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NewsNotes

President's Notes

Paulo Steinberg, VMTA State President

Dear Fellow Music Teachers:

We are celebrating our 50th anniversary. Most of us look really good for 50, don't we? VMTA celebrated this important milestone by bringing top-notch musicians and presenters to our conference at Wintergreen Resort in July, including our own members, such as pianist **Tracy Cowden**, violinist **Ross Monroe Winter**, and composer **William Averitt**.

For me, one of the big highlights was to attend the performances of all the VMTA concerto competition winners, two of them with the Wintergreen Performing Arts orchestra! Also, I learned so much with all the workshops and with the many opportunities we had for interesting discussions. As president-elect for two years, I tried to schedule varied workshops that would benefit all musicians and I'm glad this trend has continued. Following the same format, our new President-Elect, **Susan Atkins**, prepared a wonderful conference, which was highly praised by not only pianists but also other instrumentalists.

We offered a session at the conference especially for collegiate chapter members. We had students from **JMU**, **VCU** and from a newly formed group, **Liberty University**. I am excited that the three groups decided to join forces and collaborate with each other during this new academic year. Please help support this group in any way you can.

Following the tradition started by our Past President, **Gabriella Ryan**, we gave some awards during our conference. These are the chapters that got back to me with their nominations:

Most valuable member in each chapter:

Charlottesville – **Gayle Brubaker**
Harrisonburg – **Kama Miller**
Highlands – **Mary Louise Hallauer**, NCTM
Northern Virginia – **Eve Ginnett**, NCTM
Peninsula – **Jean Kunkel**
Richmond – **Sharon Stewart**, NCTM
Roanoke Valley – **Sarah Reaser O'Brien**, NCTM
Shenandoah – **Elizabeth Caluda**, NCTM
Tidewater – **Myrena Kickasola**, NCTM

Chapter with the greatest percentage of Fall Festival participants:

Central Virginia: 16 members—7 participants

Hundreds of hours of volunteer work:

1. **Michele Carragan**
2. **Betty Ann Spiers**, NCTM
3. **Susan Atkins**, NCTM

Conductor **Erin Freeman** has just been appointed as the new Wintergreen Performing Arts Artistic Director. We are excited to collaborate with the Wintergreen Music Festival and orchestra one more time, before we decide on changing locations. Keep tuned for developments in our partnership with the Wintergreen Performing Arts!

Four teachers became nationally certified recently. Please help me congratulate **Elizabeth Blakeslee**, **Richard James Masters**, **Ann Katherine Lee**, and **Ruta Smedina-Starke**. If you have questions on how to become nationally certified, please send an email to our new certification chair, **Diane Perett**. Make this one of your goals for 2014 if you are not nationally certified yet.

I decided to visit each VMTA local chapter in 2014, to attend one of your programs and hear your suggestions and concerns. I have visited 6 chapters so far, and I am so impressed with you. I would like to thank you for all your effort in organizing interesting programs, promoting music and musicianship through mutual cooperation and inspiring each other in order to develop and become better musicians and educators.

I feel that even greater things are going to happen in our organization. The VMTA team is working hard for you. But we can't go anywhere if you do not take advantage of what we offer. We are trying to do our best to provide development opportunities for teachers in Virginia, so that YOU can benefit from it. Check out our website www.virginiamta.org for opportunities to participate in VMTA events.

It has been a pleasure to serve you!

Paulo Steinberg, NCTM

50TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE: BIG SUCCESS!

The weather cooperated and the 2014 VMTA Conference celebrated the 50th anniversary of VMTA in beautiful Wintergreen with fabulous food, magnificent music and superb sessions. It was successful and enjoyable for all 85 members and guests who attended. The partnership between VMTA and Wintergreen Performing Arts (WPA) was solidified and beneficial to both organizations.

Guest Artist **Mirian Conti** played a solo recital in which she showcased music from her native Argentina and other Latin countries. Her master class highlighted the talents of three VMTA members' students and was informative and entertaining for all who attended. The symphony concert, featuring two of the 2014 VMTA Concerto Winners also demonstrated to the audience just how good the Wintergreen Festival Orchestra can

(continued on page 3)

MINUTES

VMTA GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING July 19, 2014, WINTERGREEN, VA

Laura Cardin, VMTA Secretary

President Paulo Steinberg called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Agenda amended to change bylaws wording. Betty Ann Spiers moves that Article 12 of the bylaws to be changed to read "the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order" seconded and approved.

