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**NER-AMTA General Membership Meeting**  
Virtual NER-AMTA Conference  
Saturday, April 9, 2022

President Brian Jantz called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

Brian thanked Kathlynn Sell and Mary Reinsch for all of the work they put in to make today a reality. Also thank you to Kathlynn's father, Bill Sell, for all of his assistance with this virtual conference. Brian welcomed us all to the virtual platform, sharing housekeeping items related to conference functioning.

Brian started today's meeting in a musical way for us to stay connected to music as music therapists before delving into the agenda.

**2. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Nicole O'Malley motioned to approve the October 18, 2021 general membership meeting minutes. Tim Honig seconded the motion. With no discussion, the motion passed with a vote of virtual approval. The minutes were accepted as presented.

**3. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Kari O'Briant presented the following report:

Checking Account Balance: \$4,922.28  
Savings Account Balance: \$56,904.49  
Student Account Balance: \$1,739.24

These figures will change in the next week reflecting the spring conference.

Brian recognized everything Kari has done in her first year as treasurer.

**4. Strategic Plan**

Brian presented our current NER strategic plan:

**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.

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### **Financial**

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

### **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. Membership**

Mark Fuller is the chair of the membership committee who could not be with us today, but thank you for the information he provided. Wendy Krueger presented on Mark's behalf.

Mark submitted the following report:

### **2022 Goal Summary**

1. The NER continues to improve and address engagement with its members and the music therapy community through various online platforms such as: NER website, social media, and email to engage with members and its related communities.
2. The NER will continue to actively increase membership on both the professional and student levels by collaborating and being present at NER events for music therapists.
3. The NER will continue to improve and expand its member support programs such as conference scholarship, dues assistance, and educational opportunities.

### **AMTA General Updates**

1. NEW membership benefit (Over 30 pre-approved CMTE credits) are now included via e-courses in the AMTA membership.
  - a. pdf E-course Research Review Series Flyer.pdf
2. Welcome to the Profession Packets for coupons off your first 3 years of Professional expenses
  - a. Intern Packet Request Form | Welcome to the Profession Intern Packets
  - b. Link: <https://www.musictherapy.org/careers/packets/>
3. Paying Professional membership in installments
  - a. Paying AMTA Membership in Installments | Paying Membership in Installments
  - b. Link: [https://www.musictherapy.org/members/paying\\_amta\\_membership\\_in\\_installments/](https://www.musictherapy.org/members/paying_amta_membership_in_installments/)
4. Other Support options for paying for membership
  - a. Membership Support Options | Membership in AMTA
  - b. Link: [https://www.musictherapy.org/about/membership\\_support\\_options/](https://www.musictherapy.org/about/membership_support_options/)
5. Scholarships and grants for AMTA members
  - a. Scholarships for Students, Interns, and Professionals | Scholarship Opportunities for AMTA Members
  - b. Link: <https://www.musictherapy.org/careers/scholars/>

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### **NER Updates**

1. 4 PIF membership support scholarships awarded for the 2021 AMTA membership cycle.
  - a. \$775 out of \$1,500 utilized for PIF scholarships
2. Currently 177 AMTA members within the first quarter of January 2022 which is an increase of 16 members since September.

### **Next Initiatives**

1. Review 2022 PIF initiative to plan for next cycle.

## **6. Conference Updates**

Brian invited Kathlynn and Mary back and thanked them for putting this conference together. Kathlynn presented information about the conference. The board voted to move the 2022 conference to a virtual platform. The NER spring conference for 2023 will be in Stowe, Vermont. Our current conference cost about \$3000 total. We broke even on this amount about 10 days ago. Numbers are still rolling in and will be presented at the next meeting. The conference team created the student pod option which allowed for schools to register a group of students at a discounted rate. Another new aspect that came from this conference was a creation of membership tiers. This allowed for vendors and sponsors to use interesting features through the Hopin virtual platform.

CMTEs: If you attend the full conference, you will receive 5 CMTEs. Kathlynn and Mary are currently working on codes for concurrent sessions. Please take a note of which presentations you are attending and you will be sent codes at a later date for CMTEs.

## **7. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee**

Mark Fuller and Shayla McDermott are not here due to prior commitments, but they recorded a video which was presented during the meeting. Mark and Shayla can be reached at the following email contact: [DiversityEquityInclusion@neramta.org](mailto:DiversityEquityInclusion@neramta.org)

They presented the following report:

### **2021 Goal Summary**

NER-DEI Committee Charge:

The diversity, equity, and inclusion committee of NER is charged with identifying, addressing, and implementing the necessary steps to uncover and dismantle the systems that reinforce oppression in order to build an inclusive environment in NER.

### **NER Updates**

1. Disseminated results of the NER-DEI Cultural Climate Survey in Fall NER meeting with community.
  - a. Identified need for a community advisory panel to support the voices of our region and drive systematic change grounded in anti-oppression and inclusivity.
2. DEI Committee held an initial Community Advisory Meeting in March.
  - a. Meeting explored current community experiences which led to themes of burn-out, survival, and a need for community building.

