

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

Date: January 7-9, 2010
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)
Dalton Potter, String Industry Council (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: June 3-5, 2010

Future Conference Dates: February 17-20, 2010 Santa Clara, California

Agenda Item	Discussion – Conclusion	Recommendations or actions
Meeting called to order by President Solow at 4:09 p.m. on Thursday, January 7, 2010.		
1.A. Read and approve the May 2009 minutes (Solow)	Under #11 “Venable” Law Firm spelling change, Page 7: meeting called to order date should read: May 30, 2009	Motion: That the May 2009 minutes be accepted as amended. Wagner/Meyers Adopted: Unanimous
1.B. Read and approve Action Agenda (Solow)		Motion: That the action agenda be approved. Seelman/Klickstein Adopted: Unanimous
1.C. Interim board action read into		MOTION: 7/19/2009 ASTA will proceed with

minutes (Solow)		<p>negotiations to purchase the office at 4155 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, VA at a price not to exceed one million dollars. The Executive Committee will work with our lending agent to acquire the most desirable mortgage based on the recommendation of our financial advisors. The down payment for the purchase will come from the Building Fund, established by Board vote in January 2005 for this purpose. Any additional short-term costs to facilitate the move will also come from the Building Fund.</p> <p>Moss/Wagner Adopted: Unanimous</p>
1.D. Procedures for approval of the May2009 minutes	<p>Draft of minutes reviewed by committee and sent to the entire board: January 15 Corrections due to Secretary: January 20 Minutes placed on web: January 30</p>	
2. Information Agenda Reports	<p>The following Committee Reports were reviewed and discussed.</p> <p>Collegiate Roundtable: (Jane Palmquist chair, Gail Barnes board liaison) At the Chair’s request, President-elect Moss plans to once again attend their afternoon meeting during the Santa Clara Conference.</p> <p>Criteria for these awards will be as submitted by the Collegiate Round Table with the additional requirement that the applicants be current ASTA members.</p> <p>Committee on School Orchestras and Strings (CSOS): (Ruth Kuris chair, Andrea Meyers board liaison) The current mission statement needs to be expanded to include responsibility for the Elizabeth Green Award.</p>	<p>Motion: Two awards, to be given in alternate years, will recognize excellence in stringed instrument and orchestra teaching and performance research. Moss/Potter Adopted: Unanimous</p> <p>Motion: The information agenda and its reports be accepted and approved. Klickstein/Meyers</p>

	<p>President Solow and Executive Director Hale will respond to the numerous items on the report's recommendation list. The current report will be forwarded to the incoming chair.</p> <p>STEP Sub-committee (Denese Odegaard, chair) This program has been advertised for Santa Clara and will be re-evaluated after the conference.</p> <p>Committee on Studio Instruction: (Susan DuBois chair, Marilyn Seelman board liaison) ASTACAP Advisory Subcommittee: (Leslie Webster, chair) The board would like clarification of the scope and use for the ASTACAP Examiner Training Handbook before approval can be given to write the draft.</p> <p>New Music Reading Folders Regional Chairs (West: Bossuat, Central: Littrell, East: Barnes) Nothing actionable at the present time.</p> <p>Student Chapter Committee: (Benjamin Whitcomb chair, Judy Bossuat board liaison) Discussed. Nothing actionable</p>	Adopted: Unanimous
3. ASTA Program Reports (Solow/Hale)	<p>Overview: A 15 page list and summary of the over 40 ASTA programs was presented. Our membership is very diverse and few programs impact everyone. Evaluation needs to be done of the relevance, importance and relation of each program to the mission of ASTA. The executive committee needs to draw up a proposed budget for the June board meeting which takes into consideration reduced associate position funding as well as our desire to be innovative and fresh with our programs and offerings. Finding ways to administer the programs at less expense is necessary.</p> <p>The Zoomerang member survey done in 2007 was again reviewed. A new, short survey with the purpose of prioritizing ASTA programs will be drawn up by Executive Director Hale and shown to a member researcher before dissemination.</p> <p>The state of the economy has put raising money for the Endowment Fund on hold.</p>	
<i>Meeting adjourned at 7:23 by President Solow.</i>		
<i>Meeting called to order by President</i>		

