

**AMERICAN STRING TEACHERS ASSOCIATION  
National Executive Board Minutes**

Date: March 17-18-19, 2007  
Location: Washington, DC

**Present:**

**Board Members Present**

Mary Wagner, President  
Jeffrey Solow, President-Elect  
Robert Gillespie, Past-President  
Denese Odegaard, Secretary  
Barbara Eads, Publications Chair  
Judy Weigert Bossuat, Member-at-Large  
Beth Gilbert, Member-at-Large  
Kristin Turner, Member-at-Large  
Neil Lilien, SI Council President

**Staff Members Present**

Donna Hale, Executive Director  
Beth Danner, Deputy Director of  
Conferences & Membership  
Jody McNamara, Deputy Director, Finance & Administration  
Mary Jane Dye, Director of Communications

**Other Guests:**

**Absent:**

**Next Meeting Date:** January 3-5<sup>th</sup> 2008

**Future Meeting Dates:**

**Conference:** February 27-March 1, 2008 – Albuquerque, NM

Agenda Item	Discussion – Conclusion	Recommendations or actions
Meeting called to order by President Wagner at 5:05 p.m. on Thursday, May 17, 2007		
1.A. Read and approve the January 2006 minutes		<b>Corrections</b> – “at the Detroit conference” taken out of page 3

		<p><b>Motion:</b> Approve January 2007 minutes. Eads/Lilien Adopted: Unanimous</p>
1.B. Read and approve Action Agenda		<p><b>Motion:</b> Approval of action agenda. Gillespie/Solow Adopted: Unanimous</p>
1.B. Interim board actions read into minutes		<p><b>Motion:</b> To approve the budget allocation of \$40,000 for development of a new web site. Solow/Eads Adopted: Unanimous</p>
2. Information Agenda – Committee Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion about electronic conference submissions and responses.</li> <li>• Reading folders will have two circulating sets and one back- up set.</li> <li>• Certificate Program for Strings (CPS) is now on-line.</li> <li>• Put winners of Coda bows on the web site to publicize the contest and winners.</li> <li>• National Orchestra Festival (NOF)) for 2008 venue has been selected and 2009 Atlanta venue is being researched.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Motion:</b> To accept the Information Agenda and its reports. Bossuat/Eads Adopted: Unanimous</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> To recognize their contribution to the certificate program, we will honor Lynne Denig, Lya Stern, Leslie Webster with a leadership award at the 2008 conference. Eads/Bossuat Adopted :Unanimous</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> For the 2008-09 membership year, the general membership student rate not be raised by the rate of inflation. Eads/Turner Adopted: Unanimous</p>
3. Elections	<p>Thank you to the nominating committee for a list of names for President-Elect, Secretary and Member-at-Large. The questions for the candidates remain the same. President Wagner will contact nominees and inform them of the meeting dates, fundraising responsibilities and</p>	<p>Contact will be made with nominees to accept nomination.</p>

	the need to make a meaningful, monetary donation to the organization.	
Meeting adjourned 7:30 p.m.		
Meeting called to order by President Wagner, Friday, May 18, 2007 at 8:15 a.m.		
4. Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Budget	The budget was reviewed along with the costs of programs that ASTA offers. While some programs are more expensive than others to implement, ASTA feels that they are important to the mission to maintain keeping fiscal responsibility in mind. The ASTA office membership position will be upgraded to membership director.	<p><b>Motion:</b> To accept the fiscal year 2008 budget. Gillespie/Solow Adopted: Unanimous</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> To transfer money to the building fund from the 2007 Fiscal Year. Bossuat/Solow Adopted: Unanimous</p>
5. Careers in Teaching Strings	<p>The promotion is two-fold: teachers and students. Some ideas for promotion would be an annual session at the conference, put program information in Teen Strings and AST, post in eNews twice a year, get information to studio teachers and K-12 teachers, have a session for National Orchestra Festival (NOF) students and put information for them in their folders while at the festival.</p> <p>Discussion on institutional members posted on the web site.</p>	<p>Get the interactive chat operational. Reprint the strategies document for circulation.</p> <p>Make a bumper sticker to advertise the Careers in Teaching Strings web site on teacher bulletin boards.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> To remove the listing of institutional members on the Careers in Strings web site. Solow/Gillespie Adopted: Unanimous</p>
6. Alternative Styles	Discussion on more exposure for alt styles winners.	<p><b>Motion:</b> Establish a task force to explore possible changes to the structure of the alternative styles awards, as requested by the Alternative Styles Awards Committee. Bossuat/Eads</p>