Minutes from July 13, 2013 Conference at Wintergreen Resort, VA were approved as recorded.

Officers Reports:

President – Paulo Steinberg:

- Thank you Susan Atkins for an amazing conference. The 50th anniversary celebration is turning out great. We are proud of the partnership with Wintergreen Performing Arts.
- Recognition of the Chapter of the Year, Richmond MTA.
- There is a new collegiate chapter, Liberty University at Lynchburg, VA. This year we have a session for the collegiate members. There are other collegiate chapters represented this weekend as well, VCU and JMU.
- Paulo was at the MTNA conference in Chicago. It was great to have many members of VMTA in attendance. Paulo is pleased that we have great representation at the National Conference having teachers with National Competition winners.
- Please communicate with Paulo if you have any concerns or comments on things that are going well.

President Elect – Susan Atkins:

- Over 80 in attendance and 73 members have checked in so far. More attendees will be coming today from the collegiate chapter.
- There will be a survey handed out later. President-Elect is happy with the location and enjoys working with the Wintergreen Performing Arts Festival.

VP Membership – Becky Wallenborn:

Our 2013–2014 membership closed with a total of 690 active, 152 senior, 28 student members; totaling 870. This is a decrease of 4 members from the previous year. As of June 30, 2014, we have 448 active, 145 senior and 14 student members (11 are High School age and 3 are Collegiate); totaling of 607. MTNA encourages us to continue to promote collegiate student membership as well as reviewing our own individual chapter strategies for increasing participation.

Secretary – Laura Cardin: Happy to be serving as Secretary. Nothing to report.

Treasurer – Mun Lee Han:

- As of June 30, 2014 - Balance in Checking Account: \$29,938.37; Savings Account: \$22,025.56; CD: \$4,248.93.
- 3 Reminders the Treasurer needs:
 1. Reimbursement income and expenses need to be completed before June 30th every year.
 2. If you are requesting a check for more than \$600, we need a W-9 before the check can be written.
 3. When you send a check, please include a memo or note saying what the check is for.
- The Executive Board recommends we approve the new budget for 2014. Voted and approved.

Certification – Lisa Moxley is moving out of Virginia and the new chair will be: Diane Perett, from Northern VA. Report from Lisa Moxley

- In March 856; 107 certified, 12.5% certified; 4 new certified teachers: Ruta Smedina Starke, Elizabeth Blakeslee, Richard James Masters and Ann Katherine Lee. Pins presented to present members by Paulo.
- There was a session about certification yesterday at the conference, led by Gabriella Ryan and Jeanette Winsor.
- Gabriella Ryan is willing to come to local chapters and talk in depth about certification.

Local Associations – Donna Halleck

- Yesterday, Presidents and representatives from the 12 local chapters met to share with the other Presidents, their plans and programs for events. New ideas were shared, including: converting the yearbooks, newsletters and documents to digital format.
- Unanimously, the main concern of each President is to increase membership by finding new ways to recruit new members. The consensus was—recruiting younger members may help to preserve the organization for the future. We welcome input from other members for solutions to this issue.

IMTF – Samantha Luck

- Beth Tomassetti will be running the IMTF forum today, talking about marketing private studios.
- This part of VMTA [IMTF] is to help you with guidance on how or what to do with your own studio, and to help promote a better quality of teaching. She has a list for local associations of programs that can be offered; email her for that information.
- Samantha has also been working as the Advertisement Chair. She has been updating the list of advertisers.

Old Business:

A. Theory tests – Tonya Menard and the committee are working on the second year of updating the theory tests. These should be available October or November at the latest.

B. State Grant – Paulo wrote a grant and it was declined. If there are any grants you know of that we can apply for, please let him know.

