

**ASTA WITH NSOA  
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES  
January 21-23, 2005 WASHINGTON, D.C.**

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**Board Members Present**

Robert Gillespie, President  
Mary Wagner, President-Elect  
David Littrell, Past President  
Michael Palumbo, Secretary  
Barbara Eads, Publications Chair  
Midori Goto, Member-at-large  
William LaRue Jones, Member-at-Large  
Katharine Mason, Member-at-Large  
Jeff Solow, Member-at-large

**Staff Members Present**

Donna Hale, Executive Director  
Tami O'Brien, Director of Communications  
Beth Danner, Deputy Director of Conferences and Membership  
Jody McNamara, Deputy Director, Finance and Administration

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**Thursday, June 21**

**1. Housekeeping**

President Gillespie called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

- A. Review and approval of the June 2004 minutes  
**Motion:** *That the minutes be approved as corrected.*  
(Motion: Gillespie/Eads)  
Adopted: Unanimous
  
- B. Review and approval of the January 2005 action agenda.  
**Motion:** *That the agenda be accepted.*  
(Motion: Littrell/Solow)  
Adopted: Unanimous

**2. Information agenda**

There was a short discussion of the Activities Report from Donna Hale, Executive Director.

A committee needs to be appointed for 2008 NHSO. Brian Coles is the National High School Honor Orchestra chair.

**Motion:** *That the information agenda and committee reports be accepted.*  
(Motion: Eads/Wagner)  
Adopted: Unanimous

**Motion:** *That a committee be set up following the 2005 NOF to evaluate the festival and to study the possibility of going forward with regional festivals for 2007 or 2008.*  
(Motion: Eads/Littrell)  
Adopted: Unanimous  
Point of clarification: The Executive Board President appoints the committee.

A discussion of the 2005 Alternative Styles Committee report resulted in:

**Motion:** *That the committee makeup be as follows: the president will appoint a one-year chair position. The outgoing chair stays on the committee for a second year as a committee member. The Executive Board President in consultation with the committee chair chooses committee members for one-year terms. A member may only serve as the chair of the committee once every three years.*  
(Motion: Littrell/Solow)  
Adopted: Unanimous

The board discussed having an ASTA with NSOA sponsored session at MENC.

**Motion:** *That the ASTA with NSOL Collegiate Round Table submit a proposal for one or more sessions for the 2006 MENC conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.*

(Motion: Eads/Wagner)

Adopted: Unanimous

Point of order: that a new committee chair needs to be appointed since Kathlene Goodrich is retiring.

The board discussed at length the 11 Summit Points in the report of the Committee on School Orchestra and Strings (CSOS). All points have been taken under advisement.

The board discussed the report of the String Music Education Scholarship Committee.

**Motion:** *That the report of the committee be accepted, and that the committee work with the Executive Director to develop promotion of the program.*

(Motion: Eads/Wagner)

Adopted: Unanimous

### **3. Future Board Meetings**

The National Executive Board will meet again in Kansas City, Kansas, from June 9-12, 2005.

The board will make initial preparations for the 2006 ASTA with NSOA conference and tour the convention facilities.

The board will meet again in Washington, DC from January 20-22, 2006.

### **4. Association Name Discussion: ASTA with NSOA**

The board discussed the organization name after examining documents and memos from the initial merger of ASTA and NSOA.

**Motion:** *That the operating name of the organization will remain ASTA with NSOA.*

(Motion: Eads/Wagner)

Adopted: Unanimous

### **5. Solo competition**

The committee recommended to the board that applicants play required repertoire but that there will be a choice involved. Details will be worked out by the committee. The repertoire will be published in the fall AST. State chapters should have appointed or be appointing Solo Competition Chairs.

### **6. Goodwill Ambassadors**

Midori Goto put forth a proposal to the board, which she called Goodwill Ambassadors. This program would provide benefits such as reduced ticket prices and possible master classes when visiting artists who are participating in the Goodwill Ambassadors program are appearing in locales where there is an ASTA with NSOA chapter.

The board discussed this proposal and President Gillespie asked Midori to work with Tami O'Brien on plans for implementation. Midori and Tami will report to the board at the June meeting in Kansas City.

### **7. ASTA Journal Update**

Laura Reed resigned as Articles. David Littrell has accepted the position of interim Articles Editor.

The committee determined to have a focus point for each issue of the journal. This would set a theme for each issue and a couple of articles would address the theme. The individual area forums will not be impacted.

