

ASTA with NSOA.
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES
JANUARY 20-22, 2006

Board Members Present

Robert Gillespie, President
Mary Wagner, President-Elect
David Littrell, Past President
Michael Palumbo, Secretary
Barbara Eads, Publications Chair
Katharine Mason, Member-at-Large
Jeffrey Solow, Member-at-Large

Staff Members Present

Donna Hale, Executive Director
Bridget Murphy, Meetings and Events Manager
Beth Danner, Deputy Director of Conferences
and Membership
Jody McNamara, Deputy Director, Finance and
Administration
Elizabeth Bookwalter, Development Manager

Friday, January 20

President Gillespie called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Housekeeping (Minutes and Agenda)

A. Review and approval of June minutes

Motion: *that the minutes be accepted.*

(Motion: Eads/Littrell)

Adopted: Unanimous

B. Review and approval of action agenda

Motion: *that the agenda be approved.*

(Motion: Wagner/Eads)

Adopted: Unanimous

C. Interim board actions read into the minutes

Motion: *that the proposed bylaws be approved.*

(Motion: Palumbo/Eads)

Adopted: Unanimous

Motion: *that the Solo Competition budget be approved.*

(Motion: Wagner/Palumbo)

Adopted: Unanimous

Information Agenda

Motion: *that the Information Agenda and its reports be accepted and approved.*

(Motion: Palumbo/Eads)

Adopted: Unanimous

The Board discussed the Executive Directors' report. ASTA is in the process of working with an agent to begin offering Life, Disability, and possibly Dental insurance to the membership. An insurance carrier will be available at the conference in Kansas City to answer questions and write policies. Health insurance options are still being explored and will depend on member reaction to the initial round of insurance offerings.

The Board also talked about the Board role in development. The following was passed:

A discussion was held on National High School Honor Orchestra conductor negotiations and resulted in the following:

Motion: *that after the NHHO committee compiles a conductor list in ranked order and the conductor's availability has been determined, the executive director will complete the financial negotiations.*

(Motion: Wagner/Littrell)

Adopted: Unanimous

A discussion was held on the need for a national standing Alternative Styles Committee. The Board adopted the following:

Motion: *that we establish a standing committee called the Alternative Styles Committee.*

(Motion: Solow/Wagner)

Adopted: Unanimous

A discussion of the report from the Committee on Studio Instruction resulted in the following:

Motion: *that the purpose of the Committee on Studio Instruction is to develop a pre-conference session for the annual conference, develop a list of possible presenters for the national conference, and oversee the Certificate Program for Strings Program.*

(Motion: Wagner/Eads)

Adopted: Unanimous

Committee on New Music Reading Folders: The board talked about ways to make the movement of folders from site to site work more efficiently. There was also a discussion on ways to ensure that the music in the folders remain in correct order.

The Board talked about the appointment of the new Editorial Committee: There will be a new articles editor on February 1, 2006, for AST. The board thanked past president Littrell for his work as interim articles editor.

The Board also discussed the importance of all standing committees writing a mission statement to be kept on file in the national office for continuity purposes. The Board asked the staff to contact all committees regarding this matter. Statements will be collected and placed in the June Board Book.

Membership Report

Mission Statement for New Alternative Styles Committee is being developed. Michael Palumbo will work with Daryl Silberman to finalize the mission statement.

The Board held a discussion of student membership. By consensus, the board decided that student membership requirements will remain the same. All students with an active student identification from a high school, college, or university are eligible for student membership.

Youth Orchestras

A discussion of school and youth orchestras resulted in the following:

Motion: *that because ASTA is in support of both school and youth orchestras, the president appoint a subcommittee to study the relationship between the two groups and suggest ways that ASTA can provide leadership to foster a positive relationship.*

(Motion: Eads/Mason)

Adopted: Unanimous

Publications

The board discussed information in the report. Three new books will be released in 2006. Several items are being taken under consideration and will be reported on later.

Parental Involvement

The Board discussed this program and agreed that developing a brochure for parents and instrument rental and purchase would be a good member service. .

Advocacy Committee

The Board talked about the ongoing need for advocacy work within the association.

Discussion resulted in the following:

Motion: *that a standing Advocacy Committee be established, and that the past presidents will serve as chair of the committee. Further that the committee's mission is defined as follows:*

In conjunction with the Board of Directors, the Advocacy Committee works with the Executive Director and Director of Communications to develop and orchestrate a yearly public affairs program that advances strings through the membership, media, legislative representations, educational organizations, and parents.

(Motion: Eads/Palumbo)

Adopted: Unanimous

Foundation Report

The board expressed thanks to Jeffrey Solow and Janna Glasser for their work on bringing the second CD to fruition. The Classical CD will be released at the conference.

