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NER-AMTA Extended Board Meeting

Zoom

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Attendance: Cecilia Burns, Maggie Connors, LeeAnn Guidry, Emily Hawley, Tim Honig, Ali Iaria, Brian Jantz, Cathy Kang, Cacia King, Wendy Krueger, Shannon Laine, Eve Montague, Meredith Pizzi, Mary Reinsch, Laura Sekarputri, Heather Wagner

1. Good & Welfare

Meeting attendees shared about their days and positive things that have been happening in life.

2. Welcome/Introductions

Wendy called the meeting to order at 8:06 pm. Attendees introduced themselves.

3. Approval of Minutes

Mary made a motion to approve the fall board meeting minutes from May 7, 2024. Meredith seconded the motion. With no discussion and one abstention, the minutes were approved as presented.

4. Treasurer's Update

Cathy presented the cash balances as of the time of the present meeting:

	10/1/24	9/30/23	Deficit	Projected
Checking	\$2,040.57	\$5,632.64		
Savings	\$74,640.21	\$75,145.06		
Total	\$76,680.78	\$80,777.70	-\$4,096.92	-\$6,836.16
Student Affairs	\$1,651.69	\$1,999.48	-\$347.79	

Cathy presented the following information related to the 2024 Conference:

Projected Revenue: \$35,330.00

Actual Revenue: \$38,163.31

Projected Expenditures: \$33,193.00

Actual Expenditures: \$32,192.10 (not incl. hotel deposit)

Projected Income: \$2,137.00

Actual Income: \$5,971.21

Please contact Mary for additional line items regarding the conference expenses.

5. AMTA Update

The AMTA Assembly Speaker stepped down recently, and there is a new Speaker. The AMTA Symposium just took place last week. There were many registrants, and many participants tuned in during the event itself. Recordings will be up until February.

6. Committee Updates

Maggie reported that there is now new business with the Professional Advocacy Committee (PAC) of AMTA.

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Heather reported the Academic Program Approval Committee (APAC) of AMTA has been busy with reapprovals. The committee is looking at standards of education and will be making some recommendations for changes.

Ali reported the Membership Committee of AMTA will be meeting in a couple weeks. Updates will be forthcoming.

7. Regional Conference 2025

Emily and Mary presented about the spring regional 2025 conference. The location is almost finalized pending contracts from the hotel. The current location is the Westin in Portland, Maine from March 27 – 29. As soon as the contract is finalized, the call for papers will go out. There will also be a call for conference planning volunteers. The conference theme will be highlighting new voices in the music therapy community. Thoughts were shared about bringing in other creative arts therapies for a panel discussion.

Changes regarding the call for papers were presented. Based on feedback from previous conferences, there will now be a request for content warning for presentations. Presenters will be asked to include these warnings in their applications to present to ensure that we are creating safe environments for all of the attendees. This information will be included in the conference program to make sure attendees are fully informed about the sessions they are attending. If there are other things that you feel should be the call for papers, please contact Mary and Emily. Discussion also included making safe spaces and booths available for affinity groups.

The potential conference theme titles were shared in the Zoom chat with a focus on new voices. The conference planners are committing to get information out as widely as they can to hear from new people. If there are people that you think that we should be hearing from who have not presented at conferences before, please connect Emily and Mary with them. Discussion ensued regarding specifics about the titles presented. If we have a “new voices” theme, we really need to reach out to pull in those new voices rather than simply putting out a call. Suggestions included reaching out to people individually as well as offer support for first-time presenters from more experienced presenters. We also need to specifically invite members of affinity groups to present. Reach out to Mary and Emily individually if you do not feel comfortable doing so in the context of the meeting.

8. Passages Update

Cacia, Student Affairs Advisory Board (SAAB) of AMTA advisor, presented about the upcoming Passages conference. This year will be the 25th anniversary of Passages. The current date for Passages is November 2nd, but due to some communication difficulties and venue change, there is discussion of postponing Passages until December. Passages has historically taken place at Lesley, but the costs have become prohibitive. This year’s Passages will take place at Westfield State University.

The students are excited for the 25th anniversary and are committed to making it a high-quality conference. The conference theme is “Quarter Notes.” Students want to take time during the conference to reflect on the past quarter, the past 25 years, reflecting on the past and looking towards the future.

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Discussion continued regarding transportation opportunities for students to be able to attend. This problem-solving is currently in the works. It is a great opportunity for the other schools to rally together in a new location for the next chapter of Passages. Students had previously expressed that they were ready for a new location. As the region expands with new schools, it is fairer to not hold the conference at the same institution each year.

Discussion ensued about possibilities moving forth regarding location, transportation for students, communication with faculty at the different universities, and timelines for communication with students. Reminder: we had talked about mentorship opportunities between the professional board and student board. Communication has been challenging as there seems to be a disconnect between the professional and student boards.

9. Strategic Plan

Cathy presented the strategic planning overview which was presented at the last meeting. There are different approaches to strategic planning, and this is the one that Cathy thinks will suit the NER.

A strategic plan answers the following questions: Who are we? Where are we? Where do we want to be? How will we get there? A strategic plan is not static; it is a dynamic document that can be adjusted along the way. It allows us to define our identity, where we are, where we want to be. It must engage and align stakeholders.

Who are we?

- Mission: what we do, who we serve, how they benefit
- Vision: individuals, organizations, profession
- Core Values: guiding principles, cultural cornerstones

Where are we?

- Industry Analysis: statistics, major issues, projections
- Field Survey: who we serve, what do they need and want?
- NER Assessment: strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats/barriers

Where do we want to be?

- Goals: broad statement
- Objectives: support goals, more specific

The proposed timeline:

- November: Vision, Mission, Core Values
- December: Industry Analysis
- January: Field Survey
- February: NER Assessment & Goals/Objectives

Cathy is sending a call for volunteers for each of these month goals. The commitment will be 4-5 hours per month, and volunteers do not need to commit to every month. Call someone you think will be a valuable member as this cannot simply be a group of people from the NER extended board. This Google form can be sent out on social media. Volunteers can claim service hours to the profession to earn CMTE credits. Please contact Cathy if you are interested, and please contact people you think would like to be interested.

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10. New Business

In the past, the conference planning committee put out a search for the keynote speaker. It might be a beneficial change to receive nominations for keynote speakers and then reach out to the nominated parties. This might be a more equitable approach to inviting key note speakers to the conference. We might also consider this nomination procedure for the President's Awards. Discussion ensued about how this might function along with thoughts about the current system. Please email Wendy if you have ideas about this topic.

11. Good & Welfare II

Members continued to share positive events that have been happening in their lives and in the field of music therapy.

12. Adjournment

With no objections, meeting was adjourned at 9:57 pm.

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