

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

Date: January 8-10, 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)
Beth Gilbert, Member-at-Large (May 2009)
Kristin Turner, Member-at-Large (May 2009)
Neil Lilien, String Industry Council President (May 2009)
Lynn Harrell, Member-at-Large (May 2009) *
Mark Wood, Member-at-Large (May 2010)**

Staff Members Present

Donna Hale, Executive Director
Beth Danner-Knight, Deputy Director of
Conferences & Membership
Mary Jane Dye, Director of Communications+
Kari Hahn, Director of Membership+
Jody McNamara, Deputy Director of Finance+
Deb Bissen, Advocacy and Foundation Coordinator+
+ attended the portion of the meeting concerning their office assignment

*Saturday afternoon only

** joined electronically Saturday afternoon

Next Meeting Date: May 28-30, 2009

Future Conference Dates: March 18-21, 2009 Atlanta, Georgia
February 17-20, 2010 Santa Clara, California

Agenda Item	Discussion – Conclusion	Recommendations or actions
Meeting called to order by President Solow at 4:06 p.m. on Thursday, January 8, 2009.		
1.A. Read and approve the May 2008 minutes (Solow)	Correct the spelling of Kirk Moss’ name. Change Beth Danner’s name to Beth Danner-Knight.	Motion: I move to approve of the May 2008 minutes as amended. Seelman/Wagner Adopted: Unanimous
1.B. Read and approve Action Agenda (Solow)		Motion: Approve the action agenda. Wagner/Gilbert Adopted: Unanimous
1.C. Interim board		Motion: November 3, 2008

actions read into minutes (Solow)		<p>I move to reallocate from the bond fund into a stock fund \$100,000. Moss/Wood Did not pass: 6 No, 3 Yes, 1 did not vote</p> <p>Motion: Nov. 5, 2008: I move that we submit a grant to the NAMM Foundation to fund "Increasing Access to Strings: Piloting After School Music Programs" Bossuat/Wagner Adopted: 7 yes, 3 did not vote</p>
1.D. Procedures for approval of the January 2009 minutes	Draft of minutes reviewed by committee and sent to the entire board: January 25 Corrections due to Secretary: January 29 Minutes placed on web: Feb 1	
2A. Information Agenda	Small points were discussed, with discussion to continue under specific topics later in the weekend.	
2B. Information Agenda Resolution	<p>The following Committee Reports were reviewed and discussed.</p> <p>Collegiate Roundtable: (Turner liaison) The creation of two proposed awards was discussed. More clarification of requirements for those awards is necessary before any action can be taken.</p> <p>Committee on Studio Instruction: (Seelman liaison) The ASTACAP program is still in its beginning stages as an ASTA program. Getting the program set on the website was labor intensive for all involved. The programmatic changes and updates should occur on a set schedule.</p> <p>Research Committee: There was a request for a board liaison to be designated. Kirk Moss was appointed.</p> <p>Student Chapter Committee: (Bossuat liaison) We lowered the dues to \$30 and did gain student members, but not as many as predicted. Students must now learn to access their journal online. They need to receive an announcement by email when the new journal is up on the web. The possibility of a searchable archive for these articles will be investigated.</p> <p>State Leadership Committee: (Moss liaison) The committee is in place. State presidents have been asked for input regarding what they wanted to cover at the State Leadership Workshop.</p> <p>CodaBows for America Community Outreach Program: (office liaison) (Mary Jane Dye, in the office, is the staff liaison.)</p>	<p>Motion: Every committee will have a designated board and/or staff liaison. Gilbert/Turner Adopted: Unanimous</p> <p>Motion: Only one special project grant is awarded per state, but states that have more than 1200 members may have their applications signed by their section president. Bossuat/Turner Adopted: Unanimous</p> <p>Motion: Move that the information agenda and its reports be accepted and approved. Moss/Gilbert Adopted: Unanimous</p>

