

MNSOTA Membership Meeting
Friday, August 10, 2007 8:00 am
St. Olaf College – All-State Teacher’s Workshop

Welcome to everyone and introduction of board members in attendance.

Treasurer’s Report

Toyo distributed the 2006-2007 budget summary. This is now public information as we are incorporated.

Overview of Events, 2007-2008

There are many events this year. The 2007-2008 handbook will be mailed soon, detailing each of these events.

The first event is the October 18th Fall Clinic and Luncheon. Lorie encouraged us to think of colleagues we want to honor – awards presented at the Fall Clinic. Deadline for award nominations is September 14th. Send nominations to Lorie.

Fall String Camp is October 26-28. Don’t hesitate to send younger students, if they are comfortable with the overnight camp stay. This camp is well supervised, has good food, and a caring atmosphere. We have repeat campers, which is a good testimony to the experience. Students can look forward to a fun musical experience.

The Pedagogy Talk Sessions, new last year, were great. We look forward to Nancy Bjork and Sally O’Reilly this coming year.

2008 All-State Teacher’s Workshop will be held August 7-9 at the College of St. Benedict.

Again, be sure to check details of all of our events listed in the handbook!

Incorporation Update

The incorporation has been a long process and is almost done. Lorie distributed copies and they will be printed in the handbook. The by-laws need to be completed. These by-laws reflect what our constitution says and formalizes what needs to happen in a non-profit organization. One change is that the Treasurer is an elected position, along with the President-Elect and Secretary.

By-laws will be mailed to the membership voted by a written proxy. By-laws can be amended.

Lorie will find out if ASTA has a process and or guidelines for amending by-laws and/or if we will follow Minnesota guidelines.

Initiatives

A. Certificate Program for Strings (CPS)

Faith and Annette Caruthers will be coordinating this new initiative. This is an exam system that is similar to British board exams and the Royal Conservatory of Canada. This program is excellent for solo & ensemble experience, and students earn a certificate from ASTA. The best scenario would be that each teacher is independent in planning, organizing, hiring judges, etc. A thorough, 145 page document is available to assist teachers with this. Check out further details on Astaweb.com/cps.htm

B. Mentoring Program

We are working with MMEA to create a data base for experienced teachers to mentor new teachers. A sign-up sheet was passed for those interested to be involved in this program.

Talent Search and Volunteer Needs

We are an active and busy organization. We always have needs and much appreciation for everyone's help in our activities. Check the handbook for the form and return to Lorie.

Thanks to everyone and we hope many get involved. It is great to have new people actively engaged in our events and activities!

General Issues – Open Forum

Kudos to Faith for her fabulous work on the MNSOTA journal, recognized for the second year as Best Journal!

Faith solicited more cover art for the journal. This could be a good beginning of year project/assignment for your students. Some guidelines:

Pencil sketches are good - large enough sketch for 8 1/2 x 11.

Small cartoons do not work.

If the sketch photocopies well, it works well.

Michael Watson, our webmaster, mentioned that we need to be careful about photo submissions on our website with regard to parent permission. Michael will check guidelines/media forms at his school and send to Faith.

String programs – how can we help? We heard about budget reductions and how this impacts our programs. West St. Paul was mentioned where 5th grade band and orchestra were cut last spring. In Cloquet, the program was entirely cut at their May school board meeting, but was re-instated with some reduction. A great advocacy and partnership resource is Grant Wilcox.

Send any further program concerns to Lorie.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Scott, Secretary