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NER-AMTA Business Breakfast
NER-AMTA Conference 2019
Sea Crest Beach Hotel
Falmouth, MA
March 29, 2019

President Judy Engel called the meeting to order at 8:27am.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Judy welcomed the meeting attendees. Thank you to conference chairs Courtney and Channing, conference team. Asked Board and expanded leadership team to stand and be recognized.

2. Approval of General Membership meeting minutes from AMTA National Conference

Judy entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 11/17/18. A motion was made by Jean. Annette Whitehead-Pleaux seconded. The minutes were approved as written and submitted.

3. Treasurer's Report

Rebekah DeMieri reporting

Bank account balances:

Checking: \$49,439.50

Savings: \$20,456.79

Students and student Board were congratulated for their fundraising work as well.

4. Strategic Plan

The current Strategic Plan was reviewed. After conference, the Board will design the new Strategic Plan.

5. NER Financial and Membership Support Committees

Financial Committee Report – Dorothy Stapleton reporting:

Hi, my name is Dory Stapleton. I have been the Financial Committee Chairperson for the past 4 years. Although the committee members have changed a bit over the years, our task has remained the same: to focus on fundraising to provide funds for the Membership Support Program. Over the past few years, the New England Region has raised \$ 2, 486.00 by sponsoring fundraisers which you, our members, have graciously participated in. Many of those have taken place at our regional conferences over the years including: restaurant sponsors, the 50/50 raffle, the NER songbook, the music yard sales, the craft sales, the sand tray session and free will donations. Some have taken place at other times during the year: the “Jeans in January” fundraiser, Barefoot Books purchases, Dining for a Cause at the Ninety Nine Restaurant in Cromwell, CT, and an evening out at RiRa’s in New Hampshire.

Our fundraiser through Amazon Smile runs throughout the year. By making purchases through Amazon Smile, a portion of the purchases made go directly to NER. Please remember to sign up through Amazon Smile so that NER can benefit from your purchases.

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At this year's conference, we have seven fundraisers that include two restaurant sponsors who will each donate a portion of our conference attendees' receipts back to NER; the 50/50 raffle; the NER Songbooks; the music yard sale and the craft sale. The Carry All tote bags with this year's conference highlighted on the front can be purchased at the fundraising table, where you can also find The Impact Box. Stop by the table to learn more about The Impact Project. The Financial Committee is always looking for new ideas for fundraising. Remember: OUR FUNDRAISERS BENEFIT OUR MEMBERS!!!!!! Thank you for your support of all of our past fundraisers and thank you, in advance, for your support of all of our future fundraising efforts.

Membership Support Committee - Kathlynn Sell and Shannon Flaherty reporting:
Explained background of NER's Membership Support Committee, 12 people were awarded Membership Support this year. The committee is under budget this year and encouraged more people to apply for next year. They teamed up with Dory to start the tote bag fundraiser for conference, and are working on adding a page to our regional website to include information on Membership Support, benefits of being an AMTA member, etc.

----raffles were drawn----

6. NER-AMTAS and SAAB Update.

Judy recognized the Student Board for all their hard work and invited Alison Dagger and Kayla Daly to address attendees.

Alison reported on the Board's work this year in outreach and fundraising, and the creation of the new Video Masterclass Committee.

NER-AMTAS officers were recognized.

Kayla stated pride in the Student Board's work this year.

7. Election Slate

Judy recognized Immediate Past President Jennifer Sokira.

Jennifer mentioned the possibility of electronic voting for future elections. The NER lost one Assembly seat for 2019-2020 due to a reduction of membership; she mentioned the importance of participating in Assembly.

Jennifer recognized all on the Executive Board slate. Brian Jantz, President-Elect; Kathlynn Sell, Vice President-Elect; Cecilia Burns, Secretary; Rebekah DeMieri, Treasurer.

Candidates for Assembly Delegate: Madelaine Ventre, Heather Wagner, Joy Allen, Kayla Daly, Eve Montague, Jean Nemeth, and Meredith Pizzi. Each AMTA member can vote for three Assembly Candidates. The top three will serve in order of most voted for. Assembly votes were collected.

8. President's Award

Annette took a video as Judy announced this year's President's Award as the awardee was not present at the meeting. Meredith Pizzi, MPA, MT-BC was the recipient.

9. Opportunities for Involvement

Judy recognized Adrienne Flight, our incoming President. Later today Adrienne, Brian Jantz, and Wendy Krueger are presenting on ways to be involved in the Board and in the region.

