

AMERICAN STRING TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
National Executive Board Minutes

Date: May 28-30, 2009
 Location: Chantilly, VA.

Present:

Board Members Present

Jeffrey Solow, President (May 2010)
 Kirk Moss, President-Elect (May 2010)
 Mary Wagner, Past-President (May 2010)
 Judy Weigert Bossuat, Secretary (May 2010)
 Marilyn Seelman, Publications Chair (May 2010)
 Mark Wood, Member-at-Large (May 2010)
 Gail Barnes, Member-at-Large (May 2011)
 Andrea Meyers, Member-at-Large (May 2011)
 Gerald Klickstein, Member-at-Large (May 2011)

Staff Members Present

Donna Hale, Executive Director
 Beth Danner-Knight, Deputy Director of
 Conferences & Membership
 Jody McNamara, Deputy Director of Finance+
 + attended the portion of the meeting concerning her office assignment

Next Meeting Date: January 7-9, 2010

Future Conference Dates: February 17-20, 2010 - Santa Clara, California
 March 16-19, 2011 - Kansas City, Missouri

Agenda Item	Discussion – Conclusion	Recommendations or actions
Meeting called to order by President Solow at 4:09 p.m. on Thursday, May 28, 2009.		
1.A. Read and approve the January 2009 minutes (Solow)		Motion: Move to accept the January 2009 minutes. Wagner/Seelman Adopted: Unanimous
1.B. Read and approve Action Agenda (Solow)		Motion: That the action agenda be approved. Moss/Wagner Adopted: Unanimous
1.C. Interim board actions read into	The Regional Orchestra Showcase deadline was June 1 and it has been canceled due to no applications.	Motion: January 21, 2009

<p>minutes (Solow)</p>		<p>Move that ASTA hold the pilot-program regional orchestra festival on Wednesday, February 17, 2010, which is the day prior to the start of the ASTA National Conference in Santa Clara, CA with details as follows: Open to orchestras located within a 100-mile radius of Santa Clara, CA; Orchestras accepted first-come, first-served basis; The Regional Festival will be canceled unless at least 8 orchestras register to participate by June 1, 2009; There will be non-refundable application fee and a per-orchestra fee agreed upon by the Board; The orchestra director must be a current member of ASTA; The registration fee includes a one-hour block of time in which orchestras will play for and have their clinic from the adjudicator and clinician. Orchestras will receive judges' comments and a group participation plaque. There is no rating or competition aspect associated with this regional festival Orchestra participants and parents may also return during specified hours on Friday or Saturday for complimentary admission to the exhibit hall; The California chapter and its sections will be asked to promote the regional event within the chapter and help to secure groups. Moss/ Gilbert Adopted: Unanimous</p> <p>Motion (as amended) January 23, 2009</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When time allows, the Executive Committee will make decisions regarding any allocation or transfer of investment funds and bring a recommendation to the board to approve before acting. 2. When and if something needs an immediate decision, the EC should act as necessary and inform the board of our action ex-post-facto. 3. In either case, the action should be noted for inclusion in the board minutes either as a regular action item, if we vote at a board meeting, or as an interim action if we vote at another time. <p>Gilbert/Wagner Adopted: 5 yes, 0 no</p> <p>Motion: January 24, 2009</p>
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		<p>Motion approving the transfer of funds as recommended by our financial advisor Greg Wells, Jody McNamara and the Executive Committee. Gilbert/Wagner Adopted: 6 yes, 0 no</p> <p>Motion: February 27, 2009 Motion that we freeze the dues for the coming year. Seelman/Lilien Adopted: 6 yes, 0 no</p> <p>Motion: March 18, 2009 Motion relating to affiliation agreement: Notification of any change in rebate percentage or dues (excepting inflationary annual dues increases) will take place via e-mail to state presidents within ten days of the Board of Directors decision. Motion: Moss/Turner Adopted: Unanimous</p>
1.D. Procedures for approval of the May2009 minutes	Draft of minutes reviewed by committee and sent to the entire board: June 15 Corrections due to Secretary: June 19 Minutes placed on web: July 25	
3. New Board Member Orientation (Solow/Hale)	This orientation was begun three years ago and is helpful and appreciated by the board members.	
Meeting adjourned at 6:53 by President Solow.		
Meeting called to order by President Solow, Friday, May 29, 2009 at 8:17 a.m.		
4. Conferences and Competitions	A longer term for the Conference Committee Chair would enable experience gained from each conference to transfer to the next	Motion: Propose that we establish a conference coordinator

<p>(Knight)</p>	<p>much more easily.</p> <p>The conference in Atlanta had an increase in numbers. The office staff worked exceedingly hard to get local people to attend. The reputation of the conference is excellent. The goal is ultimately to begin rotating those sites that work the best.</p> <p>With the June 1st deadline approaching for the Wednesday before conference “Local Orchestra Showcase,” if the minimum 8 orchestras do not apply, the event will be cancelled.</p> <p>National Orchestra Festival Members of the board discussed the “festival only fee” and determined not to continue offering this option beginning with the 2011 Conference.</p> <p>When the competition ratings are such that the group ratings are virtually tied, the judges may opt to award more than one Grand Prize. Trophies for the groups awarded “placing” prizes will be larger.</p> <p>The NOF groups will be listed by category in the conference program (comment, comment and ratings or competition).</p> <p>National Honors Orchestra Chair Michael Gagliardo has preparations for Santa Clara on track. Cost is always a factor (\$795 per student accepted), but the cost to run this orchestra is actually several hundred dollars more per student, and is being absorbed by ASTA. Finding a sponsor or donor would help this situation.</p>	<p>position to replace the current system of appointing one year committee chairs. Barnes/Klickstein Adopted: 8 Abstention: 1</p> <p>Motion: The alternative styles branch of ASTA be united under one central Alternative Styles Committee which will form task forces or sub-committees in collaboration with the executive committee to address different aspects of their interests: award, conference, member development. The currently existing Alternative Styles Task force will report to this committee rather than the board. Bossuat/Seelman Adopted: Unanimous</p>
<p>5. Advocacy Report (Wagner)</p>	<p>John Benham was available for consultation at the NAMM booth at the Atlanta Conference. Because of our recognized national position, ASTA has been able to help save some programs with letters of support and the advocacy PowerPoint we have available.</p> <p>The board commends Mary Wagner for the depth and breadth of her day-to-day committed work on the advocacy program.</p>	

