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**NER-AMTA Fall General Membership Meeting**

Zoom

Thursday, October 26, 2023

President Wendy Krueger called the meeting to order at 8:02 pm.

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

Wendy welcomed participants to the virtual meeting space and began with music: "Breath of Air" by Mark Lipman, LMHC.

**2. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

There were no objections to the general membership meeting minutes from the NER-AMTA Conference in Stowe, Vermont on April 20, 2023. The minutes were approved as presented.

**3. Strategic Plan**

Wendy presented the current strategic plan, reporting that it has been a few years since the current plan has been updated.

**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.
  - 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.

**4. Treasurer's Update**

Treasurer Cathy Kang presented the following account balances:

Checking: \$5,059.09

Savings: \$75,223.82

Student: \$1,989.53

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Cathy also presented projected spending for the fiscal year, reporting that we are going to be very close to our projected outcome. Cathy left space for members to ask clarifying questions regarding the budget and accounts as presented. Vice President Mary Reinsch clarified discrepancies regarding the conference budget as the 2023 conference was the first in-person event in several years.

Cathy clarified that the NER has a savings account that is low risk with minimal interest which is a standard type of account for small businesses.

### **5. Committee Updates**

**Membership Committee:** Ali Iaria reported that as of this October, we have 117 members in the NER. Ali presented the new AMTA tiered membership dues structure which will start in 2024. This is information that was distributed to AMTA members, but Ali is not sure if non-members also received this information. The plan is to distribute the information on social media outlets to spread the word about the changing dues structure. Space was provided for members to ask questions and discuss the professional dues.

**Membership Support Committee/Pay-it-Forward:** Katie Bagley reported that information regarding the of Pay-it-Forward scholarship amount will be forthcoming following the upcoming NER budget meeting.

**Professional Advocacy Committee:** Maggie Connors reported that the committee has completed a video about advocacy fatigue. Committee members are hoping to create more content videos about different topics that are relevant to professional advocacy. The committee is looking for more topics of interest. Maggie acknowledged the new music therapy licensure bill in Connecticut which went into effect October 1.

**Interprofessional Collaborative Resources Committee:** Sarah Pitts reported that the committee is looking to start meeting quarterly next year. They are reevaluating the work that they have been doing which has included updating AMTA fact sheets. The committee has mixed feelings about where they want to go next.

### **6. Website Update & Job Posting Changes**

Newsletter Editor Amanda Reopell reported that we have new Google Forms created by President-Elect Shannon Laine. Shannon talked about the upcoming changes coming to our website, specifically mentioning the Google Form job posting which will get information out in a consistent way. There is also a Google Form for advertising. Shannon welcomes any feedback on these forms.

### **7. Regional Conference Update**

Vice President Mary Reinsch gave a brief overview of the 2023 regional conference which was held in Stowe, Vermont. It was the first in-person conference since 2019. It was well-

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attended with 100 pre-registered attendees and students representing almost all the schools from the region.

Mary shared feedback from conference attendees. Positive feedback included:

- Appreciation for acknowledgements of anti-racist and multicultural music therapy work along with the need to rebrand and make our organization more accessible for people to join
- Having fewer concurrent sessions to choose between/able to attend more that attendees wanted
- Presentations about neurodivergence and wellness
- Keynote speaker
- Reconnecting with colleagues in person

Constructive feedback included:

- Making sure locations chosen for conference are not limiting for students and professionals to attend
- Making sure the conference site has more opportunities for meals close to facility, not limiting hours for restaurants
- Changing the time of the business meeting
- Pricing structure of conference

During the business meeting the board made a verbal land acknowledge to the Abenaki people of Vermont. Going forward, the NER plans to donate a portion of conference proceeds to local indigenous organizations as part of land acknowledgements. For this conference, the NER made two donations: \$500 to the Abenaki Arts and Education Center and \$500 to the Abenaki Helping Abenaki organization.

Our upcoming regional conference is March 7-9, 2024 in Newport, Rhode Island. The call for papers is now open with a proposal submission deadline of November 17. The conference committee will be posting a list of topics they are looking for in presentations based on feedback from attendees as soon as possible. The conference committee is looking for more people who are interested in helping with conference planning.

Long-time conference site chair Nancy Perkins has stepped down from her role. It was recognized this is a huge role that needs to be filled, especially if we are looking to go to more accessible site locations. The suggestion was made of working with an event planner to help us navigate some of this.