New Forum Editors were appointed and two forum articles will appear in each issue.

### **8. Finances**

The November statement was passed out to the board. Pie charts were distributed to show revenue and expenses for FY04.

The board discussed the long-term financial goals of the organization.

**Motion:** *That the board approves the long-term financial goals of the organization (as follows).*

(Motion: Mason/Eads)

Adopted: Unanimous

- ASTA with NSOA will establish a building fund to save enough for a down payment for the purchase of office space.
- ASTA will have one-year operating budget revenue in its financial reserves.
- ASTA will provide the resources for adequately staffing the association for maximum delivery of member services and support of the profession.
- ASTA will develop a \$2 million endowment fund from which the interest will be used for purposes of the association.

## 9. Conferences

2005 numbers this far out are about the same as those for 2003.

There was discussion about NHSO students participating in Master Classes, other school or NOF performances at the conference, and the fact that it is disruptive to the conductor.

**Motion:** *That the NHSO students must be enrolled in their high school orchestra program if one exists. Home-schooled students may participate if they provide evidence of home school status. NHSO students may only participate in that event.*

(Motion: Wagner/Eads)

Adopted: Unanimous

## 10. National String Project Consortium Review

The board discussed in great detail the current state of the project and the following actions were taken.

**Motion:** *That the Mission Statement (shown below) be adopted.*

(Motion: Jones/Eads)

Adopted: Unanimous

The National String Project Consortium (NSPC) is a coalition of String Projects—a string teacher preparation program under the auspices of a college/university—formed and organized under the auspices of ASTA with NSOA, working together to serve string education and string development across the United States.

**Motion:** *That the description of “What is a String Project?” (shown below) be adopted.*

(Motion: Palumbo/Solow)

Adopted: Unanimous

A String Project is a string teacher preparation program within a college or university music program providing supervised, paid teaching experience to college students while providing string instruction to school-age students.

String Project instruction is based on a coherent pedagogy and a sequenced progression of skills, both of the children’s music instruction and of the college students’ teacher preparation. Curricula are based on the needs and resources of individual sites. Teacher preparation models vary. All hold in common instruction in string pedagogy and supervised evaluated teaching of children. High standards in teaching, musicianship, and professionalism are expected. Instruction exemplifies best practices and innovation in public and private school individual and group string teaching.

**Motion:** *That the description of “What is the National String Project Consortium?” (shown below) be adopted.*

(Motion: Mason/Wagner)

Adopted: Unanimous

The National String Project Consortium (NSPC) is a coalition of String Projects working together to serve string education and string development across the U.S. The consortium is formed and organized under the auspices of ASTA with NSOA. String Projects in the NSPC offer after-school string instruction and teacher preparation in communities where organized string instruction is not provided in the elementary school grades. NSPC members subscribe to the following principles:

1. Provide supervised, paid teaching experiences for college students.
2. Provide low cost string instruction to school age students, especially in areas with limited access to string instruction.
3. Recruit and prepare string teachers for string education careers in the private and public sectors.

4. Encourage string education development and promote string education as a career school string education development, and promote string education in general, and as a career.

**Motion:** *That the ASTA with NSOA will do the following to assist the NSPC.*

(Motion: Littrell/Eads)

Adopted: Unanimous

In reference to what the national office staff of ASTA with NSOA can do in support of the NSPC, the staff will limit itself in time and resources to the following:

1. Maintain information on NSPC on the website so long as the Project Director and Site Directors provide updates.
2. Include information on NSPC in the AST, such as profiles, so long as the Project Director and Site Directors provide updates.
3. Prepare letters of support for sites applying for local funding, so long as they meet Board-established criteria.
4. Offer training sessions on fundraising at the National Conference and also prepare some guidelines for sites seeking local funding.
5. Continue sessions at the National Conference for current NSPC directors and those seeking funding.
6. Provide telephone support with fundraising advice to those seeking funding. The staff will not be expected to write grant proposals nor identify potential funding sources.
7. Maintain e-communities site for the NSPC.

**Motion:** *That ASTA with NSOA will offer the following to NSPC sites to assist in the transition to self-funded status.*

(Motion: Eads/Mason)

Adopted: Unanimous

ASTA with NSOA will offer the following to assist in the transition to self-funded status.