Merle J. Isaac Composition Contest Committee. A board discussion resulted in:

Motion: *that we accept the concept of a junior composition competition.*

(Motion: Eads/Mason)

Adopted: Unanimous

Motion: *That the Merle J. Isaac Composition Contest be held biannually with two divisions: a junior level and an adult level.*

(Motion: Littrell/Solow)

Adopted: Unanimous

State Chapters

ASTA attorney attended the meeting and explained that all state chapters will need to incorporate for liability protection. ASTA will provide a “how to” packet and training at the state leadership retreat.

Motion: *that for liability protection of both national office and state chapters we require the states to incorporate in their state by September 30, 2006.*

(Motion: Solow/Palumbo)

Adopted: Unanimous

Fall Phone Campaign: The board discussed the fall campaign.

The spring phone campaign will take place March 20-31.

Conferences/NOF

A report was presented on the 2006 National Conference and the National Orchestra Festival as well as the 2007 events in Detroit. The Board talked about the costs of doing business in a union city. The Board also passed the following motion:

Motion: *that the conference rates for 2007 for non-member students are \$100 above student member rates, and professional non-member rates are \$150 above the professional member rates.*

(Motion: Wagner/Solow)

Adopted: Unanimous

Discussion of the conference rates resulted in:

Motion: *that we accept the proposed 2007 conference rates.*

(Motion: Eads/Wagner)

Adopted: Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Saturday, January 21

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

Finances

Year-to-Date Finances were presented as well as an overview of 2004-2005 audit. A discussion also took place on the ASTA Investments. The Board agreed that we should work with our audit firm to develop an investment policy statement. The Board passed the following motions related to finances:

Motion: *that we officially establish a finance committee that is composed of the Executive Committee, the Executive Director, and the Director of Finance.*

(Motion: Eads/Wagner)

Adopted: Unanimous

Motion: *that we establish a building fund from our unencumbered reserves.*

(Motion: Eads/Solow)

Adopted: Unanimous

Motion: *that we place up to 25% of the association's unencumbered funds into more aggressive accounts.*

(Motion: Eads/Mason)

Adopted: Unanimous

Benefits of Being ASTA Member

The Board held a lengthy discussion on the benefits of being an ASTA member and how we might attract new members. It was agreed that we do not have a clear idea of what our potential membership might be. As a result the Board adopted the following:

Motion: *that ASTA allocate up to \$10,000 to hire an outside professional to investigate the demographic of professional ASTA members.*

(Motion: Solow/Wagner)

Adopted: Unanimous

The Board also agreed that we should use our new on-line software to conduct a member survey this spring.

National String Project Consortium

The following topics were discussed:

Revised Goal Statement

Revised Application Process for New String Project Sites

NSPC Leadership for 2006-2008

Michael Palumbo, outgoing ASTA Secretary, was appointed chair of the National String Project Consortium.

Motion: *that we accept the Mission Statement of the NSPC.*

(Motion: Eads/Wagner)

Adopted: Unanimous

Motion: *that we decline the invitation to enter into a Partnership for String Project Development with the University of South Carolina.*

(Motion: Littrell/Wagner)

Adopted: Unanimous

Solo Competition

Midori Goto joined the Board via speakerphone. A discussion was held on the competition and how the competition may have a more prestigious reputation at the junior level. Midori also suggested that the names of previous competition winners be put on the website.

The Board passed the following motions:

Motion: *that the 2009 ASTA National Solo Competition will become the National ASTA Youth Solo Competition, and be offered at a single level with an upper age limit inclusive of 19.*

(Motion: Mason/Solow)

Adopted: Unanimous

Motion: *that the board will establish a committee to investigate the ramifications of sponsoring an ASTA Chamber Music Competition.*

(Motion: Solow/Littrell)

Adopted: Unanimous

National Orchestra Festival Expansion

The board talked by conference call with Kirk Moss about the possibility of holding a regional NOF event in Washington DC in 2008. Kirk Moss, Donna Hale, and Bridget Murphy will develop a budget and make a recommendation to the Board on this concept. The Board also talked about providing sessions for parents.

NEA “Recruiting New String Teachers” Project

The board discussed the project with an update on what is happening to advertise and promote the project. Materials will be available at the conference and in the February AST.

Overflow

The Board talked about the new *Promoting the Profession Award* that can be distributed through state units. States will decide whether to distribute this award in their state.

The Board decided that the association should create a string instrument specification document. Jacque Dillon agreed to chair a committee to undertake this project.

A brief discussion was held on the No Child Left Behind Act and the on-line survey. There will be a one and one-half hour session on this at the conference. Elaine Colprit will present the findings from the survey.

Ad Hoc Fiddle Committee will be not be established but will be absorbed into the new Alternative Styles Committee

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.