

Local Association Forum

2016 PMTA Conference

Seven Springs Resort

Seven Springs PA

June 11, 2016, 12:00 PM

Meeting was called to order by Mary Lynne Bennett.

Reports from local associations:

Capitol area: Susan Fish: on the board of Capitol Area scholarship committee. Has a festival every year in the spring. Was at Messiah this past year. Students come in and are judged on two memorized pieces, and have performance workshops and masterclasses. Between 125 and 200 students. Every three years have Piano Extravaganza: 16 pianos onstage with 2 people at every piano, all playing duets. From elementary up to advanced. Last time about 20 or 30 teachers who participated, about 200 kids. There is a conductor, Johannes Dietrich, from Lebanon Valley, who conducts. Workshops once a month.

Central Pennsylvania: Wendy Bachman: Started a Teacher Spotlight at every meeting: if you went to MTNA or a workshop or masterclass, came back and reported at next meeting. Started family concert: quiz, people talk about the music, Kristin Stevenson and Emily Chu, special guest was Angeline Change. There's another one coming up on August 13 at Penn State. Also have a composer every year, so every meeting members play pieces by that composer and talk about that composer. Also Dorothy Sutton. Holiday Extravaganza: several keyboards, lots of sight-reading. Phyllis Triolo. 3 student recitals at Penn State with different monitors and volunteers. Several members went to MTNA. Talking to Amanda about collaborating with Lycoming to get Forrest Kinney to come back in conjunction with MTNA conference in Baltimore. Also updating website to taking lots of pictures of themselves

Erie: No report

Greater Pittsburgh: Deborah Busche: About 45 members have a card that has contact info on one side and calendar on the other side (instead of booklet). 5 meetings: one was a joint meeting with Pittsburgh Piano Teachers association 3 recitals plus DSPF plus another festival (Streator Smith), with 20 entrants and cash prizes. Concerto competition with local civic orchestra.

Indiana Musicale: Henry Wong Doe: Small organization, reinstated 3 years ago. DSPF 6 students passed to state. 3rd annual Monster concert—very large piano ensemble event with 40 students from greater area (Indiana, Westmoreland, Allegheny, Cambria—check place names). Recently had Jackie Herbein give a performance workshop with biofeedback machinery. Informal soiree for some students played performances together one evening.

Lancaster: Cheryl Brown: Successful to have teacher sessions “Tricks of the Trade” or “Fireside Chats”—no fail favorites (people brought pieces—headed by Kendra Bigley)—also preparing students for college auditions, led by Anita Renfro. Seminar with Ingrid Clarfield: The Road to Technical and Artistic Mastery. VP is Carolyn North, and she headed up the sessions, so thanks to her. Student activities: DSPF 51 students, 15 teachers participating. 21 went to state. Halloween recital in nursing home—kids dress up and play seasonal pieces. Early Feb - Jazz rags and blues concerts. Springfest in April—check details. Carolyn North and Carolyn Dietrich ran the event.

Lehigh Valley: Karen Ligowski: Every fall DSPF with piano and voice. Over 100 students involved. Local auditions where students play 2 contrasting pieces, any who receive highest grade come back next day to play honors recital. Teacher meetings every month. Student recitals throughout the year, including one encouraging collaborative playing. A couple of years ago had spring festival with topics like harpsichord, Dalcroze, solfège singing, student chamber music... was hosted at Moravian College where most events occur. Scholarships for teens who are going to major in music and for students who are attending summer music camps. Funds for that as well as annual bus trip to Metropolitan opera in NYC—busload of students and chaperones every year. Annual play-a-thon at local mall. 3 different sites, each with a piano. Piano students mostly, some vocal students as well do a block of performing—each one brings in money. In Bethlehem there’s a big music fest, so each year we hold auditions for students to perform at a venue that’s for our chapter.

Mainline: Elaine Friedlander: very active chapter with about 100 members. In Sept, teacher’s forum: 1st yearly meeting is to explain who we are and what we do and go through handbook. This year will have a talk on technology and recreational music making. DSPF: last year 138 students. 2 student recitals, one in Oct, one in April. Very nice collaborative relationship with West Chester University (thanks to Patricia Powell), bring in masterclasses including Seymour Bernstein. This year Suzanne Schmidt on ear training, Igor Resnianski, Lois Svard --Teachers forum: 3 members on a panel, Play-a-thon, kids theory exam, mini-masterclasses where teacher can sign up for time with up to 3 of their students with faculty member from West Chester University. Big event is standard festival Constance Murray Piano Festival where each student performs 2 contrasting pieces, usually 300-400 kids, used to be 700

which was huge—now more manageable. Prime-time players: these were teachers playing for each other. Might have been Constance Murray who said “we’re not ready for prime time”—thought too demeaning so changed to prime time players. Holiday luncheon in December, winter party in January, Luncheon and teachers recital in the spring. After every meeting members like to gather together in a restaurant and talk about the issues.