C. MTNA Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Investigation on Ethics

- Hand out the Antitrust Compliance Guide Summary at each meeting. Please read over the summary carefully. [See back page.] The presenters of workshops need to sign an agreement stating that they cannot discuss certain items that are on the summary.
- Betty Ann Spiers read a letter from Gary Ingle, this was posted on the Professional Piano Teachers Facebook. Summary – Immediate and absolute clarity is not possible in one attempt. The FTC prohibited topics are not specific to MTNA. These apply to any group of competitors, regardless of business or industry. The FTC discourages anticompetitive conduct. The Antitrust Compliance Guide was developed for MTNA Affiliates and it is designed to protect the group from potential legal action related to antitrust laws, it is not intended to be a document to guide the actions of individual teachers. It is better for MTNA to be overly cautious and technical in our advice on the compliance guide.
 - At group events, we are not to discuss certain topics.
 - If you are sharing studio rates, etc., figures must be at least 3 months old.
 - More discussion held.
- If you have questions, contact Gary Ingle or Betty Ann Spiers.

New Business

A. MusicLink – The Executive Board approved an increase in fee from \$500 to \$700; this is already in the budget.

B. Historian: Michele Carragan – The VMTA Scrapbooks and some *NewsNotes* have been scanned.

- Our scrapbooks should be held and preserved in a better place. UVA is willing to hold the documents and would be Intellectual Property of UVA. We will be able to look at the items at UVA, but we will not be able to take the documents out of the library. Melissa Marrion moves that we hold the scrapbooks at UVA, seconded and approved.
- If anyone has documents or pictures, please hand them in or email them to the Michele. She only has scrapbooks up to 2004.

(continued on page 7)

2014 Conference Report *(continued from page 1)*

play, conducted by Christopher Zimmerman. You may have missed wonderful workshops by: Tracy Cowden and Ross Monroe Winters—Collaborative; Robert Duke—the brain and learning; Bradley Sowash—Jazz improvisation; and Michael White—Robert Schumann. Other meetings and workshops included: IMTF—Independent Music Teachers Forum—tips for advertising your studio; Collegiate Chapter meeting which was attended by students from VCU, JMU and Liberty University; and the Certification Panel meeting which was extremely informative and beneficial to those interested in MTNA certification. Exhibitors were present such as Music & Arts, Charlottesville which allowed members to buy music showcased by Jennifer Linn, the Hal Leonard clinician.

Five past presidents were honored at the banquet for their contributions to VMTA. Michele Carragan, our historian, brought all the scrapbooks for us to look at and set up a slide show which ran during the breaks between sessions and also during the banquet. It was fun to travel back in time and remember the 50 year history of this great organization and to reconnect with people who have worked hard to make it what it is today.

Plan now to attend next year's conference

2015 VMTA Summer Conference
July 16–19, 2015
Wintergreen Resort

See you there!

THE BARSS **THEORY BOOKS**



Following VMTA Theory Syllabus
For information contact

Fay Barss

804 282 7725

faysmusic@gmail.com
(www.barsstheory.com)

Visit VMTA's web site at
www.virginiamta.org

music@tech
www.performingarts.vt.edu

Virginia Tech welcomes **Amy Gillick, bassoon** and **Brian Thorsett, voice** as new artist-teachers to our music faculty for the 2014–15 academic year!

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FALL FESTIVAL

Debbie Sacra, Fall Festival Coordinator



It's time again for the Fall Festival! Encouraging your students to participate is a great way to get them off to a fast start this fall. In Northern Virginia, the festival will take place Saturday, **November 8, 2014**. At Lynchburg, the date of the festival is tentatively set as Saturday, **November 15, 2014**. In Richmond, Roanoke, and Winchester (Shenandoah), the festival will take place Saturday, **November 22, 2014**. See below for the registration postmark deadline and chairman for each location in addition to exact festival location. No late applications will be accepted.

You may enter students in piano, piano duet, organ, strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, classical guitar, accordion, or voice. Students must play one piece from the Contemporary Period containing at least one contemporary idiom. The second piece must be chosen from any historical period other than the Contemporary Period. In certain localities, pieces which are traditionally composed (perhaps from a method book) are accepted for the non-Contemporary piece, but only for beginning students. Please check with your local Fall Festival Chairman concerning this. Both pieces must be memorized. There are only two exceptions to this rule: 1) students in Levels III or IV who play an avant garde piece may use their music if this has been

cleared by the local chairman prior to the registration deadline or 2) entries in piano duet or organ. No photocopied music is allowed. Only originally composed music is accepted, no simplifications or popular music.