	<p>April 15th is the due date for applications. This program gives bows to programs rather than to individual people. Jeff Van Fossen (CodaBows) will be asked if he wants to modify or revise the requirements.</p> <p>Merle J. Isaac Competition Committee: (Wagner liaison) Mary Wagner was appointed as board liaison. A PDF flier advertising the competition would be helpful for 2010. Every effort will be made to have some kind of performance of the winners' pieces at the conference (one year behind the year of the award). The option of ASTA publishing the winners' pieces for a limited time was discussed. (This would give initial exposure). Wagner will find out the legal implications of such a move.</p> <p>Potter's Violin Instrument Awards: (office liaison) (Mary Jane Dye is the staff liaison.) This year's winners have been chosen and notified. The application should be modified so entrants automatically give permission to use their statements (anonymously) for advocacy purposes.</p> <p>Special Projects Grants Committee: (Moss liaison) 10 projects were funded. The February AST will highlight one of these programs. The following questions will be added to grant application: What is the number of ASTA members who will benefit? Does this project have potential to recruit new ASTA members?</p>	
<p>3. Review of the Strategic Plan (Solow)</p>	<p>The report: Advancing Strings in America: A Blueprint for ASTA The 2004 National Summit: We began a review of the major summit points to see what we have accomplished and what we need to build upon.</p> <p>State Presidents will be encouraged to include advocacy sessions at the state level using our available advocacy resources. Band programs that have expanded to include full orchestra programs should be spotlighted and used as examples by getting band directors to write articles for different magazines (not necessarily AST). Our members, through eNews, and Bob Gillespie, through his research project, will be asked to identify names, places and programs.</p> <p>The strategic plan will be reviewed again at a later date.</p>	
<p><i>Meeting adjourned at 7:02 by President Solow.</i></p>		

<p><i>Meeting called to order by President Solow, Friday, June 9, 2009 at 8:10 a.m.</i></p>		
<p>4. Finances (Hale/McNamara)</p>	<p>We have been able to remain approximately on budget, partially because one resignation in the office was not filled (development/advocacy position).</p> <p>New regulations imposed by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act upon corporate and nonprofit organizations, have placed significant challenges on National ASTA in regard to accounting policies requiring additional resources from staff. The Audit Committee (executive committee) met with the auditor to review these issues. Such a meeting will occur annually at the winter board meeting.</p> <p>Year End Numbers/Audit Due to worldwide financial instability, ASTA has not been able to add to the reserve funds. While ASTA remains fiscally sound, it will now take us longer to increase the reserve funds. Lost advertising revenue, the lack of new publications and cancellations from the upcoming NOF have had an impact on the current budget. The office staff works very hard to keep costs under control and prices as low as possible.</p> <p>Discussion then centered on how orchestras fund raise, ASTA's role in helping them do this and ways to get more companies specialized in fund raising to the national conference.</p> <p>We will put out a call for articles for AST that outline how some groups are successfully raising money through performances.</p>	<p>Motion: Beginning in 2009 we will post the audited financial statements of the association on the website. Seelman/Gilbert Adopted: Unanimous</p> <p>Motion: Motion made to accept the fiscal year 2007-2008 audit by Rubino + McGeehin. Turner/Lilien Adopted: Unanimous</p>
<p>5. Membership Report (Hahn)</p>	<p>Even in this economic climate, membership numbers have remained stable. (11,384 at the January 2008 meeting to 11,364 at this meeting) There are new members joining and efforts are continuous to get people to renew. Email renewal notices are helping keep track of members because even if the person has moved, they often keep the same email address.</p> <p>New membership in the areas around Atlanta has been targeted and currently, the highest percentage of membership growth is in Georgia.</p> <p>Automatic Dues Renewal Automatic renewal has been requested by many members and research has been done on how to implement this service and its cost.</p>	<p>Motion: Allocate \$10,000 for the installation and set-up fees necessary in order to offer automatic dues renewal. Anticipated implementation date will be July 1, 2009 with the new fiscal year. Moss/Wagner Adopted: Unanimous</p> <p>Motion: The Transitional Membership open to student</p>