Millennium: no report

Northern Delaware Valley: Board members met four times throughout the year and discussed numerous topics, and included the nominating and voting to accept some new positions of our Board members.

On September 16th, 2015, we had a friend-raiser luncheon along with a presentation on Chamber Music by Francine Christy. In October, Olga Bondarchuk-Huque began directing our Dorothy Sutton Performance Festival. Our preliminaries were held at Jacobs Music. This included adjudications on student performances and theory exams. Students then advanced to perform in the Honors Recital at Chestnut Hill College. Those who were qualified got to perform at the state level show-case recitals at Elizabethtown College.

In October, we had a presentation by Dr. Timothy Shafer on “Your Student’s First Virtuoso Pieces”. This workshop included repertoire with a focus on technical development and comfort in performance. Some works he included were “Dance of the Gnomes” by MacDowell, “Volksleid” and “Songs Without Words” by Mendelssohn, and “Romance in D-flat” by Sibelius.

In November, Patricia Powell gave us a workshop entitled “The Enthusiastic Student-Strategies for Revitalizing Students”. These included “preparation, practice, and performance.” She focused on how to create enthusiasm using the following four key features: Equity, Achievement, Camaraderie and Trust.

In January 2016, we had a teaching forum given by Linda Christenson. This was on “Engaging Apps for any Device”. She shared her knowledge and demonstrated Apps for tablets and phones. These can be good for sight reading, note recognition, practice techniques and games. She demonstrated PianoMaestro, an iPad app. With this equipment, students play along with background tracks and it is great for sight reading.

In February, Rebecca Pennington and Angela Triandafillou gave us ways to to make “Fresh Impressions” when a prospective student is interviewing us. The presenters were from the New School. The students that are to be interviewed may be beginners

or transfer students. The emphasis was on meeting students “where they are”, not “where you expect them to be.”

In March, we had a workshop given by Kristin Stephensen on the “Little Prelude” and other pieces by J. S. Bach. She spoke on Baroque ornaments and included examples such as “Two-part Inventions” and “Three part Inventions”. She also showed us other contrapuntal works. She also addressed singing tone in Baroque music and she used Bach minuets as examples.

On April 23rd, we had a Student Recital. This was organized by Alex Ramirez and Carol Bonnet. Students of several of our local chapters performed at this recital.

On May 6th, the Salon Musicale was held at the residence of Sue Bakshi. Attendance was good and teachers performed for each other. There were solos and ensembles and instruments of several types used in performances, . This included piano, harpsichord, string instruments and woodwinds.

Marjorie Felon
Co-President

Northeast: NE Pa Music Teachers Association officers are Pres Andrea Bogusko, VP Christine Leandri, Secretary Harvey Feldman, and Treasurer Maureen Salley. Our local participates in the Sutton Festival, holds an annual Holiday Recital for its students, holds an annual audition for recitals at Weill Hall Carnegie Hall, New York, and holds auditions and recitals for Kirby Center for the Performing Arts, Wilkes-Barre. The recitals are very popular, and we have a wonderful response of participants. We hold regular meetings which include a grand brunch at a local hotel. Recently, NEPMTA honored one of its founding members Ray Cramer on his 80th birthday by having a party, cake, and a gift presented to him. In the Fall of 2016, NEPMTA sponsored a Piano Workshop featuring Nelita True. Each Summer, NEPMTA awards each H.S. Senior who will be majoring in Music in the fall, a \$1,000.00 Scholarship. Each year, anywhere from 4 to 6 students are awarded these scholarships. Submitted by Pres. ANDREA BOGUSKO

Philadelphia: This was a very special year for us, in that we celebrated our 125th Anniversary. In addition to the regular speakers and festivals, we had a luncheon in October to kick the year off. The theme was “The Next 125 Years”. The second event to celebrate the anniversary was to hold the Dr. Andor Kiszely Auditioned Recital, an

annual event for us, in Carnegie Hall in April. We had more students register to audition than we had anticipated and we held two recitals, one in Weill Hall at Carnegie and an Honors Recital in Rock Hall at Temple for those who were not selected for Carnegie. (Co-incidentally, it is also the 125th year anniversary of Carnegie!) It was a wonderful year, and we are all saying, “Here’s to the next 125 years!”