Check the VMTA Yearbook under "General Regulations for All VMTA Events" and "VMTA Fall Festivals," for further information and regulations. Also check page 3 of the VMTA Yearbook for the contact information of each chairman.

Festivals will be held in the following locations with these registration postmark deadlines and local chairmen:

Lynchburg (CVMTA): To Be Announced; F. Johnson Scott, President.

Northern Virginia: October 6; Lori Santos, Virginia Moore and Miyon (Amy) Park, Chairmen; held at Cherrydale United Methodist Church, 3701 Lorcom Lane, Arlington, VA 22207.

Richmond: October 20; Lynn Redford and Deborah Martin, Chairmen; held at the University of Richmond, Booker Hall.

Roanoke: October 10; Peggy Schaaf and Bittsy Hall, Chairmen; held at Hollins University, Roanoke.

Winchester (Shenandoah): November 10; Dr. Sue Boyd, Chairman; held at Shenandoah University, Goodson Recital Hall. ■

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DR. LISE KEITER

Department of Music • Mary Baldwin College • Staunton, VA 24401
(540) 887-7193 lkeiter@mbc.edu



2015 VMTA Summer Conference
July 16-19, 2015
Wintergreen Resort



www.wintergreenperformingarts.org
(434) 325-8292

Certification Profile: Ruta Smedina-Starke

by Anne James, NCTM



“There are so many ways to achieve great results in piano pedagogy. Every teacher has to choose his or her own approach. I always treat my students with kindness. I can be strict and demanding with-in reason but I never forget that only believing in someone will bring out the best results. I don’t ever forget to find at least one positive thing a student did during the lesson and recognize it. Maintaining a positive attitude is so important for a student not to lose interest in the piano and music in general.”

In the fifteen years since she emigrated to the U.S. from Latvia, Ruta Smedina-Starke has developed a thriving studio of preparatory and college students. “I am lucky to have hard-working and dedicated students. They are willing to give their best in order to become the best they possibly can under my guidance. For the majority of my students the piano is one of the main after-school activities. I usually recommend no more than two other after-school activities in addition to the piano.”

Ruta Smedina-Starke studied piano with Larisa Olshinskaja at Yelgava City Music College. She graduated from the University of Latvia in Riga with a Bachelor of Arts in English. She then moved to Richmond, where she studied with Dr. Sonia Vlahcevic and earned a Master of Music in Piano Performance at VCU. She has studied privately with Dr. Dmitri Shteinberg for three years. Smedina-Starke is a member of Pi Kappa Lambda music honor society.

“I always talk to my students and try to notice what kind of music they like. I allow them to choose at least one piece that they really love. As a rule one gets the best results practicing something they really love. I am always demanding about technique: scales, Hanon, Czerny. I think there is no such thing as ‘no time for technique.’”

As a member of the Richmond Music Teachers Association, Smedina-Starke has served as Chair of the Bach Competition. She has been adjudicator for the Richmond Symphony Concerto Competition, the Charlottesville Music Teachers Association Concerto Competition, and the MTNA State Competition during the 2012 VMTA State Conference.

Winner of Jordan Kitts’ 2006 Educator Award, Smedina-Starke currently is an adjunct faculty member at the VCU Department of Music. Her lecture recitals have included “Carl Maria von Weber and the Konzertstück for Piano, Op. 79,” “Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky and The Seasons for the Piano, Op 37b,” and “Robert Schumann’s Scenes from Childhood, Op. 15.” She has performed in masterclasses of Stephen Hough, Jon Nakamatsu, Harold Martina and Seymour Bernstein.

“I believe in an individual approach to every student. A teacher should never blame a student for a passage that doesn’t work—there is always a way that works and it is up to the teacher to find the right way to communicate it to the student even if it means explaining the same problem in a dozen different ways.”

