

PMTA Local Associations Forum
5pm, June 12, 2015
Penn State University, State College, Pennsylvania

Call to order: Mary Lynne Bennett called the meeting to order and welcomed members. She explained that this meeting was modeled after the association meetings at the national conference. This meeting was the first local association forum at the PMTA conference: a chance for local association members to talk about issues and also hear what was going on at the state and national levels.

MTNA FTC agreement: MTNA signed an agreement with the Federal Trade Commission in 2014. It included changing the code of ethics to remove a statement forbidding recruiting from colleagues' studios, and prohibiting official discussion of topics that could be perceived as anti-competitive. Local associations need to update official websites to avoid any mention of the outdated MTNA code of ethics. Details about the code of ethics are at <http://www.mtna.org/about-mtna/code-of-ethics/> and details about complying with the agreement are at <http://www.mtna.org/media/77169/MTNA%20ANTITRUST%20COMPLIANCE%20GUIDE.pdf> It is important for local association members to know that the agreement forbids official (that is, on the agenda of an official event) discussion of topics including: current prices, hourly rates, agreements to allocate territories, policies about missed lessons and vacation, requiring students to purchase music, salaries of music studio employees, and retaliatory action against suppliers. There is a form letter for guest speakers at all local and state events to sign, saying they agree not to speak on the forbidden topics, attached to this message. This form will also be available on the PMTA website soon.

Other legal issues:

Members are advised to warn parents recording recitals that putting recordings of copyrighted music up on social media sites is a violation of copyright. MTNA also has adopted the rule that parents may only post recordings of their own children unless they have written release forms from the other children's parents.

Most local associations have official events such as competitions and recitals at venues such as schools and churches. It is important to seek out and follow host institution rules about clearances for judges, monitors, and any volunteers, including parents. The PMTA rule is that no one adult should be left alone in a room with a student. Beyond that, it is important to be aware of the rules for at different venues (schools, churches, etc). MTNA does have liability insurance certificates. The PA clearance form is available here: <http://www.pamusicteachers.org/wp-content/uploads/PACildAbuseClrnce.pdf>

The rules for clearances do not need to be followed as stringently in private studio recitals (for example, with parents cutting a cake), but it is important to comply with the host institution's rules at larger venues.

Other issues:

There was discussion about the need to engage more members and member activity. Suggestions for local associations included:

- *combining local associations from larger areas to bring in distinguished guests
- *combining with other piano teacher organizations for speakers and events
- *establishing relationships with music and teachers and choral directors at local schools, with the caveat that their teaching schedule will not permit their attendance at meetings during the work week.
- *more interdisciplinary collaborations for events

*having themes, such as a composer for the year, and for several meetings during the year to have performances with teachers playing for each other works of that composer. At the national leadership summit, there was discussion that new members feel more committed to the local organization because they feel personal connections with people.

*Every month taking 5 minutes to present some benefit that MTNA can offer, such as legal services, helpful forms, insurance, discounts, etc.

There was also some discussion about PMTA dues being more expensive than other states, and possibly onerous for some teachers. PMTA's dues are in about the middle when compared with other states' dues costs.

Message from Penn State Director of the School of Music: Sue Haug gave a warm welcome, thanking all the music teachers for being there, and pointing out that partnerships between college faculty and community musicians are valuable. She also congratulated outgoing PMTA president (and Penn State emeritus faculty member) Steven Smith and called him an example of emeritus faculty who never stop being engaged and having a chance to impact the lives of kids.

Announcements:

Teri Smith reminded everyone about Dorothy Sutton Performance Festival, and encouraged them to have their students play in it.

Closing: Mary Lynne Bennett adjourned the meeting, thanking everyone for their good ideas and thoughts.