Reading: Mille Eben, a former president: This was Reading’s 90th anniversary. Focused mostly on student activities. Had student original composition contest, also essay competition “why music is important to me” Also play-a-thon raised \$7k

Westmoreland: Jackie Herbein: Main focus is on a few student activities. Small chapter with 14 members. Liaison with Seton Hill University is important. We have a Sonatina competition, think it’s unique in PA. 12 levels of Sonatinas. Level 12 is upper level could go on college audition program. There are cash awards, and usually average about 100 kids. Another thing that’s unique to us is a “music achievement award” for graduating seniors that is NOT performance based. There were so many HS dropouts who got to a certain level, then burnt out. MAGS: they must accumulate points by participating in events (DSPF, sonatina, etc, teachers have to work for group, they write an essay on what participating in these music events have meant in their life)—they get monetary award and present on a recital. Has been awarded to over 60 seniors. You don’t have to go forward in music or do anything but participate, tell us what it meant to you, and have your teacher be active. Another thing: because don’t have many teacher enrichment events, Westmorland supported every member who came to this conference, so they are well represented here. Q: how raised that money? A: some is from years past—have been investing but has paid back—endowed a practice room at Seton Hill—a lot was from interest from account from before. All you need is a small nest egg. Sonatina competition brings in money and DSPF is at Seton Hill so that doesn’t cost much. Lucky that started out with a cushion.

Williamsport: The Williamsport Local PMTA has had a change in leadership for 2015-2016. Jane Landon stepped down as president of our local after nearly 40 years and Kilsun Kim also stepped down as our treasurer/ secretary. John G. Ravert, Sr. served as President and Mary Alice Koch served as secretary/ treasurer this year. We had an organizational meeting in August 2015 with six teachers attending. Our current local membership consists of the following teachers: Dr. Amanda Gunderson, Zhang Liping, Jane Landon, NMT, Mary Alice Koch, NCMT, Rachel Ludovico, MT-VC, Sandy Thompson, Jungwha Kim, and John Ravert, NCMT. During the current year, there were four student recitals held at Lycoming College, a seminar on vintage automatic musical instruments such as reproducing grand pianos, and a luncheon for prospective members. We are beginning to archive recitals on video and look forward

to updating the PMTA website under the Williamsport chapter. As a group, we are providing good teaching for our students and are looking for ways to make their experience stellar in the future.

Sincerely,

John G. Ravert, Sr., Local President

York: No report

Quick reminders: July 1 is Local Association grant deadline. Look at PMTA website for updated guidelines.

Teacher of year and distinguished service award: those come from nominations from local chapters. Encourage each local to think about someone they can nominate from their chapter each year. Deadline for nominations is April 1, so plenty of time to think about that for next year's awards. There will be some suggested general guidelines for nomination letters available soon on website. Suggestion for more frequent and better communication between PMTA board and local associations; if have a suggestion, email Mary Lynne and she'll communicate to the board. New website editor: Sue Koenig. If have anything to go on website, send to Mary Lynne and she'll send it to Sue.

Next year's conference: Please think about ways that local association can participate. Conference will be at Lebanon Valley College on June 9 – 11, 2017. Would be nice to see good representation from locals at conference; we might do something like have a poster session so each local can show what they do. Might be a possibility. If you have other ideas about that, let Mary Lynne know. Deb: thought it would be great if every local could send some kind of symbol or representative to conferences.

Clearances: Mary Lynne: there is a policy that the board passed on clearances—we want to make sure we're following guidelines from MTNA. We need to follow guidelines of institution that is holding the event. PMTA policy is that you have to have two people in the room with the student (no one-on-one contact) unless the judge has clearances. Elaine just took a photo of each judge's clearances. Those clearances have to be updated every three years.

Treasurer's item: Jackie Herbein: this conference is expensive. Thanks for being here—please bring your colleagues. One way we raise money for this event is advertising in conference book. Out of 17 local associations, about 5 did not support

this conference with an ad in the conference book. Plea for local associations to support conference with their presence and also with their ads in the booklet.

Statement of appreciation and of thanks from a member to PMTA board members.

Ed Kuhn raffle announcement: Winner-Mary Lynne Bennett!! Money goes to foundation fellow fund for Jackie

Mary Lynne: thanks to everyone for coming. Meeting adjourned