“Finally, I think a teacher never should stop learning and be open to new approaches and new repertoire.” ■



21st Annual Galbraith Event

MASTER CLASS BY JENNIFER LINN

Jennifer Linn is a multi-talented pianist, teacher, composer, arranger, and clinician, and is the manager-educational piano for Hal Leonard Corporation. Linn’s teaching career spans more than 25 years and includes independent studio teaching of all ages, as well as group instruction and piano pedagogy at the university level.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

- 10 am Master class for Hollins University piano students with Q&A session
- 6:30 pm Master class for Hollins University Academy of Music piano students with Q&A session

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

- 9:30 am Coffee social, Bradley Conference Room
- 10 am Workshop for Roanoke Valley piano teachers
- 7 pm Recital featuring compositions by Jennifer Linn

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The unique musical and pianistic elements found in the music of Debussy and Ravel require unique skills not easily found in method books and preparatory piano literature. More than ever, our 21st-century-students are naturally drawn to the style and the goal of this workshop is to highlight musical stepping-stones to a more successful first masterpiece.

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Reports

VMTA STATE THEORY REPORT 2014

Tonya Menard, State Chairman

Level	Superior	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Pass	Not Pass
PRIMER	44	12	2	2	1	0
IA	37	36	24	10	5	4
IB	48	25	17	5	2	2
IIA	41	20	15	7	1	0
IIB	52	40	8	3	2	0
IIIA	33	31	19	7	1	3
IIIB	23	41	27	7	4	2
IV	22	35	23	12	6	7
V	15	28	18	7	2	4
VI	7	22	17	6	3	2
VII	1	12	13	11	5	2
VIII	0	10	6	3	0	0
IX	9	3	2	0	1	0
X	2	4	5	3	0	2
XI	0	0	2	0	0	0
XII	0	2	1	1	0	0
No Shows (54)						
TOTALS (999)	334	321	199	84	33	28

Updates to theory tests, and creation of Year 2 tests is ongoing. Thank you all for your input and patience as we continue to make changes. ■

VMTA CONCERTO COMPETITION 2014

Wanda M. Hall, Chairman

The 2014 Concerto Competition was held at Shenandoah University, Winchester, on Saturday, May 24. There were more than twenty entrants, with fifteen participating the day of the competition. The results are as follows:

Collegiate Piano

Winner – Donald Allen Lee, III, student of Dr. Eric Ruple
 Alternate – Elizabeth McDowell, student of Dr. Rebecca McCord
 Second Place – Chuan-Li Ko, student of Dr. Paulo Steinberg
 Third Place – Monica Vicente, student of Beverly Carow

Collegiate Brass

Winner – Jeremy Loy (French Horn), student of Ian Zook

Collegiate Strings

Winner – Jingjing Nie (Violin), student of Akemi Takayama
 Second Place – John Tyler Garner (Violin), student of Akemi Takayama
 Third Place – Samantha Allen (Violin), student of Akemi Takayama

Collegiate Woodwinds

Winner – Jacob Moyer (clarinet), student of Garrick Zoeter

High School Piano

Winner – Brian Le, student of Nancy Breth
 Second Place – Grace Wang, student of Marjorie Lee
 Third Place – Lynne Bai, student of Marjorie Lee

High School Strings

Winner – Kenneth Ryu Naito (Violin), student of Olga Khroulevitch
 Second Place – Stephen Tan (Violin), student of Julie Wilkinson

High School Woodwinds

Second Place – Dennis Zhao (Clarinet), student of Dr. Albert Hunt

The 2014 competition was especially exciting with more than double the entrants of last year's competition and the first year we have had a brass entrant in several years. The new harp category had one entrant, but she had to withdraw at the last minute. We hope there will be more harp and brass entrants in the future. Please check the website for the date and location of the 2015 Concerto Competition. ■

EASTERN DISTRICT RESULTS 2014

Alisa Bohon, Eastern District Chair

The Eastern District Audition was held May 3, 2014 at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, VA. There were 43 students entered and 41 who participated. The students represented 9 piano studios. The adjudicators for the competition were: Dr. Paulo Steinberg, Dr. Shelby Sender, Dr. Jeremy Thompson, and Vernon McCart.