	<p>Transitional Membership – Last year a motion was made that, as a temporary measure between April 1 and June 30, student members who were graduating from college could sign up for a special \$75 rate for one year and attend the next conference at the student rate. 27 people have taken advantage of this. This will be continued.</p> <p>Student Rates: The drop in the rates from \$45 to \$30 has not resulted in a significant increase in student membership as predicted. The numbers: 1761 students in December 2007 and 1786 students in December 2008 – an increase of 25 people. This initiative has cost ASTA approximately \$25,000. Students are listed according to the address they use on the membership application. For some, this means they are listed in their home state rather than the state where they attend school.</p> <p>Senior Rates Currently senior rates commence at the age of 62. It was decided to leave this as it stands rather than change it to “retired,” if perchance someone retires earlier than the age of 62.</p> <p>Discussion of Dues A 2005 board decision tied the dues rates of all membership categories to the rate of inflation beginning in July 2006 in order to meet the natural increase in the cost of running ASTA.</p> <p>The early-bird conference rate for the Atlanta conference was frozen at 2008 rates for the 2009 conference and nicely advertised. This is a perk of membership.</p> <p>ASTACAP ASTA gets \$5 a participant, but the hours spent administrating this program makes it quite cost intensive for ASTA. The guidebook is being updated by a COSI subcommittee. Any significant changes to the ASTACAP program will need to be presented to the board through the COSI report.</p>	<p>members in their first year after graduation will be continued. Turner/Seelman Adopted: Unanimous</p>
<p>6. State Reports (Moss)</p>	<p>Board members participated in the fall telephone campaign, each contacting 5-7 state presidents. 48 of 49 chapters submitted their state reports.</p> <p>Spring Contact with State Presidents: Some kind of spring contact needs to happen to confirm that the information for</p>	<p>Motion: I move to adopt the Chapter Affiliation Agreement as prepared by Veneble LLP and presented to the board on January 9, 2009.</p>

	<p>each state is up to date. This can be done by email with an option for each state president to request a call from their board representative.</p> <p>There is a perception that state membership lists are more current than the national list. Email addresses are hard to keep updated. They may be more current at the state level and not be passed on to the national level.</p> <p>National updated lists can be requested by states at any point. State presidents receive electronic information from national quarterly that covers updates from the previous 3 months. A hard copy summary of rebate amounts is provided with their quarterly rebate check. It has been requested that state president-elects receive the same information as the president, but rebate packages can only go to the president because of legal issues.</p> <p>Not yet incorporated: Wisconsin (officially requested an extension) and Wyoming (still trying to work on it), Hawaii (status unknown)</p> <p>Affiliation agreement: With our lawyer, Jeffrey Tenenbaum (Recipient, American Bar Association Outstanding Nonprofit Lawyer of the Year Award, 2006) of Veneble LLP (Nonprofit organization legal specialists) a new affiliation agreement has been crafted and will need to be signed by all states. We are using the industry norms in our agreement, as presented to us by our legal counsel. All states must sign the new agreement by March 31, 2009. The board will seek legal council about what should be the consequences if a state does not sign this new agreement by that date.</p>	<p>Wagner/Moss Adopted: Unanimous</p> <p>Motion: The Chapter Affiliation Agreement must be signed by each chapter president no later than March 31, 2009. Gilbert/Seelman Adopted: Unanimous</p>
<p>7. AST Update (Wagner)</p>	<p>A task force has been established since the last board meeting and will meet Wednesday afternoon at the Atlanta conference in order to do such things as update the author guidelines, discuss the continuation of the themes or focus issues, and suggest possible authors/subject matters.</p> <p>A survey to the membership will go out in January in order to get more information about what the membership would like to see in future AST editions.</p>	
<p>8. Development Report, Special Event (Solow/Hale)</p>	<p>Grants Committee – A committee is needed that can help with the grant proposals.</p> <p>National Grant Committee: Purpose: To consider potential grant ideas and to bring grant proposals to the board for discussion and approval.</p>	<p>Motion: I propose that we establish an ASTA National Grant Committee. Bossuat/Seelman Adopted: Unanimous</p>

