding programs.

Financial

1. The NER will continue to be financially solvent.
 - a. The NER will continue fundraising efforts.
2. The NER will continue to hold financially responsible regional conferences.

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Professional Issues

1. The NER will support state task force efforts in each of the representative states.
2. The NER will provide leadership and guidance in promoting diversity and inclusion.

5. NER Financial/Membership Committee

Dorothy (Dory) Stapleton reporting:

The Financial Committee continues to sponsor many fundraisers. In January, the committee sponsored “Jean in January”, which raised \$33.63. Continuing fundraising efforts include the Donation/Paypal button on the website; Amazon Smile, which has raised \$18.12 to date and Barefoot Books, which has raised \$37.27 to date. We also had a number of fundraisers at this conference: The 50/50 Raffle, our Songbook complete with songs written by our own members, the restaurant fundraiser at The Cuckoo’s Nest, the Craft Table and the Instrument Yard Sale. The committee welcomes new ideas for fundraisers as well as new members to the committee who would like to help with future fundraising efforts.

Dory recognized Bekah DeMieri, Erin Boardman, and Courtney Biddle for their work on the committee. She asked that attendees visit her at the registration desk for questions, suggestions, or to help the committee.

Marissa Scott reporting:

Marissa gave an overview of the Pay It Forward campaign, and ways individuals can pay it forward to help the region. This campaign has helped 36 music therapists become AMTA members and NERAMTA wants to help even more. Marissa mentioned that they are looking for 1-2 more music therapists to help on the committee.

6. NERAMTAS/SAAB update

Kayla Daly and Kayla McBrien reporting:

Kayla McBrien: 18th annual Passages was held this past October. There were 28 presentations by students from all three schools, and there was a lunchtime conversation on diversity and inclusion. This year we updated the NERAMTAS logo, put together a standard procedures and practice guide for incoming NERAMTAS Boards. In the past few months we gave out two student scholarships for memberships, and at AMTA national conference we got a \$100 grant for our spring fundraiser where we raised \$220. Come to the NERAMTAS meeting tonight - we will have pizza and give out two student scholarships.

Kayla Daly: SAAB representatives have met twice in last year to talk about each region and navigate things that come up. We will continue to meet next year so the reps are less isolated. Kayla recognized the NERAMTAS Board for their work this year.

7. Proposed Bylaw Change

Adrienne Flight reporting:

The existing (old) language for Article VII. Section 1 reads as follows:

The Auditing Committee shall consist of the Treasurer and at least two Executive Board members, or the Treasurer and an accountant, who shall audit the Treasurer’s books at the end of the fiscal year, July 1 to June 30, and shall report findings to the Executive Board and the region.

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The proposed change (new) language for Article VII. Section 1 reads as follows:

The Auditing Committee shall consist of: (a) the Treasurer and at least two professional AMTA members (one Executive Board member and one member at-large, or two Executive Board members); or (b) the Treasurer and an accountant. The Auditing Committee shall audit the Treasurer's books at the end of the fiscal year, July 1 to June 30, and shall report findings to the Executive Board and the region.

In summary, this change allows members at-large to participate in the annual internal audit, increasing member access to this process, and further providing transparency.

Adrienne made a motion to approve the bylaw change effective April 20, 2018. Dory Stapleton seconded. No discussion. The bylaws change was accepted as written.

8. Presidential Service Award Winner:

Judy Engel recognized this year's Presidential Service Award winner, Rebecca DeMieri.

Bekah DeMieri said it was an honor to serve the NER region, she's learned so much from the Board and serving the region, and the feedback that she's gotten is just as invaluable as what she can give to everyone.

9. Opportunities for Involvement

Jen Sokira reporting:

When I was a senior in high school, Mr. Cooper was the band director and I was in guard. I told him I was going to college for music therapy, he was excited and happy for me, and said, "You know Jen, when you're an MT, everybody has to be an officer. President, Vice President, etc." Jen asked, "Why would you say that?" He said, "Because there's six of you, so everybody has to switch up who does what."

He's kind of right! There's more than six of us, but we're a small and mighty region and a small and mighty profession. Being a leader isn't so much about standing on a soapbox and doing everything, it's about everybody working together and taking a turn to offer some of your strengths to better the whole community, and then you pass it on to somebody else!