1. Grant writing sessions at the 2005 and 2006 conferences.
2. Maintain information on NSPC on the website as long as the Project Director and Site Directors provide updates.
3. Include information on NSPC in the AST, such as profiles, as long as the Project Director and Site Directors provide updates.
4. Prepare letters of support for sites applying for local funding, as long as they meet Board-established criteria.
5. Offer training sessions on fundraising at the National Conference and also prepare some guidelines for sites seeking local funding.
6. Continue sessions at the National Conference for current NSPC directors and those seeking funding.
7. Provide telephone support with fundraising advice to those seeking funding. The staff will not be expected to write grant proposals nor identify potential funding sources.
8. Maintain e-communities site for the NSPC.

**Motion:** *That the Job description as amended becomes the official job description of the Director of the National String Project Consortium.*

(Motion: Eads/Solow)

Adopted: Unanimous

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

## Friday, January 21, 2005

President Gillespie called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

### 11. Conferences

**Motion:** *That the rates for the 2006 ASTA with NSOA conference be approved..*

(Motion: Solow/Eads)

Adopted: Unanimous

## 12. Membership Report

Membership numbers are increasing. The board discussed developing an incentive program to get more members from the K-12 teaching ranks.

**Motion:** That ASTA with NSOA offer a K-12 promotional membership price of \$45.00 that will cover the six-month period from October 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006. States will not receive rebates on these special membership prices.

(Motion: Mason/Eads)

Adopted: Unanimous

ASTA with NSOA will provide the names of these new members to the state chapters and encourage the state chapters to contact and welcome them into their state activities. The CSOS committee will work on planning for this.

**Motion:** That ASTA with NSOA publish a quarterly list of all new members in the AST.

(Motion: Palumbo/Solow)

Adopted: Unanimous

The board discussed methods of marketing the organization to fiddlers, private teachers, and professional orchestra musicians.

## 13. National Foundation Report

Alabama, Florida, Illinois, New York, and Virginia received special projects grants.

Three students will receive instruments from Potter's Violins:

Allison Agazzi (age 13) of Indian Head, MD – 4/4 violin

Will Andrew Marshall (age 9) of Lexington, KY – 4/4 violin

Catherine Grace Paul (age 13) of Pullman, WA – 4/4 violin

Joseph Nagyavary Violin Solo competition winners:

1<sup>st</sup> place: Benjamin Beilman (age 15) of Ann Arbor, MI

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Lushen Wu (age 16)

3<sup>rd</sup> place: Linnea Brophy (age 12)

Linear Double Bass Competition winners:

1<sup>st</sup> place: Chunyang Wang of New York, NY

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Trevor Robinson, of Salem OR

Honorable Mention:

Nicholas Villalobos of Chandler, AZ

Caleb Salgado of Las Vegas, NV

## 14. CD Update

The Alternative Styles CD *Ultimate Strings* jewel case insert design was presented to the board.

It is hoped that the CD will be available for the Reno conference. Classical and chamber music CD's will follow this one.

## 15. Publications Report

Barbara Eads, Publications Chair, presented an update of publications in preparation or now completed.

- Gordon Epperson book is now available for purchase.
- Elizabeth Green book on classroom teaching is available again.
- The new string maintenance book will be ready by the conference.
- The viola book will hopefully be ready by fall.
- The ASTA with NSOA publication regarding teaching diverse students is still in the preparation phase.
- The Certificate Program for Strings (CPS) booklet is tentatively scheduled to be ready to go for the next school year.
- The CSOS committee would like to pursue a book that addresses the needs of new teachers.
- There are plans for a book tentatively titled "A Harp in the Schools."
- A string bass book is being developed. It will follow the basic outline of the viola book.

**Motion:** That ASTA with NSOA approve moving forward with the teaching diverse students publication, and the harp book. Also that the board continue pursuing the format of the CSOS publication, and that we reformat the committee for the bass book.

(Motion: Mason/Littrell)

Adopted: Unanimous

## 16. Fall 2004 State of the States

Mary Wagner, President-Elect, thanked the committee for providing their state reports.

The committee discussed the following items:

- All states with the exception of one completed their Fall State Report.
- The Executive committee intervened in Georgia at the request of state members and elections for new officers are taking place now.
- A suggestion that past national presidents be asked to adopt a state wanting mentorship.
- This suggestion will be sent to the past presidents before the Reno conference and discussed with them at the past presidents' meeting.
- All states will have to send an updated state handbook by December 1, 2005 in order to continue to receive rebates after that time.
- States not completing their financial obligations to the National Office make additional work for the office and put financial audits in jeopardy. Steps are being taken to bring all states into compliance.
- The Spring Phone Campaign will be April 18 May 1.