		Adopted: Unanimous.
7. Summer Conferences	Continued discussion on wording used by summer conferences. The correct wording should be “in cooperation with ASTA” not “sponsored by ASTA”.	An ASTA office staff member will notify state presidents of summer programs using this service.
8. Advocacy	The ASTA White Paper is now posted on the web. Discussion on criteria for Advocacy Award winner.	The board will continue the discussion how to best use this paper for advocacy of string programs.  <b>Motion:</b> The 2008 advocacy award will be presented to David E. Kelley for the promotion of the string playing in his television productions, Boston Public and Boston Legal. Gilbert/Gillespie Adopted: Unanimous
9. Web site review and sponsorships.	Guidelines will be written and provided to Council Members desiring to sponsor the ASTA web site. Unobtrusive advertising would be posted on the main page. Ad frequency and pricing to be determined after more research is conducted.	<b>Motion:</b> ASTA develop a general sponsorship for its web site and pricing will be determined after further research. Eads/Lilien Adopted: Unanimous
10. AST	It was decided to return to themes and solicit writers when needed and to keep the forums. August would be the back-to-school issue, November the preview of the conference issue and February an advocacy issue.	Review Forum editors for renewal or replacement for 07-08 issues.
11. Solo Competitions	Discussion of age levels and promotion of competition along with the need for a local site manger to acquire harps and accompanists.	Finalists and winners will be posted on the web site so all parties involved have equal access to the results.  <b>Motion:</b> To reinstate the dual age level competition structure for the 2009 Solo Competition and in support of that, advertise outside of ASTA membership which may include colleges, universities, school music

		<p>dealers, and luthiers. Solow/Lilien Adopted: Unanimous</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> The appointed competition chair will find a local site chair, identify six local judges, quality accompanists to be paid by participants at a standard fee, and competition quality harps with participants contributing towards the rental fee. Solow/Gillespie Adopted: Unanimous</p>
12. Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canadian chapter – broken down into east and west – 87 members. One rebate check offered which they split. Same benefits except insurance.</li> <li>• Newly formed collegiate chapter (10 new members with membership applications sent in one packet) will have reduced membership fee.</li> <li>• String Industry Council Report: SupportMusic.com is going to do a survey of why disadvantaged kids aren't offered music. They have a brochure call "Why learn to play music". Community action kit – grassroots advocacy. Program called "Wanna Play?". Brochure "Keep music strong" – good string pictures.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Motion:</b> To create a Canadian chapter with dues and rebates paid in U.S. dollars. Solow/Eads Adopted: Unanimous</p>
13. Foundation Report	<p>ASTA received a grant from the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) to promote a program called "Discovering Strings and Orchestra" which will introduce string playing to young elementary students through demonstrations, tours of dealers, a DVD and coloring book. A coordinator will work with collegiate string members and String Project apprentice teachers to work with the young people across the country.</p> <p>Discussion on restructuring the Urban Outreach Program.</p>	<p><b>Motion:</b> To accept the suggestions of dropping Urban from the name; drop individual lesson project from wording; drop the recommendation from a person other than a music teacher; one new award will be given annually for a period of two years: 1<sup>st</sup> year \$2000 and 2<sup>nd</sup> year \$1000; and state or local sources must make a</p>

		significant contribution starting with April 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2008 applications. Gilbert/Bossuat Adopted: Unanimous
14. Endowment Update	The program is in the silent phase. A possible feature in AST or a separate publication could have pictures and anecdotal material on famous people who have played or do play a stringed instrument (politicians, TV and movie stars, TV personalities etc.). These people could assist with the campaign by their visibility.	Email membership for assistance with identifying such people.
15. Publications	Reviewed proposals. Market the book, <i>Honey Bee Song</i> , to Kodaly, Orff, public libraries and music catalogues.  David Littrell is working on the <i>Revised String Syllabus</i> and will submit the work of contributors by January 2008 (tentative).	<b>Motion:</b> ASTA will print and sell a book called <i>Honey Bee Song</i> . Eads/Gilbert Adopted: Unanimous
16. Instrument Brochure	Reviewed the progress of the brochure and recommended specific instrument specifications.	
17. State Reports	The board reviewed the frequency of state president calls and the effectiveness of communication.	<b>Motion:</b> The board will make state leadership phone calls in the fall and attend the state leadership meeting at the conference. In the spring the ASTA office will contact state leaders to update leadership and treasury information and the board members will send out an email contact with the option to communicate by phone. Solow/Gilbert Adopted: Unanimous
18. Conference Update	Future high profile performers for conferences were discussed.	Add to the conference session application a request for information on where the session has been presented before and when. Also include the policy on “selling” a product at a non-Showcase session.
19. Awards	Selection of the following awards was made: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Artist Teacher Award</li> </ul>	Post winners and update lists of all previously given awards on the web

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Isaac Stern International Award</li> <li>• Marvin Rabin Community Service Award</li> <li>• Citations of Leadership</li> </ul>	site.
20. NHSHO	Individual recordings should be sent to the state chair by August 1 <sup>st</sup> . The state chair will send the names of those selected to ASTA by August 15.	Further discussion of audition deadlines at the January 2008 board meeting.
21. String Teacher Enhancement Program (STEP)	Discussion on final details and promotion of the program.	Promotional information to school administrators, school music supervisors, and information in eNews, on the web and in AST.
22. Overflow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• request for Alt Styles to continue the development of alt style ensembles and possible places for inclusion at the conference</li> <li>• committee chair training at the conference – including a handbook</li> </ul>	
Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.		<b>Motion:</b> To adjourn meeting. Eads/Lilien Adopted: Unanimous
Future Meeting Dates	January 3-4-5, 2008 February 27-March 1, 2008 – Albuquerque, NM	
Meeting Adjourned at 4:45 p.m.		