**GWINNETT COUNTY MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING​ ​**

**August 25, 2021**

**Virtual Meeting Via Zoom**

**WELCOME AND OPENING:** The meeting was called to order by Cathy Thacker at 9:47a.m.

**OFFICER’S​ ​REPORTS:**

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**PRESIDENT​ ​–​ ​ Cathy Thacker**

Cathy reminded us of the upcoming GMTA state conference on November 4-6 at Piedmont University in Demorest. We will follow Piedmont’s safety protocols while on campus (no announcement yet). She told GMTA that GCMTA will help with hospitality; if you are able, please bring a box of individually wrapped snacks (crackers, nuts, candy bars, energy bars) to the September or October meeting, and she will deliver them.

The deadlines for teacher grants and GMTA Teacher of the Year applications is Monday, September 13. Any GMTA member can nominate another GMTA member as Teacher of the Year. Complete info and application can be found on the GMTA Website.

Our very own Joy Poole is up for election as MTNA’s Southern Division Director! MTNA members will elect Division directors beginning in February 2022. When you receive the email from MTNA prompting you to vote, please do so, and be sure to vote for Joy Poole!

**PRESIDENT-ELECT** **– Gloria Park**

Here are the programs for this year. They are also posted on the website. I have not gotten a speaker for February yet. I had asked a couple of potential speakers but received no response. I’ll keep at it.

9/22: Dr. Annalisa Chang - Teaching students with special needs

10/27: Pam Asberry - "Fostering Creativity: From Potential to Practice"

11/17: Dr. Raffi Besalyan - How Music is Taught in Russia

1/26: January luncheon - Patti Bennett and Mary Ann McTier - Ensembles and Group activities

2/23: TBA

3/23: March Masterclass - Prof. David D’Ambrosio

5/18: May luncheon

**SECRETARY – Debbie Murphy**

Thank you to everyone who submitted their reports by the Monday deadline before the meeting. Please remember to email your report (WORD document) **in advance** even if you plan to attend the meeting.

**TREASURER​ ​–​ ​Robin Engleman**

A financial report, including last year’s and this year’s budget, plus a small amount of activity since July was emailed on Monday, August 23rd. Our current balance is $21,396.72.

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**COMMITTEE​ ​REPORTS**:

**MUSIC​ ​DAY​ ​–​ ​Patti Bennett**

Music Day will be held November 13, 2021, at Duluth First Baptist Church.  It was planned as an in-person event, but with the rise in the new covid strain, the Executive Board will discuss the possibly of a hybrid event with partial in-person and partial virtual participation.

**MOTION:** Susan Andrews – ***GCMTA should offer Music Day 2021 as a hybrid festival.***

SECOND: Mary Ann McTier

DISCUSSION: Mary Ann McTier – Is length of study still part of the winner selection process? Patti Bennett said yes, and she will remind the judges to take that into consideration.

VOTE: **Passed** (Majority vote – 12 out of 18 yes)

**MOTION:** Cathy Thacker - Virtual piano students grouped together (and may be subdivided by grade), and judge will have a certain number to receive an award; Voice will be grouped together, and other instruments will be grouped together. Judge will be alerted as to how many students must be in each category in order for an award to be given.

SECOND: Robin Engleman

DISCUSSION: Kathy Dawal offered advice regarding how to structure a hybrid event and said she will be glad to help with digital resources.

VOTE: **Passed** (Majority vote – 13 out of 18 yes)

**ADVISORY​ ​– Pam Asberry**

No report

**ANTI-TRUST​ ​– Mary Ann McTier**

No report

**CERTIFICATION – Robin Engleman**

Did you know that GCMTA is committed to encouraging its members to become nationally certified by reimbursing the newly certified teacher one fourth of the cost of certification? This is the same amount that GMTA has pledged for the same purpose. Do you know what that amount is?

**DISCUSSION:** $50 from MTNA and $50 GMTA – Overall cost is $200, which is a 50% reimbursement.

**DIGITAL RESOURCES – Kathy Dawal**

With Covid cases increasing in Gwinnett County public and private schools, it is good that we can be prepared for both in-person and virtual performances. Our current registration form for Music Day can be quickly adjusted to cover both types of entries, and we will have the option for teachers to make changes and corrections to their entries. This should mean fewer last minute phone calls. Registration can be closed, then reopened, if needed, for teachers to add virtual performance links, and upload pdf files of the music.