That being said, it's time for new people to step up! We have a lot of openings. We've developed two new standing committees for the region, and we have two positions that didn't previously exist. You can help your profession, have camaraderie, networking...it has long-term impact. Think about what you have to offer that could help serve, grow, and elevate our field.

Some Open Positions:

- Historian
- Diversity and Inclusion Task Force
- Internal and External Funding task forces
- Reps for committees: Standards of Clinical Practice, Research, Diversity and Inclusion, Membership Committee, Workforce Development and Retention Committee

Next year is also an election year. If you have the tiniest thought somewhere- if you'd like to serve on the Board, or be asked about it, let me know and I'll ask you, or let a colleague on the Board know.

---Raffles were drawn---

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10. AMTA State of the Association

President Weldon-Stephens reporting:

Welcome everyone, it's an honor to be here. I've heard for years how wonderful the NER conferences are, and I love the view, how quaint and sweet it is that everyone fits in this room and supports each other. I'm grateful to you, the NER, for your hospitality and generosity.

President Weldon-Stephens talked about AMTA's mission, structure, regions, regional conferences this year, AMTA Board of Directors, AMTA officers and assembly representatives, Assembly of Delegates. She asked everyone currently serving to raise their hands and be recognized. She also spoke about the National Office Staff, AMTA Consultants, how AMTA is protecting and safeguarding (through AMTA Social Media Coordinator, Government Relations, Music Therapy Research 2025, the Wilson Trust Music Therapy Initiative, Disaster Response). AMTA Membership Resources were discussed. She talked about state recognition efforts, and described being at the Georgia capital when music therapy state licensure was passed there. She urged everyone to not give up, grassroots efforts are so worth it. Monumental moments for AMTA in 2017 included the meeting with NIH and Kennedy Center performance; the Music Got Me Here documentary debuted at Kennedy Center. In 2018, we'll look at the MLE report; membership dues will remain the same for 2018-2019. There are almost 8K MT-BCs in the US. If every music therapist who was board certified also held AMTA membership, AMTA would never raise dues again and could probably lower them. They would have the funds and access needed to really expand our work. Please reach out to music therapists who are not members.

President Weldon-Stephens spoke about the retirement of Dr. Farbman at the end of this year, who served as AMTA's Executive Director for almost 30 years. AMTA has a plan in place to best serve our upcoming needs. Executive Search Firm Raffa Incorporated has been hired. The AMTA Executive Director Transition Committee includes Jennifer Geiger, Amber Weldon-Stephens, Deb Benkovitz, Angie Snell, Mike Silverman, Alicia Clair, and Ed Taylor. The AMTA Member Stakeholder Committee is made up of regional representatives (Jean Nemeth representing NER). They will collect information for characteristics we would like in our next Executive Director. It will also have students, AMTA Board members, and non-music therapists will develop a survey and otherwise work with the search firm.

AMTA National Conference 2018 will be held in Dallas TX 11/15-11/18 at the Hyatt Regency. "Music Therapy for a Growing World": Celebrating 20 years of AMTA and 68 years of music therapy!

We are AMTA!- stay involved, informed, connected, current with your national organization. Thank you for being a member of AMTA!

---Raffles were drawn---

11. Your Future. Our Future. MLE Recommendations

Judy Engel reporting:

This is our town hall tonight at 5pm. We'll gather for an engaged group. All of our members that have further questions and recommendations for our Assembly to consider will have a chance to speak and submit questions and comments.

12. Regional Conference Updates

Channing Shippen and Courtney Biddle reporting:

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Courtney: Thank you all so much for being here. What we have realized this year in planning this conference is that we're not just friends and colleagues, we feel like a family. There are so many people who have made this conference successful. Thanks to Channing, who also designed our beautiful conference logo. Shout out to Cassandra Mulcahy, Bekah DeMieri, Judy Engel, Meg Capen, Dory Stapleton, Marissa Scott, Meredith Pizzi, Shannon Flaherty, Julie Andring, Adrienne Flight, Heather Wagner; Kari O'Briant, Jen Debedout, Nancy Perkins; and please give a round of applause to our hotel staff.