A point of discussion was raised regarding the conference site of Newport, specifically if the board will be acknowledging the slave trade history in Bristol in Newport. Additionally, the concern was raised to not glorify Newport's association with extreme wealth. Wendy stated that after the Stowe conference, a verbal land acknowledge statement was not enough. Volunteers from the area will help guide the region, and the conference

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committee is working in conjunction with the DEIAJ committee. It will require conversation, nuance, and education before anything is decided. It will be a process involving many voices.

### **8. Conference Safety Measures**

There will be changes related to safety based on the feedback and safety concerns from the spring conference. Because of the active shooter in the Stowe, Vermont vicinity and students and members feeling unsafe, there will be professionals available for attendees in distress. There will be a point person in case any emergencies or concerns arise to answer calls as well as using text and/or Guidebook blasts to make sure information is sent to everyone in case of a safety emergency.

### **9. Extended Board Openings**

Wendy began by reporting that per our current bylaws, we are looking for a parliamentarian to keep us on track with protocol and Robert's Rules. Wendy shared the following board openings:

#### **DEIAJ (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility, & Justice) Committee**

Seeking 2-4 individuals to join this standing NER committee. Help dismantle systems of oppression within NER by working with the extended board on various tasks.

#### **Pay-it-Forward Committee**

Seeking one or more individuals to join this standing NER committee. Work with other committee members to receive and review membership assistance applications and to spread the word about this service.

#### **Conference Site Chair**

Seeking an individual to serve as the NER conference site chair. Take the lead in scouting conference locations and negotiating related abstracts and invoices.

Note: as discussed earlier in the meeting, it may make sense to outsource the conference site chair position to someone who does this for a living.

#### **Workforce Development and Retention Committee**

Seeking an individual to serve as the NER representative to this AMTA committee. Advance public awareness of music therapy to diverse groups of potential future music therapists.

#### **Continuing Education Committee**

Seeking an individual to serve as the NER representative to this AMTA committee. Ensure that continuing education offerings remain relevant and adhere to CBMT guidelines.

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### **Conference Volunteers**

Seeking individuals to be ad hoc members of the conference committee. Help support the VP and VP-Elect in conference planning and implementation.

### **10. NER-AMTAS/SAAB Update & Passages**

AMTAS President Leana Borsuk reported Passages is this Saturday, October 28, and they are in the final steps and preparations. Advocacy month will be in January, and they are starting to plan what to do such as social media advocacy information. AMTAS President-Elect Alayah Tedder reported that the students are working diligently to finalize everything for Passages. They are excited for everyone to attend. Wendy expressed thanks to Leana, Alayah, and the rest of the student board. New college programs have opened, and students are a growing population in our region. Student voices are very important.

### **11. AMTA Update**

Assembly Speaker Brian Jantz gave AMTA updates. The recent AMTA online symposium was a success again this year. Up to 40 CMTEs were offered which will be available until the end of February. Registration is still open even if attendees did not participate in the live symposium.

The AMTA Assembly has met twice since the last update. The membership dues structure vote which did not pass last December was successfully passed this time. There were many conversations about the structure and purpose of assembly which led to the creation of workgroups. Workgroup areas of focus include communication, student engagement, role of assembly, assembly meeting agreements and rules of order options. On December 4 the assembly will be giving a more detailed update. That will be the final meeting for the current assembly, and it is open to all.

AMTA finances are much improved from a year ago while also recognizing that the organization as a whole is still not where it would like to be. The new membership dues structure will hopefully bring in more members and make it more affordable for existing members.

The Commission on the Educational and Clinical Training of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Music Therapists is close to sharing their final report. There is also overlap with the competency task force.

Upcoming Dates:

- November 6<sup>th</sup> assembly elect orientation
- November 8<sup>th</sup> AMTA annual business meeting (proposed bylaws changes voted on, 2 relate to journal, credentials no longer in use)
- December 4<sup>th</sup> final community Assembly meeting for assembly delegates

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Space was left for members to ask questions. There is a technological aspect that needs to be solved to implement rolling registration. Discussion ensued regarding the potential and problems with rolling registration and the role of committees going forth.

**12. In Memoriam**

Wendy invited thirty seconds of silence for individuals in our field who we have lost.

**13. Good and Welfare**

N/A

**14. Announcements/Adjournment**

With no objections, Wendy adjourned the meeting at 9:46 pm.

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