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----Raffles were drawn----

10. AMTA State of the Association

Michelle Forinash, Council Coordinator, served as AMTA Representative in presenting AMTA's State of the Association.

Caryl Beth Thomas led the meeting attendees in singing "I've Got the Light of Freedom Deep Down in My Heart"

The State of the Association included information on the AMTA mission statement, foundation structure, November 2019 Slate of Nominees, financial foundation, membership growth, education and training growth, new publications, new Editors in Chief (Journal of Music Therapy and Music Therapy Perspectives), state recognition, collaboration with other organizations, collaboration with the military, Commission on the Education and Clinical Training of the 21st Century Music Therapist, and AMTA National Conference 2019 – November 21-24, Minneapolis, MN

Jennifer Sokira addressed the attendees: There is a tie for the third seat Assembly position (alternate). Voting members received a piece of paper and were asked to vote for either Kayla Daly or Joy Allen to break the tie. Votes were collected.

----Raffles were drawn----

11. Regional Conference Updates – Courtney Biddle and Channing Shippen

Courtney thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as conference chair. Thanked Claudia and Dan for the opening session last night, thanked everyone for coming to the breakfast meeting. At the Keynote we will be talking more about our impact: 42,000. Part of the reason for the changes this year is based on the feedback from last year's conference – we want to hear what you want/need from your conference, so please fill out your conference evaluations. Thanked Laurie Kubicek, Kimberly Khare, Brian Jantz, and Cassandra Mulcahy for helping with sound last night. Please visit our vendors and advertisers. My Band is playing tonight around 9, and then we will transition to Cabaret. We have many CMTEs this time around. Courtney introduced Channing.

Channing announced that this is the highest attended conference we've ever had. There are 245 people in attendance; 84 are students (highest number of students); 6 attendees are from the Mid-Atlantic Region; 2 from Southeastern Region; 1 from Great Lakes Region; 1 from Southwestern Region – so we have many regions represented. We are offering 8 CMTEs this year. If you submit proposals, we can do more. We want to hear from you when we put the call out. We also have 42 concurrent sessions and 68 different presenters. Thanked everyone for being a part of conference.

Courtney pointed out Dottie for helping out this morning. Thanked Nancy Perkins for securing our conference sites. Courtney thanked everyone for letting her serve as Vice President.

Judy thanked Courtney and Channing. Next year's conference is April 23-25 in Stowe, VT at the Stoweflake Resort.

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12. Video Call with Allegra

A video call was set up with Allegra Themmen-Pigott. She shared that her book, “Life in the Key of Allegra: A Personal and Professional Journey with the Healing Powers of Music” has been published. She did a reading from the last chapter of the book. The book can be bought from Allegra directly or on Amazon.

After the call, Nancy Perkins mentioned that the Board has been sending Allegra cards and gifts on behalf of the membership to show her that we are supporting her during her treatment.

13. Scholarship Recipients:

2019 NER-AMTA Conference Scholarship Recipients:

Brittany Leonard, Maria Ramey, Julianne Parolisi

Student Scholarships

Anna Maria College (Lisa Summer presenting) – Kayla McBrien, Sonya DiPietro

Berklee College of Music (Joy Allen presenting) – Alexander Ford, David Nicholson

Lesley University (Becky Zarate presenting) – Carol Smolenski, Alison Dagger

Kayla Daly recognized each member of the Student Board for their service. Ali Dagger asked that attendees recognize Kayla Daly.

Election Results

Congratulations to our new Board and Assembly Delegates!

Order of service for our Assembly Delegates:

Eve Montague

Heather Wagner

Joy Allen

Alternates:

Kayla Daly

Meredith Pizzi

Jean Nemeth

Madelaine Ventre

Good and Welfare

- Flute Choir tonight, meet at 9:00pm for a quick rehearsal.
- If funding works out, Michael Bolton Charities will be funding a few part time positions in New London, Greenwich CT, and on Long Island working with kids who have experienced trauma.
- There is a Team Rainbow gathering tonight at 7:15pm.
- Berklee’s Music in Health Institute is having a Hack-a-Thon next weekend. Please contact Joy Allen if interested; there is also information on Berklee’s website.

In Memoriam

Attendees were invited to take a minute to honor those in our community who have passed away. Al Bumanis was recognized during this time.

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Adjournment

Judy thanked everyone for coming to the breakfast meeting. She encouraged attendees to make comments on their conference evaluation forms, and recognized the conference chairs Courtney and Channing for listening to the membership.

Judy entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sarah Gagnon made the motion and Jean Nemeth seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00am.

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