<p><i>Solow, Friday, January 8, 2010 at 8:13 a.m.</i></p>		
<p>4. Membership</p>	<p>Numbers and Dues Our policy is that the dues are linked to the rate of inflation. Last year we deferred the increase and held the dues at \$99. The current rate of inflation is below 2 %.</p> <p>The option of paying dues in automatic monthly installments will be investigated as part of the website update. The states' 20% quarterly rebates make this complicated.</p> <p>The 2007-08 membership held steady, but 2008-09 membership has decreased about 15%. Some members are delaying renewal until after their renewal date or have indicated they will renew when their personal economic situation improves.</p> <p>Currently the least expensive String Industry Council membership rate is \$199. Adding a lower fee for smaller businesses was discussed. The board decided not to make any changes.</p> <p>Membership Committee – We will establish a National Membership Committee, something ASTA has not previously had. The structure of the committee will follow the board handbook with targeted representation of a cross-section of our membership. This committee may be able to have their first meeting at the Santa Clara Conference.</p> <p>Benefits Being part of a community of string teachers and performers attracts many ASTA members, but this concept can be challenging to articulate to non-members as it may not be perceived as an immediately tangible benefit</p> <p>Benefits of membership include the journal, discounted instrument insurance and other insurance programs (variable by state laws), membership in your state chapter and access to their activities, student participation in the solo competition, NHSO, discounted registration fees for conferences, and many additional programs.</p> <p>During the conference, Dalton Potter will facilitate video-recording members' comments on the benefits of ASTA membership.</p>	<p>Motion: To defer the mandated inflation-linked dues increase that would have become effective for renewals and new memberships on July 1, 2010. Moss/Wagner Adopted: Unanimous</p> <p>Motion: To create a Membership Committee Potter/Seelman Adopted: Unanimous</p>
<p>5. Advocacy Report (Wagner)</p>	<p>The degree of financial crisis is such that school districts must reduce their budgets in order to reach a targeted amount of expenditures and music teachers need to fight for their jobs. ASTA has many resources on our website including advocacy PowerPoints and the DVD produced in Albuquerque.</p>	

	<p>Mary Wagner did an excellent article about advocacy in the Nov 09 AST and has become even more proficient at helping others with their efforts by working with music advocacy specialist John Benham to deal with the situation in her own district.</p> <p>At the Santa Clara Conference, John Benham will do a free, 3-hour Saturday presentation for general music, band, choral, and orchestra teachers. ASTA is disseminating this information to the Santa Clara area teachers.</p>	
6. Publications Report (Seelman)	<p>One application for publication was received. The board found the material interesting but decided not to pursue publication.</p> <p>The String Curriculum is nearing publication.</p> <p>ASTA's publications no longer generate revenue and a committee will study the current publications to determine their future.</p> <p>Bookstore items sell very well during the conferences. Sales made throughout the year are very time intensive for the office staff.</p> <p>The office associates will come up with recommendations for the board as well as information on how to produce and protect electronic publications.</p>	
7. Finances (Hale/McNamara)	<p>Investment Update: At the recommendation of ASTA's financial advisor, the EC approved a transfer of funds on December 14, 2009. Investments made last year have done well. Banking fees have been lowered. Our invested reserve is healthy. The ASTA financial advisor, Greg Wells, will meet with the Executive Committee at the June 2010 meeting.</p> <p>Audit: On Thursday the Executive Committee reviewed the complete report with the auditor. The auditor explained the newest changes in regulations and the adjustments to reporting necessary to meet current laws.</p> <p>Year End Budget: We have a tight budget year. Strong conference attendance will be key to our year-end result.</p>	<p>Motion: To accept the audit for years ended June 30, 2009 and 2008 as presented by Rubino and McGeehin Certified Public Accountants. Meyers/ Klickstein Adopted: Unanimous</p>
8. AST Update (Wagner)	<p>Forum editors are working out well. The February journal is ready to go to press. The next journal will be in May. The board noted that it is normal for feature article authors to be asked to revise their article before approval for publication. Book excerpts and reprints are sometimes useful because many members have not</p>	

	seen these in their original publication.	
9. Competitions (Solow)	<p>National Solo Competition (Kansas City, 2011 – Marilyn Seelman, chair) The guidelines have been revised. Repertoire for 2011 was selected and posted on the website.</p> <p>Alternative Styles Awards Task Force (Matt Turner chair, Mark Wood – board liaison) We cannot publicize the detailed brochure for the 2011 competition until we have more information. The board does not feel that the structure of the competition or categories can be changed at this late date. The board continues to encourage State Chapters to assist with funding to help finalists attend the Conference. The Alt. Styles committee needs to inform state presidents about the winners to facilitate this. The new chair of the alternative style committee will not take over until May.</p> <p>National High School Honors Orchestra (NHSO - Michael Gagliardo chair, Jeff Solow board liaison) No action necessary. Michael Gagliardo was commended for his organization of the National High School Honors Orchestra for Santa Clara.</p>	
10. Conferences	<p>Conference location contracts are difficult and complicated to negotiate. Santa Clara Conference pre-registration deadline is February 1st.</p> <p>Kathleen Brungard has done a wonderful job preparing the National Orchestra Festival event for Santa Clara.</p> <p>Work is well underway for the Kansas City Conference. The application to submit sessions reflects the recommendations of the conference committee as presented to the board in their report.</p>	
11. State Chapters (Moss)	<p>Process for State Reports Zoomerang was used this year. Kirk will send the board an example questionnaire for states for our suggestions.</p> <p>Future of Fall Phone Campaign The annual fall phone campaign will be continued.</p> <p>Spring contact with state Presidents Board members will email our assigned states after the conference is finished asking them if they would like further assistance.</p> <p>Database of statewide election timetable It is difficult to get new state presidents listed in the August journal because the</p>	<p>Motion: Move to create a new committee, the “Council of State Presidents” to serve as a liaison between the state chapters and the national board of directors. The chair, who will be appointed by the national ASTA president, will be a past</p>

