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NER-AMTA General Membership Meeting

Zoom

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

President Wendy Krueger called the meeting to order at 8:22 pm.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Wendy welcomed attendees to the meeting. Attendees introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Shannon Laine made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 8, 2024 NER-AMTA general business meeting. Mary Reinsch seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented.

3. Land Acknowledgement Donation

The board voted this week to donate funds to the Tomaquag Museum in Exeter, RI. A land acknowledgement donation of \$750 was made today. The Tomaquag Museum's mission and values were shared.

Mission: To educate all of our relations (everyone) on Indigenous cultures of the Dawnland (focus Southern New England) through engagement and shared dialogue to reconcile the past and empower present and future generations.

Vision: All our relations will understand the history and culture of the Indigenous People of the Dawnland, recognize and understand the impact of conquest and colonization on Indigenous People today, and take action to create equity.

4. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Cathy Kang presented the current bank account balances:

Checking: \$8,017.17

Savings: \$59,665.65

Student Account: \$1,651.69

The region is down about \$3300. The annual budget included a projected \$6800 deficit, so we are still under that projection. Recent large expenditures included \$7500 to the Westin as a downpayment for the spring conference and the purchasing of the ClearEvent platform in the \$600 range. Based on what was projected, the region is in good financial standing.

5. Strategic Plan

Cathy presented about the current strategic plan journey. She coordinated with a member of the Great Lakes Region who is in the third year of their thorough strategic planning, very impressive and thorough. Cathy presented an amended timeline, realizing that our previous timeline was too ambitious:

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- December-January: Solicit planning teams
- February: Mission & Vision
- March: Core Values
- April: Industry Analysis
- May: Field survey & SWOT
 - Can distribute surveys at conference
- June: Goals & Objectives
- October: Operations Plan
- November: Marketing Plan Summary
- December: Financial Plan

Cathy is requesting that everyone personally ask two friends to get involved with this. The time commitment will be roughly two 90-minute Zoom sessions and some planning time in between. A new volunteer request Google form will be sent out soon sharing the updated timeline which includes taking the summer off from planning.

6. Conference Updates

Vice President Mary Reinsch gave a recap of the 2024 conference held in Rhode Island from March 7-9. She shared the following information:

- Theme: Harmonizing Communities Across Generations
- 28 concurrent sessions
- 7 CMTE sessions
- 181 attendees, including 40 students
- 6 vendors
- 2 sponsors
 - Gold Tier Sponsor: Roman Music Therapy Services
 - Bronze Tier Sponsor: Berklee College of Music.

The 2025 NER Conference will take place in Portland Maine at the Westin Portland Harborview April 3-5. Call for papers closed two weeks ago on December 1. The anonymous review has started and will conclude on Monday, December 16. Registration will open next Monday or Tuesday as soon as the anonymous review information has been finalized. The group rate for hotel is available on the website at \$159 per night. There were 26 concurrent and 3 CMTE proposals submitted. This year the conference planners were looking to move away from the Eventbrite platform, searching for something more inclusive of all conference related needs (budget planning, sponsors, schedule, registration, etc.). This was found in ClearEvent.

An attendee asked what we can do to engage the Maine music therapy community. Conference Co-Chairs Mary and Vice President-Elect Emily Hawley have reached out to a music therapist in Maine about spreading information, wanting to collaborate with Maine

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music therapists to see how they would like to be involved, how we can support them, and how we can highlight them at the conference.

Inquiries have been sent to affinity group leaders to make safe spaces available at the conference. No responses have been received yet. Please reach out to affinity group leaders you know to share information regarding these available spaces.

An attendee asked how we receive sponsorship for conference and how we can acquire more sponsors. The conference planners have a database with universities, internship sites, and music therapy businesses in different locations throughout New England and other regions. About 2-3 weeks ago, Emily sent emails to all those locations advertising and offering the opportunity to be sponsor or vendor at conference. Emily created email templates which are available for conference volunteers to use. The conference planners are always looking for more conference volunteers. Meeting attendees were encouraged to think about people who want to support music therapy work or have a product, service, training, etc., that they would want to have in front of a music therapy audience.

Mary recognized Emily for the dedicated work she has done in preparation for the conference.

Considerations were shared regarding transportation for conferences with particular attention given to the accessibility concerns for students.

7. Committee Updates and Reports

Academic Program Approval Committee: Heather Wagner shared the work of the committee is constant, but there is no official report at this time. A report with further information will be provided when available.

Membership Committee: Ali Iaria reported the committee has been meeting and discussing how to grow the membership. The benefits must be worthwhile to encourage people to be members. The committee is comparing specific benefits throughout the regions. They are also comparing AMTA to other similar organizations in the world for music and creative arts therapies to see if their benefits align with ours. There is also a focus in our region to learn about students' interest in benefits.