Level IA	STUDENT	TEACHER
1st Place	Alan Schuster	Alisa Bohon
Alternate	Tony Qu	Alisa Bohon
2nd Place	Fiona Lin	Alisa Bohon
3rd Place	Emma Chung	Jolanta Szewczyk
H. M.	Erika Wu	Galina Epelman

Level IB	STUDENT	TEACHER
1st Place	Jennifer Zhang	Jolanta Szewczyk
Alternate	Victoria Cheng	Alisa Bohon
2nd Place	William Chi	Jolanta Szewczyk
3rd Place	Alicia Qu	Alisa Bohon
H. M.	Brent Wang	Josephine Jones

Level II	STUDENT	TEACHER
1st Place	Annie Cao	Jolanta Szewczyk
Alternate	Anni Wang	Jolanta Szewczyk
2nd Place	Asia Halter	Josephine Jones
3rd Place	Michelle Yue	Josephine Jones
H. M.	Annie Liang	Teri Falk

Level III	STUDENT	TEACHER
1st Place	Alexander Liang	Teri Falk
Alternate	Melissa Zhu	Jolanta Szewczyk
2nd Place	Clair Du	Teri Falk
3rd Place	Jimmy Qing	Teri Falk
H. M.	Olti Myrtaj	Michelle Whitney

(continued on page 7)

Reports... (continued from page 6)

NORTHERN DISTRICT RESULTS 2014

Lori Santos, Northern District Chair

Level IA	STUDENT	TEACHER
1st Place	Oscar Paz-Suaznabar	Marjorie Lee
1st Place Alternate	Clarissa Ding	Margarita Gramaticova
2nd Place	Jessica Ye	Marjorie Lee
3rd Place	Angela Zhang	Margarita Gramaticova
Honorable Mention	Felicity Fei	Rosita Mang
Honorable Mention	Kathleen Wang	Jun Yang
Honorable Mention	Jessica Wang	Marjorie Lee
Honorable Mention	Nicole Papenfuss	Silva Blazquez
Honorable Mention	Lucy Chen	Rosita Mang
Honorable Mention	Raelyn Hoang	Silva Blazquez

Level IB	STUDENT	TEACHER
1st Place	Michael Himy	Margarita Gramaticova
1st Place Alternate	Adrian Cheung	Oxana Titova
2nd Place	Joanna Cheng	Marjorie Lee
3rd Place	Victor Pan	Anna Ouspenskaya
Honorable Mention	Andrew Zhang	Marjorie Lee
Honorable Mention	Alison Wan	Marjorie Lee
Honorable Mention	Larry Shi	Rosita Mang
Honorable Mention	Andrew Cocchiara	Marjorie Lee
Honorable Mention	Nathan Mo	Rosanne Conway

Level II	STUDENT	TEACHER
1st Place	Kevin Su	Marjorie Lee
1st Place Alternate	David DiMeglio	Eric Himy
2nd Place	Grace Wang	Marjorie Lee
3rd Place	Christopher Papenfuss	James Litzelman
Honorable Mention	Soren Christensen	Margarita Gramaticova
Honorable Mention	Emily Ye	James Litzelman
Honorable Mention	Evan Hu	Marjorie Lee
Honorable Mention	Shine Peng	Rosita Mang
Honorable Mention	Kevin Wang	Nancy Breth

Level III	STUDENT	TEACHER
1st Place	Roman Kasparian	Margarita Gramaticova
1st Place Alternate	Lyric Yu	Rosita Mang
2nd Place	Nadia Balabanska	Oxana Titova
3rd Place	Rachel Chon	Narciso Solero
Honorable Mention	Emma Guo	Rosita Mang
Honorable Mention	William Zhang	Jun Yang
Honorable Mention	Ailynne Hartsell	Margarita Gramaticova

Minutes... (continued from page 2)

C. Concerto Competition – New chair, Anna Ouspenskaya

- Wanda Hall recommends that the following sentence be added to be Concerto Competition Guidelines on page 13.

Following the sentence that reads, “No photocopy of copyrighted music may be used by the contestant, judges, or accompanists,”

This was rejected by the Executive Board. The Executive Board recommends using the wording from the MTNA website to be added to the VMTA guidelines.

- **All entrants and accompanists must abide by the federal Copyright Law. Photocopies are strongly discouraged. Entrants using photocopies or PDFs downloaded from the Internet may be asked to complete the Music Release Form verifying that they have permission to use this music.**
- **All scores must be submitted to competition officials prior to the entrant’s performance.**
 - Measures must be numbered at the beginning of each system.
 - A Music Release Form must be signed for any photocopies being used.

- Andrew Horowitz moves that the wording from MTNA be used. Seconded and approved.