	<p>states change officers according to their respective bylaws. States will be asked their transition date in the next survey.</p> <p>Interstate communication In an effort to replicate the success of the Collegiate Round-Table and the reports and ideas generated by that group, a similar idea for state presidents will be initiated.</p> <p>Affiliation Agreement President Solow will directly contact ASTA members in states where difficulties remain.</p>	<p>state president and will submit two reports to the board yearly. Effective May 15, 2010. Moss/Seelman Adopted: Unanimous</p>
12. Building Update	<p>When the building next door came up for sale, a comparison to other properties was made and a decision was made to purchase. (See interim motion in 1C). The mortgage payment, without the additional costs of taxes and upkeep, is actually less than the rent being paid in the current location. The actual move should take place later this spring. Moving expenses to “next door” will not be as high as to a different location. . The current lease was about to expire and would have required significant renegotiation.</p>	
13. K-12 Curriculum Committee Report (Wagner)	<p>The first draft of the curriculum will be completed by the Santa Clara conference but will not be yet available for purchase. The committee expects it to be between 100 and 150 pages and would like to have a system so that it is easily revisable. It will be a for-sale publication.</p>	
14. Foundation Programs	<p>Merle J. Isaac Competition Committee: (Ian Edlund chair, Mary Wagner board liaison)</p> <p>The next chair will be placed in communication with the previous chair. To reduce the labor intensiveness for the staff, the chair will no longer participate in the judging, but will administer the competition and ensure the anonymity of entrants. Based on the report, the board made some changes to the requirements, which will be updated on the web and should be carefully read by potential entrants.</p>	
15. String Industry Council	<p>Instrument Specification Brochure The Council is working on this and should have the prototype ready for the June board meeting. They also were asked at the last meeting to create general rental and purchase guidelines that can be posted on the web.</p>	
16. Research Funding	<p>In May 2008 we approved the initial funding for this study and purposefully delayed the Phase 3 funding for a later date.</p> <p>ASTA will recognize several new national research studies at the conference in Santa Clara.</p> <p>A summary of three national studies will be presented at the Friday morning ASTA Membership Meeting (2/19/10) The principle investigators may prepare a brief</p>	<p>Motion: Authorize the funding to complete Phase 3 of the ASTA New String Program Status Report spearheaded by Dr. Robert Gillespie, principal investigator. Wagner/Barnes</p>

	<p>handout for those in attendance.</p> <p>ASTA has a NAMM grant to help start after-school string programs in selected underserved areas and populations.</p>	Adopted: Unanimous
17. Teacher Certificate Program	<p>The optional College Credit Program available through Shenandoah University for the National Conference is run independently by the University and does not create extra work for the ASTA office. ASTA has no say in the academic rigor of this program but it may attract conference attendees, so is a benefit to ASTA members. Shenandoah University will be asked for updated numbers on participation.</p> <p>Further discussion of the STEP Program will be done after the Santa Clara Conference when this year's participation data is available.</p>	
Meeting adjourned at 5:45pm for the evening		
Meeting called to order by President Solow at 8:33a.m. Saturday January 9, 2010		
18. Website	<p>Our website and the database (iMIS) are intimately linked. Because our website is due for an upgrade, we are exploring adding functionality. We need to plan and anticipate our needs carefully to select the appropriate modules.</p> <p>Improving the search ability of the site is also being explored. Sections of the website will remain accessible only to members.</p>	
19. NAMM Grant Update	We received 91 inquiries about participating in the ASTA NAMM grant to initiate new after-school string programs.	
20. Research journal Update	The addition of the String Research Journal to the website is being considered in the plans for the website upgrade. The ability to easily search the journal is considered important by the board.	
21. Overflow	<p>The executive secretary will continue correspondence with the Bornoff Fund Board to see if collaboration with ASTA can proceed.</p> <p>ASTA has appointed Michael Gagliardo as our representative to the "Americans for the Arts." He will contribute to their Green Paper - developing a plan for the future of the Arts.</p>	
Meeting adjourned at 11:19 by President Solow.		Motion: to adjourn Bossuat/Wood