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- b. DEI Committee aims to act on these themes by focusing on community building spaces and support while the region embarks on 2022.

### **Next Steps**

1. Continue to hold space for community advisory panel growth and engagement. Next community advisory meeting to be held in May, all are welcome.
  - a. Please reach out to Mark or Shayla via email for questions or interest: [diversityEquityInclusion@neramta.org](mailto:diversityEquityInclusion@neramta.org)

Shannon Kiley is the current representative of the AMTA DEI committee. Shannon presented the following report:

### **AMTA-DEI Report**

#### **Summer 2021 thru April 2022**

- The committee was asked by the BOD to review and rate conference submissions summer 2021, as well as begin to create a DEI resource page on the AMTA website
- 3 subcommittees were working on a Membership DEI Survey, Bylaws revisions, and Regional Assistance
- The DEI Committee hosted a Town Hall Meeting on February 11, 2021 on Zoom. A copy report was sent to CEO Adonia Calhoun Coates in June 2021 and we have not received approval to post on the DEI page
- The committee requested a social media page from CEO Coates and has not received approval
- CEO Coates joined the committee several times this summer and fall to learn about the history of DEI in music therapy
- The DEI committee was asked by the Board of Directors to review and edit existing fact sheets of various populations in September and completed that process
- Beth Robinson resigned in September 2021 from WR Region
- Chair Melita Belgrave resigned in October 2021
- We are looking to work with minoritized Affinity group members/leaders to develop an equitable election process for DEI Chair. If you represent are a leader/officer/admin/board member of an existing affinity group, please contact the DEI committee to engage ([AMTADEICommittee@gmail.com](mailto:AMTADEICommittee@gmail.com)).
  - Meeting held on November 16, 2021 with representatives from Affinity Groups and DEI Committee Members
  - List of Proposed Changes created from thematic analysis
- Given recent events and the resignation of Drs. Belgrave, Norris and Thomas (from guest editors of JMT), the DEI committee presented 4 motions (see below) at the Assembly of Delegates on Oct. 20, 2021. All 4 motions were passed and 3 were subsequently passed by the Board.
  - Bylaws amendments were passed to shift the voting DEI representative from an appointed position to an elected position (by Jan. 1) and serve 2 years; and to allow the election process for this position to be determined by the AMTA-DEI committee, in consultation with minoritized Affinity Group leaders be open to the whole membership.

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- The president has deferred the appointment of any interim DEI representative to the DEI committee.
- DEI Representative election on hold – Affinity groups/marginalized membership reluctant to step into DEI Chair position before AMTA apology statement, BOD code of conduct signed, other proposed changes
- November Town Hall Description (With Grant's Themes)
- Vienna Sa appointed as the WR representative with the recommendation from the previous representative and the region president Jan 2022
- Jenny Fu resigned in February 2022 from MAR Region
- Dr. Sangeeta Swamy resigned in February 2022 from GLR Region
- A new selection committee was put together to choose new/ renew BOD members. Vienna proposed an equitable anonymous process with a slate of DEI questions to be answered. We were able to confidently put on the board at least 3 DEI-centered folks on the board through this process. The new board members, with the inclusion of the new slate of voting Assembly of Delegates, has several members who are committed to DEI work.
- In communication with the BOD about DEI "Chair" representation with the work we've been doing to split that role until we can ELECT the new chair with the feedback from the affinity group leaders.
- Livia Umeda (MWR) resigned in March 2022
- Susan Hadley appointed as the SER representative
- On March 10, WR representative (Vienna Sa) brought the feedback from the affinity group leaders in the November Town Hall to the CEO and President of AMTA and proposed changes. The proposed actions regarded:
  - an explicit apology detailing the exact ways AMTA has caused harm to related parties and individuals in recent years, (\*most important)
  - a retraction of the CEO's DEI consultant choice, (completed)
  - an elected DEI consultant from the list of consultants provided by the affinity groups
  - an elected DEI representative (with safety measures in place such as at least two or more folks from the DEI committee participating in the BOD meetings and a signed code of conduct)
  - an elected DEI chair (with recommendations from the affinity groups)
  - renaming the "DEI Representative Board Position" to a label that is more accurate
  - transparent documents and processes (such as minutes from previous meetings)
  - plans for a historical timeline on actions/processes that have occurred in past years for accountability
  - continued AMTA announcements that address important events that affect our historically marginalized membership.
- Next actions to be taken:
  - Meeting with the Affinity group leaders/ representatives to make sure that the actions that they proposed at November Town hall is still what they would like to see

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- Creating a decision tree/checklist (suggestion from Town hall) to keep the BOD accountable on what they have stated at the March meeting
- At the next BOD meeting we will put forth the motions that the representatives of the affinity groups would continue to want to see (completed March 2022, BOD on board)
- Call for Volunteers:
  - We are looking to work with minoritized Affinity group members/leaders to continue to develop an equitable election process. If you represent or are a leader/officer/admin/board member of an existing affinity group, please contact the DEI committee to engage (AMTADEICommittee@gmail.com).