D. Paulo has enjoyed visiting the local chapters and has seven more that he will visit before December.

Paulo presented the following awards to the *Most Valuable Member* in each chapter:

Charlottesville – Gayle Brubaker
Harrisonburg – Kama Miller
Highlands – Mary Louise Hallauer
Northern Virginia – Eve Ginnett
Peninsula – Jean Kunkel
Richmond – Sharon Stewart
Roanoke Valley – Sarah Reaser O’Brien
Shenandoah – Elizabeth Caluda
Tidewater – Myrena Kickasola

Paulo presented awards for Appreciation for *Hundreds of Hours of Volunteer Work* to the following:

Michele Carragan
Elizabeth Ann Spiers
Susan Atkins

Adjournment at 9:53 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Laura Cardin ■

2014 VMTA Competitions

Mark your calendars now for the 2014 VMTA Competitions!

October 30 – November 1

Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA

visit: www.virginiamta.org for details and application forms.

Virginia Music Teachers Association

Jeanette Winsor, NCTM, *NewsNotes* Editor
6317 Brynmawr Lane
Virginia Beach, VA 23464-3730

Dated Material Inside

ANTITRUST COMPLIANCE GUIDE SUMMARY

Topics which should not be discussed among members of state and local music teacher associations (but OK between an employer and employees in a studio):

- Current prices or hourly rates;
- Current billing policies and procedures;
- What constitutes fair profit margins;
- Plans to increase or decrease prices or hourly rates;
- Agreements to allocate or divide territories or clients;
- Policies regarding vacation time and missed lessons;
- Terms and conditions of sales such as late charges, prompt payment discounts, credit terms;
- Recommendations to members to implement unlawful tying arrangements such as requiring students to purchase sheet music exclusively from the teacher;
- Salaries of music studio employees;
- Complaints about or problems presented by other competitors or suppliers;
- Encouraging others to take retaliatory actions against competitors or suppliers, such as a boycott against a supplier that decided to offer music instruction in competition with members; and
- Efforts to influence suppliers' prices.

We can no longer share our studio policies with other members in meetings. General discus-

sions of past pricing levels or economic trends in the profession, as well as studio management, are fine as long as members do not share their own methods and experiences or try to influence other members in a certain direction.

Surveys of prices or hourly rates can only be taken by an independent third party, and the data collected must be at least three months old.

How to Guard Against Antitrust Liability

- Agendas for meetings should be prepared and distributed to attendees in advance of the meeting. A vote must be taken (after possible additions or subtractions from the agenda) to approve the "orders of the day." Once approved, the agenda cannot be changed except by a two-thirds majority vote.
- The written antitrust policy for the chapter (or state organization) should be distributed with the agenda at every meeting.
- Presenters for seminars and workshops should sign a written agreement in which they acknowledge and agree not to discuss any of the prohibited topics.
- An employee or member should be designated to serve as an antitrust compliance officer at each meeting. His or her primary responsibility is to cut off any discussions that drift into prohibited topics. *The Parliamentarian would be a logical person to serve in this position.*
- On-line sites should post rules about the prohibitions and be monitored by a volunteer who takes down inappropriate postings. (*Webmaster*)

It is important to publicize requirements for maintaining association membership.

Code of Ethics

A Code of Ethics must not impose any anti-competitive restrictions on members. Teachers cannot be restricted from recruiting students. A teacher referral service should be open to all members who sign up for the referral service. The association may charge a fee for this service. The service may list contact information} but should not list prices charged by teachers. Referrals should be made in an objective manner without favoritism.

Competitions and Festivals

Since competitions affect a teacher's ability to compete in the community, competitions should not be restricted to members only. Student competitions should be open to nonmembers. Non-members may be charged higher fees, but not so high that it effectively compels a teacher to join the organization. Limitations in the number of students accepted may be made because of practical conditions such as half size of the number of judges.

The conduct of judges in a competition is a recognized exemption to the antitrust restrictions; a judge may be restricted from soliciting students. A code of conduct for judges may be imposed that limits their criticism of students and teachers in the competition.

Non-competitive festivals can be restricted to students of members since this type of event does not greatly affect the teacher's competitiveness in the community.

All affiliates of the Music Teachers National Association must comply with these guidelines and be responsible for informing all members of restrictions and policies.