Standards of Clinical Practice: Shannon Laine reported the committee has been at a standstill for at least a year. They finally have some movement with the hopes of having an update in the new year. Discussions to ensue about the future of this committee.

Interprofessional Collaborative Resource Committee: Sarah Pitts reported this committee is also at a bit of a standstill while waiting for a meeting with the AMTA board of directors. The committee has open seats, and they are waiting to find out if those seats will be filled. There is not currently a lot of momentum because there have been more important issues for the AMTA overall.

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Professional Advocacy Committee: Maggie Connors reported on the continued work of this committee in responding to advocacy issues as they come up. This committee also has some seats. Committee members had put together videos, but it is challenging to ask a smaller committee to commit to larger projects. For now, the committee members continue to address misrepresentations of music therapy.

Association Internship Approval Committee: Brian Jantz reported the committee is actively meeting and has added additional representatives in some regions. They have discussed whether we need to add a representative in the NER. This region has far fewer than some of the other regions. Brian shared the current active and inactive sites and spoke about bridging the gap between university affiliated internships and national roster internships. If any affiliate sites are looking to become nationally approved, Brian is happy to offer support with the application process.

8. NER-AMTAS/SAAB Update – Passages

Wendy gave report on behalf of NER-AMTAS. Current board members:

President: Alayah Tedder

President-Elect: Caera Duffy

Lesley Vice President: vacant

Berklee Vice President: Amelie Dejean-Subirats

SCSU Vice President: Gager Collier

URI Vice President: William Hoban

Westfield State Vice President: Priscilla Oluokun

Treasurer: Wendy Feng

Secretary: trey legal

Parliamentarian: Alianna LeClair

Public Relations: Sarah Rogers

Chair of Advocacy: Carrie Sullivan

Student Affairs Advisory Board Representative: Cacia King Herlihy

The students organized an amazing Passages event at the beginning of November. Thank you to Tim Honig and Westfield State for hosting. Due to some changes related to finances at Lesley University, this year was a good time to change the model of Passages. The location will now rotate between schools in the region.

There is current talk of potentially holding the annual Spring Event concurrently with the NER Conference to minimize the amount of traveling students need to do.

9. AMTA Update

Wendy shared updates from AMTA:

- Music Man Foundation Grand Award towards website and database rebuild

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- AMTA Symposium registration is still open with recordings available until 2/28/25
 - AMTA-U.thinkific.com
- Michelle Muth, MT-BC, was hired as a communications consultant
- There is new Assembly leadership
 - Speaker: Mia Iliopoulos Krings
 - Assistant Speaker: BriAnne Weaver

10. Committee Openings and Election State

Elections will be held at the 2025 conference. Immediate Past President Brian has put out a call for nominating committee members. Contact Brian if you are interested in serving on this committee by January 12, 2025 at brianj@neramta.org.

Discussion ensued regarding the topic of creating an Immediate Past Vice President position. The position would be one extra year rather than two as it is for Immediate Past President. Meeting attendees asked for clarification regarding the purpose of this potential role. Clarification was provided: it would be helpful for the conference support aspect as the Vice President services as Conference Chair. While there was a procedures manual in the past for in-person conference planning, things were lost due to the Covid pandemic and general passage of time. Going forward the current conference planners are putting together documents to avoid having to rely solely on the knowledge and experience of past board members. Discussion continued regarding conference planning procedures in other regions.

At this juncture, Wendy asked for a motion to extend the meeting by 15 minutes. Brian moved to extend the meeting until 10:15 pm. Meredith Pizzi seconded the motion. The motion passed.

There are several extended board openings including the Diversity Equity Inclusion Accessibility and Justice Committee, Pay-it-Forward, Reimbursement Committee, international Relations Committee, Workforce Development and Retention Committee, Continuing Education Committee, Conference Volunteers, and Nominating Committee.

11. In Memoriam

The Southeastern Region suffered greatly from Hurricane Helene. If anyone is able to provide financial assistance, please donate at <https://givebutter.com/seramtadisasterrelief>

Wendy opened the floor for people to share loved ones, personally and professionally, to take a moment to recognize and honor. A moment of silence was held.

12. Good and Welfare

Members were invited to share news which included the following:

- Reflections on a holiday concert
- The Association for Music and Imagery is having biannual conference on May 20-23 at Water's Edge in Westbrook, CT

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- Level 1 GIM trainings will be offered within the next year at Westfield State University and in the New Haven, CT area
- Nomination for best supporting performer after being in a musical last summer
- Heartwarming clinical stories from memory care
- Young adult group featured in the news
- Shoutout to students at Westfield State University

13. Adjournment

Wendy adjourned the meeting at 10:16 pm.

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