	<p>Membership: 3 members: chair (who is a member of the Executive Board); 1 member of the String Research Editorial Board; Executive Director (Donna Hale). This particular committee is exempt from term limits.</p> <p>Endowment: Board members sent personal letters to life members which gained positive responses. Given the economic situation, plans for the special gala benefit concert have been placed on hold.</p> <p>The foundation office position has been left unfilled. Mary Jane Dye has helped fill the void created by the loss of this position.</p> <p>Silent Auction: State baskets are very popular at the Silent Auction. Moss will contact state presidents to request more baskets.</p> <p>NAMM Grant: ASTA applied for a grant "Increasing Access to Strings: Piloting After School Music Programs." We should have their decision at the end of April.</p> <p>A current NAMM grant used the group "Bridging the Gap" to introduce the string family to elementary students in diverse and economically deprived schools. Students participated in a research study on attitudes about string instruments before and after seeing the program presented by BTG. Recruitment materials will be developed based on research results.</p>	
<p>13. Solo Competition (Solow)</p>	<p>Lynn Harrell joined the meeting and the solo competition was moved forward in the agenda. A historical synopsis of the competition was given. 18-25 senior division 12-17 junior division 1st and 2nd prize for each instrument in each division. The grand Prize for the last two competitions is a performance with a Symphony. In this case the judges come from the orchestra. Raising prize money is always difficult.</p> <p>Repertoire: Mr. Harrell felt that having the two divisions have different repertoire requirements is very important (ie: requiring movements from Cello Suites 1-3 for juniors, 4-6 for senior division.)</p>	

	<p>Judging: Mr. Harrell stressed the importance of constructing the competition so that the judges have a few finalists to listen to and do not become overwhelmed or tired.</p> <p>Prize: Mr. Harrell suggested having part of the prize be lessons with well-known artist teachers – perhaps through on-line lessons such as he does. Not everything can be accomplished that way, but much can be done. (Skype, fiber optic installations, etc.)</p> <p>Location: Moving location to coincide with the national conference may hinder our fundraising. If the competition is in one place it is easier to work with symphony members. If the ASTA competition stays in one place, perhaps a relationship can be built with a particular symphony orchestra.</p>	
<p>9.Conference/NOF/Alt. Styles (Knight)</p>	<p>Mark Wood joined the meeting via cell phone for the Alternative Styles discussion.</p> <p>Alternative Styles Conference Committee: Rather than having a separate committee that makes recommendations to the larger Conference Committee, enough people are versed in Alt. Styles, that this can now be represented by one person on the Conference Committee.</p> <p>At the May 2009 board meeting, Mark Wood will bring a plan to the board for evaluation that redefines, reevaluates and modifies the competition through collaboration with the Alternative Styles Awards Committee, the Alternative Styles Task Force members and others.</p> <p><u>Santa Clara Conference:</u> Jan Davis – Conference Chair Honors Orchestra – Michael Gagliardo National Orchestra Festival – Kathleen DeBerry Brungard</p> <p>National Orchestra Festival: The procedures for 2010 in Santa Clara and the possibility of creating a non-NOF local festival for Wednesday were discussed. The local festival will be researched based on space availability and will require a set minimum number of orchestras for the festival to proceed. If a new festival is created, the distinction between that and the National Orchestra Festival will be maintained and local groups will still be encouraged to participate in the National Orchestra Festival, which will offer a more complete experience than that of the local festival.</p>	<p>Motion: I move to dissolve the Alternative Styles Conference Committee and allow the decisions for Alternative Styles sessions at the Conference be decided by the National Conference Committee which will include one member versed in Alternative Styles. Wood/Wagner Adopted: Unanimous</p>