**Motion:** That the 25 states that have not turned in the June 2004 financial forms by April 15 will permanently forfeit any and all rebate money owed to them up to June 30, 2004.

(Motion: Wagner/Mason)

Adopted: Unanimous

**Motion:** That in order to keep the financial books up to date, states that have not completed their summer-fall reports (June 30 financial report and fall state report) by December 1, will forfeit the July and October rebate checks. States not completing the winter-spring reports (December 30 and spring state report) by May 1 will forfeit their January and April rebate checks. Exceptions to this policy may only be made by the national president.

(Motion: Wagner/Mason)

Adopted: Unanimous

## 17. ASTA with NSOA National Summit: Advancing Strings in America

**Motion:** That the board accept the summit document (objectives are as follows).

(Motion: Eads/Wagner)

Adopted: Unanimous

- Increase the number of young people who play stringed instruments.
- Expand the scope of existing school orchestra programs through enhanced professional development and services.
- Provide training and professional development to NSPC student teachers to enhance their teaching skills through capacity-building initiatives for members of the National String Project Consortium.
- Conduct research on the overall impact of strings on academic achievement and child development and the overall landscape of strings in America.
- Work with the industry to develop scholarships for promising students to develop careers as string teachers.
- Encourage more schools to create orchestra programs by offering support materials and start-up grants.
- Create and orchestrate a public awareness campaign aimed at parents, policy-makers, and students to encourage children to play stringed instruments.
- Develop appropriate support materials that communicate the value of strings and music education.

The summit document will be presented to the membership in Reno.

The board discussed the possibility of purchasing Capitol Advantage software as a benefit to the association's members.

## 18. By-Laws Discussion

Barbara Eads presented changes to the organization bylaws. There ensued an extensive discussion of the bylaws by the board. The changes will be presented to the association membership for vote.

#### **19. ASTA with NSOA National Development Committee**

The board discussed ideas for implementing long range funding goals of the association. The board will meet one day early in Kansas City this June to meet with a consultant who can give some direction in the practicalities of initiating a development campaign.

***Motion:** That the ASTA with NSOA executive board will assist the executive director in preparing a comprehensive development plan for the association, and to authorize up to \$15,000 to finance the hiring of a temporary development officer to facilitate the development of the long range funding goals of the association.*

(Motion: Eads/Jones)

Adopted: Unanimous

#### **20. National Awards**

The board discussed the presentations for the ASTA with NSOA National Award winners.

#### **21. Staff Appreciation Discussion**

The board discussed ideas for ways to show its appreciation to the ASTA with NSOA office staff. The office is understaffed (most organizations our size have at least 12 full-time office support staff and we have 8 full-time and one three-quarter-time staff members). The staff works very hard for relatively little. The board will commit to personal financial donations to fund special monthly "expressions of appreciation" to the staff members.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:15

### **Sunday, January 23, 2005**

President Gillespie called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The board began by discussing the opening session for the conference.

- A student viola ensemble from Reno - the SMART Viola Ensemble - will open the meeting with the National Anthem.
- The Nagyavary Solo Violin Competition and Linnear Bass Competition winners will perform.
- There will be student and adult mariachi groups from Las Vegas and the Clark County School District performing.
- The early bird registration winner will be presented with a Coda Bow.
- The invited speaker is Kim Dolgin.

#### **22. Organization of the Business Meeting at the 2005 Conference**

The board discussed topics for the business meeting.

- Positives for ASTA – Where we have come from
- Summit
- Long-term financial goals
- Bylaws
- Future conferences
- NOF
- Certificate Program
- Professional development
- Solo Competition
- String Project
- NHSO
- Question and answer session
- Information on the next two years' conferences
- Door prizes at business meeting

### **23.Overflow**

*Young Strings*, a *Strings Magazine* annual publication aimed at ages 8-18. Mary Wagner, Barbara Eads, and Kip Mason volunteered to be on the ASTA with NSOA advisory committee for the publication.

**Motion:** *That the board approve the concept of working with String Letter Publishing on the creation of Young Strings, based upon a written contractual agreement that must be approved by the executive board.*

(Motion: Eads/Wagner)

Adopted: Unanimous

The board discussed a letter from Bands of America. ASTA with NSOA will be happy to suggest clinicians to work with band directors teaching strings.

**Motion:** *(at 11:00 a.m.) To adjourn the January 2005 National Executive Board Meeting.*

(Motion: Littrell/Mason)

Adopted: Unanimous