	ASTA may try to write specific grants for advocacy.	
6. Publications Report (Seelman)	Submitted publications were shown for board thoughts and review. ASTA does not serve as a distributor for published materials. On older, out of print publications, or new compositions, the copyright must be researched before consideration can be made of any further steps.	
7. Finances (Hale/McNamara)	<p>Investment Update: The investment advisor met with the executive committee before the full board meeting.</p> <p>Approval of Fiscal Year 2010 Budget: Thanks to sound fiscal management by the Executive Committee, ASTA remains on firm financial footing. In fact, our investment portfolio outperformed its corresponding market benchmarks by 30%. Added to that, the Atlanta conference had record attendance—a testament to the enthusiasm and collegiality of ASTA members and the hard work of the Associates. Considering the economic outlook for the 2010 fiscal year, the Executive Committee and Board are recommending certain strategic cost-reducing measures to ensure that we remain financially sound and our key programs can continue to thrive.</p> <p>Year End Numbers/Audit: The success of the 2009 Conference will help our year end budget. The most recent audit will be posted on the web. (approved Jan. 09)</p> <p>NAMM awarded a grant for piloting after school string programs in at-risk communities. The details of the award will necessitate some restructuring of the project.</p>	<p>Motion: Accept the 2010 proposed budget Moss/Barnes Adopted: Unanimous</p>
8. Foundation Report	We will be converting to electronic applications for all foundation programs.	
9. National Solo Competition (Solow)	Although a long-standing benefit of ASTA, this program loses money. About 200 applicants make the semi-final national level and pay a \$75 entrance fee. Keeping this competition associated with the Conference means that the competition venue may be less than ideal and can vary competition to competition. For the	<p>Motion: Whereas the National Solo Competition is a biennial event, beginning with the 2011 National Competition cycle (which in some states may begin as early as spring of 2010), state competitions procedures must conform to the national rules/guidelines</p>

	<p>foreseeable future it will remain attached to the Conference until and unless a regular venue is found.</p> <p>March 16-19, 2011 is the Kansas City Conference. The statement: “The recorded semifinal round is an independent competition, so any prior state competition results have no bearing on potential advancement to the finals.” will be added to the information materials.</p>	<p>(including the memory and repertoire requirement) for competitors to be able to participate in the National Competition. Klickstein/Seelman Adopted. 1 abstention</p> <p>Motion: States are encouraged to hold solo competitions in off-years of the national competition cycle and may establish their own guidelines and procedures for these competitions independent of the national rules. These off-year competitions will not serve as preliminaries for the National Solo Competition. Seelman/Meyers Adopted. 1 abstention</p>
<p>10. Membership Report (Danner-Knight)</p>	<p>Total membership numbers are down slightly over a year ago, tend to go up in states near the conference, and down the following year when renewals are due.</p> <p>Making membership cards available online is being looked into, as is automatic dues renewal.</p> <p>Retaining membership is a priority of the Board and Associates.</p>	
<p>11. State Reports (Moss)</p>	<p>Once received by Moss, the fall State Presidents’ reports will be sent to the national board member assigned to make phone contact. (October 2009).</p> <p>Affiliation agreement: With our lawyer, Jeffrey Tenenbaum (Recipient, American Bar Association Outstanding Nonprofit Lawyer of the Year Award, 2006) of Venable LLP (Nonprofit organization legal specialists) a revised affiliation agreement has been crafted and states were asked to sign this before March 31, 2009. Because some chapters have received their own 501c3 status, there are two different affiliation agreements. Jeff Solow will send a reminder to the Chapter Presidents.</p>	
<p>12. Board Member Nominations</p>	<p>Potential candidates were discussed and nominees will be personally contacted.</p>	

(Wagner)		
13. String Curriculum Report (Wagner)	The committee will meet in July to work on levels 2, 3 and 4 of the curriculum with the goal of having them ready for the conference in February 2010. It may be possible to use video conferencing (Skype or such) for further meetings.	
Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m. for the evening		
Meeting called to order by President Solow at 8:40 a.m. Saturday May 2009, 2009		
14. Report on AST (Wagner)	Results of the recent journal survey and the subsequent changes being made were communicated. New Author Guidelines are posted on astaweb.com . Feature articles need to be teaching related and are anonymously peer reviewed for acceptance. New forum editors and a new editorial committee have been appointed. There will now be two forum articles per issue and chamber music has been added to the forum subject areas. Members should expect to see partial changes to the journal beginning with the August journal, with changes fully implemented by November.	
15. String Industry Council	The board agreed it would be of value to create some basic guidelines for purchasing or renting stringed instruments and post these on our website.	
16. Overflow	Awards: Isaac Stern, Distinguish Service, Industry Leadership, Artist Teacher Award, Elizabeth Green, Advocacy, Philanthropist, State Awards, Student Chapter Awards, String Project Award. Information on deadlines for applications will appear on the web soon.	
Meeting adjourned at 11:11 by President Solow.		Motion: To adjourn Klickstein/Bossuat Unanimous