If you have questions, suggestions, changes, or input, please contact Shannon at [shannon@neramta.org](mailto:shannon@neramta.org).

### **8. NER-AMTAS/SAAB Update**

Brian introduced NER-AMTAS president Toby Rodriguez who gave the following report:

- NER-AMTAS held multiple board election meetings throughout the summer of 2021. They were able to fill open positions quickly.
- On October 10, 2021, NER-AMTAS hosted a music trivia night. Questions consisted of music theory, name that tune, and practice questions for the CBMT exam. They had about 8 participants and prizes were given.
- The Passages Conference had a theme of “Building Resiliency, a Path Towards Unity.” They had 6 presenters during the 2-day conference, including two of their own board members.
- On January 29, 2022, student board members started a biweekly Spotify series about they were listening to in their spare time to engage with and inspire students in an interactive way.
- On February 5, 2022, they announced AMTA scholarship opportunities. There were two winners (students from both Anna Maria and Leslie).
- On February 25-26, the NER-AMTAS held a 2-day virtual showcase called Stars Shine at Night, hosted by Present-Elect Emily Kropo. Night 1 was for songwriters while night 2 was for solo acts.

Toby reported that the NER-AMTAS will be having their annual business meeting later tonight during which they will be holding elections. If any students want to run, they can attend the meeting and run for a position. This will be followed by an open mic event.

### **9. Election Update**

Brian welcomed immediate Past-President Adrienne Flight who shared an update that will impact next year’s election. As most of us are aware, elections happen every 2<sup>nd</sup> year on the odd years in our region. Our next election will be during the Spring 2023 conference. There have been discussions about how elections are run, specifically regarding personally statements about candidates and how they impact implicit bias. To learn about how people in our region feel about this topic, the NER opened a survey earlier this year. There have been 36 responses so far. One of the questions asked whether voters should know candidates’

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names and personal information prior to voting. Adrienne shared that 72% of respondents said yes, 22% said unsure, just under 6% said no. Of those 36 people who responded, 2 said that no and everyone else was either unsure or said yes. Another question asked if names and identifiers should be removed with 75% responding no, 19% responding unsure, and just under 6% said yes, names and identifiers should be removed.

Adrienne shared information submitted via survey text entries. Respondents appreciate the lens towards equity, acknowledging that name recognition can impact voting. However, comments represented that this is a small field and a small region, and sometimes our interactions with people might give us a sense of whether we might vote for them. Another respondent expressed that removing names might create a lack of transparency.

As of now, we will keep the existing voting format, but you can still respond to the survey or contact Adrienne at [adriennef@neramta.org](mailto:adriennef@neramta.org) if you have any thoughts that you would like to share.

### **10. President's Award**

Brian announced the 2022 President's Award winner, Heather Wagner! Congratulations! Thank you for your service to the region, to AMTA, and to the field of music therapy!

### **11. AMTA State of the Association**

There will be a very thorough update that will be shared via video on our conference platform today. Brian shared that the AMTA has been working to create some very necessary changes. Thinking ahead, there are positive but not easy changes that need to be made. The AMTA annual conference will be held October 15-23 in Jacksonville, FL with the theme of "Creative Ways Music Therapists Engage in Collaboration." Look more for information about this conference coming soon.

### **12. Student Scholarships**

Congratulations to our student scholarship recipients!

Lisa Summer presented the awards for Anna Maria College:

Student: Emily Kropo

Professional: Krystal Melendez

Adrienne Flight presented the awards for Berklee College of Music:

Student: Leslie O'Connor

Professional: Shylaja Sundar

Caryl Beth Thomas presented the awards for Leslie University:

Student: Svetlana Chashchina

Professional: Katherine Perakis

Tim Honig presented the award for Westfield State University:

Student: Tessa Cacioppo

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Nicole O'Malley presented the award for University of Rhode Island:  
Student: Joey Peavey

### **13. In Memoriam**

Brian invited attendees to type the names of people they would like to honor in the chat. We will be holding space for friends and family who have been lost. Fred Silverstone and David Marcus were honored today. Keeping their memory close to heart.

### **14. Good and Welfare**

Kathlynn: If you are here today you are making NER history because this is our first full-length virtual conference!

Nicole O'Malley via chat: MA music therapists, please engage in the MA survey for music therapists.

Wendy Kreuger via chat: Congratulations to Kathlynn on being engaged!

Adrienne via chat: Thank you to Bill Sell for sharing his expertise with NER to help make this conference happen!

Graham Peck via chat: Started a program with rural youth for music therapy services with the state of Massachusetts.

### **15. Adjournment**

Kathlynn entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mary seconded the motion. With no discussion and a vote of approval, the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cecilia Burns, MMT, MT-BC  
Secretary, NER-AMTA