We have a lot of vendors out there. Tom from MudPie, our longtime instrument vendor, had to have surgery and he was very sad that he could not be here. Please send out some good vibes to Tom.

Concurrent, CMTE, and plenary presenters, you are what make people want to come, to learn, to be inspired, thank you.

Tom Sweitzer, Kevin, and Brandon, who gave our plenary: that was amazing. Hotel staff said they were dancing and excited about the energy.

Thanks to AMTA President Weldon-Stephens for joining us!

Shout-out to JamBox folks. They have generously donated one of their products to NER (\$400 value). We're going to look at a way for us to use it in the region. Thank you.

#NERAMTA2018- please use for social media posts.

Please fill out your conference evaluation. We were able to implement changes this year based on feedback last year, like a difference between single day Friday and single day Saturday registration, and changes in name tags. We read them!

Next Year's conference is March 28-30 at the Seacrest Hotel in Falmouth, MA.

We are doing some amazing things in our region. I'm very proud of the way we've been able to help each other with these conference tasks. One of the things that is really great about our conference is that we are continuing to grow and expand. Sometimes we have growing pains, which is a great problem to have. We are now registering over 200 people per conference. How many clients in our region are going to be affected by this conference? You all are amazing. The conference committee needs you. There are openings on the Board; please think about that.

Channing: please join us this evening! My Band is back, and then our annual cabaret. Signups are by the registration desk. Thank you so much for coming.

Laurie Kubicek: My Band is a group of music therapists, we missed the last couple of conferences. We've had a great time getting ready for it. Our other gig this year is next weekend at MIT. If anyone would like to help set up equipment, please meet in the lobby around 7.

---raffles were drawn---

13. 2018 NER-AMTA Conference Scholarship Winners

Caitlyn Hyatt, Kathleen McCann, Brenda Tousignant

14. Student Scholarships

Judy asked NER-AMTAs officers to stand and be recognized, and the following scholarship recipients were recognized:

Anna Maria (Lisa Summer):

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Student: Katelyn Sable
Professional: Olivia Overton (intern)
23 Anna Maria students attending conference this year

Berklee (Joy Allen):
Student: David Nicholson
Professional: Laura Sarkarputra

Lesley (Becky Zarate):
Student: Jacqueline San Nicolas
Professional: Brooke Rustein

Kayla Daly invited student Board members up to the front. Kayla: this year's board is exceptional, and we're excited for what next year will bring. Kayla recognized all NER-AMTAs Board members.

15. In Memoriam

Judy invited anyone who would like to speak names of those who impacted our profession for us to remember.

- Jennifer Sokira, Caryl Beth Thomas: We remember Benedikte Scheiby. She just left us on Tuesday. Please keep Ken Aigen and their family in your minds and hearts.
- Nancy Perkins: Andrea Tooker, who was committed to special Education, attended every conference, and was a strong member of MMTA; we miss her terribly.
- Meg Capen: On August 4, 2017, Sondra, beloved music therapist and community member.
- Christina Ouimet: I think we should remember Oliver Sacks, who did so much for human beings with difficult brain injuries and strange diseases, and he loved us, he loved music therapists.

Judy thanked those who came up.

16. Good and Welfare

Judy invited people to come up and share.

- Sally Harrison: Invitation to flutists to join the Flute Choir. Rehearsal at 8:30 in Salon A.
- Christine Routhier: We have a commitment to bring Resource-Oriented Music and Imagery to NER! We will put signup sheet at back of room for anyone interested to put your name and email so we can stay connected.
- Karen Wacks: Job available at Community Music Center of Boston: full time director of music therapy. Half administrative, half direct service. Job announcement is on the NER website.
- Bobbi Blake: Hopeful to have a full time music therapy position at Veteran's Hospital West Haven, CT soon.
- Lorrie Kubicek: Call for nonpharmacological interventions to control pain due to national opioid shortage. If anyone has literature relating to music and MT for this, Mass General is looking for info (and other hospitals as well, likely). Shortage anticipated

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through 2019. People want information; we're working at MGH. (Joy Allen: NIH working with Joke Bradt)

17. Adjournment

Judy Engel entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

A motion was made to end the meeting by Becky Zarate; Heather Wagner seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kari O'Briant, MT-BC
Secretary, NER-AMTA