<p>10. National High School Honors Orchestra (Solow)</p>	<p>Michael Gagliardo is chairing the committee for the 2010 Santa Clara Conference. Complaints continue that the NHSHO experience is too expensive for the students, yet we as an organization continually lose money on this project. The students need to be on-site for quite a length of time for the rehearsals and hotel/food costs are high. Even with the losses, the NHSHO perfectly aligns with ASTA’s mission. Having a long-term sponsor would be ideal, but finding one is extremely difficult.</p> <p>Applications from students for the 2010 NHSHO will be due to the office by May 15, 2009. With this due date, the students should be able to be notified in September.</p>	
<p>11. Advocacy (Wagner)</p>	<p>At the National Performing Arts Conference, a very promising connection was made with the Americans for Arts - a 501c nonprofit membership organization and the preeminent group for Arts Advocacy. We have signed on to their Arts Action Fund which means that whenever there is a legislative action that deals with the arts on a state or national level, an email goes out to members. Our members will be able to sign on and get these notifications. This would mean that we could discontinue our subscription to Capwiz, resulting in an \$8,000 savings for ASTA.</p> <p>Because music programs will once again be in peril during this round of budget cuts, we need to be preparing now to help them with information that they can use. Members need to contact their local congressional members to help raise awareness of arts education– before their programs are in trouble.</p> <p>The League of American Orchestras would like to help support in-school music education.</p>	
<p>Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m. for the evening</p>		
<p>Meeting called to order by President Solow at 8:40 a.m. Saturday January 10, 2009</p>		
<p>12. Publications (Seelman)</p>	<p>“Honey Bee” author, Cynthia Swiss, will be at the Atlanta Conference to do a book signing.</p> <p>The several publications presented were not approved for publication by the</p>	

	<p>board.</p> <p>Discussion ensued on the type of publications we would like to see. The ideal publications for ASTA are ones that serve populations who are currently underserved by commercial publishers (who need to sell products in large volume), but we must still be financially able to support such publications. These sorts of items, called "slow moving inventory," serve our membership by filling a need that is not met by commercial publishers.</p> <p>New technology is changing the way people see, buy and use books and needs to be explored. Publications chair Marilyn Seelman was asked to refine the vision of what we are looking to publish and bring it to the board.</p>	
<p>14. String Curriculum Report (Wagner)</p>	<p>Sample lesson plans for this new curriculum were shared. It is divided into 4 levels of skill categories. 5 people are working to write this curriculum. Level 1 is mostly completed and will be presented in Atlanta for public comment.</p> <p>Publication Format: A searchable PDF would be good. (like a bookmark on a web page or "find")</p> <p>The curriculum committee is meeting on Thursday at the Atlanta Conference. They hope for a second face-to face meeting, but may need to settle for conference calls and emails for budgetary reasons.</p>	
<p>15. Overflow</p>	<p>Journal of String Research Progress has been made for the transfer of the Journal of String Research from University of Arizona to ASTA. The journal's name is now "String Research Journal."</p> <p>String Survey (being conducted by Robert Gillespie) follow-up: Members who have started new programs will be recognized at the conference opening session and will receive a colored ribbon for their nametag. It is already possible for a discussion group thread to be created on the web. For the 2010 conference we will look into the possibility of a reception for those who have started programs, a pre-conference session on starting new programs and a conference session on survey findings.</p> <p>String Industry Council String Specification Brochure (Lilien). The brochure is well outlined and needs a task force to complete. There could be a more complete book of this information that could be an ASTA publication. Getting the federal government to make music education (arts education) a <i>mandated</i> subject would be ideal.</p>	<p>Motion: I move that the SRJ Editorial Board and the ASTA Research Committee be one and the same and should be called the String Research Journal Editorial Board. Moss/Turner Adopted: Unanimous</p> <p>Motion: The board empowers the String Research Journal Editorial Board to make decisions about the selection process, terms and conditions for their board. Turner/Moss Adopted: Unanimous</p>

	<p>Violin Society of America Conference in Portland – Nov. 2008 – Bossuat presented information on ASTA and string education initiatives in America. VSO President-elect Rodney Mohr will be in Atlanta and hopes to be in Santa Clara. The office will follow up with contact.</p>	
<p>Meeting adjourned at 12:11 by President Solow.</p>		<p>Motion: Seelman/Bossuat Adopted: Unanimous</p>