Our existing Federated Festival online registration form can be adjusted for use should we need virtual submissions, even though registration will be through Vivace. Our form can be simplified to ask for just what is required for any virtual performances.

For any event, other forms can be created, such as a lunch request form with choices specified.

I’m available to help with the digital aspects of any GCMTA event.

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**DIRECTORY/INTERNET LIASON​​ –​ Kimber Kwiatkowski**

She is available to help other Committee Chairs with anything other than computer-oriented needs.

**FEDERATED​ ​FESTIVALS​ ​– Judy Harper**

The 3 federated groups are now uploaded to the National Vivace website, and we are in the process of entering teachers and students to the system.  There will be more information coming to help teachers learn about how to register their students for Federated Festival.

**NORTH ​–​ Beth Ann Wise**

North Federated Festival 2022 will be held March 26th at Duluth First Baptist Church in Duluth.

We have collected all our SR Teacher Dues and are working on collecting JR dues. JR dues will be collected online at the GFMC website. The deadline to pay JR dues is Oct. 15th.

Thank you to Kathy Dawal for her help!

**WEST –​ Becky Bonam**

Everyone got their dues to me on time and Robin has already received all the checks along with the senior club form filled out. I also included everyone's phone number even though that information was not requested.

We have 12 in the West senior club - this includes one adult student from Debra Murphy's studio.

The festival site for West is still Berean Baptist Church (Lilburn) and the date is February 26, 2022. If all events are as usual, we will have piano solo, sacred music piano solo, voice, (which will probably include Art Song solo as well as Music Theatre solo), and perhaps flute. I do not anticipate any theory tests. I am already remembering that we will want to really be careful and thorough this next year with the repertoire check as some issues arose last year which were not discovered early.

I am in the HUGE process of moving while still recovering (quite well, thank God) from a hip replacement, and am also back teaching full time. I do need to take care of securing judges, but these other "events" have required my time and attention.

I need to give blue ribbons and 500-point gold cups to Deborah Hughes and Susan Andrews for their willingness to be the admins for Vivace. I think they have already fed tons of information into the system. While I am called "the chair," these gals are the legs holding up the chair!

**CENTRAL​ ​– Michelle Peck**

Central Gwinnett Federated Festival is looking to add members.  If you know a teacher in the Lawrenceville/Grayson/Dacula area that is interested in participating in Festival, please refer them to me. We need to boost our membership since we have lost some teachers due to relocations and retirement.

The Central Festival will be held at Hebron Baptist Church on March 5th, 2022.  Virtual option will also be offered. Junior Dues/Junior Roster due in September via the GFMC website.  Registration in January via the new Vivace system via the NFMC website.  No one panic, the Central Group will hold a training on how to register.  All districts will be invited to attend.  Training will be in January 2022, specifics TBA.

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**​GMTA​ ​AUDITIONS​ ​– Jiyeon Kwak**

Date: February 12, 2022

Location: Piano Works

Online Registration Deadline: Online only, by January 15, 2022

Fees: For member teachers - $25.00 per student entered.

Nonmember application fee - $75.00 per student, with a onetime nonmember teacher fee of $35.00.

1. Each participating teacher must work the day of the Audition. Teachers entering 1-5 students must work ½ day. Teachers entering 6 or more students must work all day. The students of teachers that don’t work the day of the audition will be disqualified from OP status and will get comments only. (Substitutions will be permitted, within reason.)

2. The member dues and nonmember teacher fee must be paid by the application deadline, January 15, 2022.

3. I would like to propose that only the members who have attended at least 2 general member meetings are eligible to participate in the Auditions. **DISCUSSION:** Anti-trust will not allow this rule

**DISCUSSION:** If COVID worsens, we may need to consider virtual event, and the testing schedule for GATE may need to be different due to social distancing requirements.

**GMTA/GATE ​THEORY​ –​ ​Rie Hosoi**

The GMTA exam will be offered at Music Day. The Exam fee is $10. The application deadline will be the same as the deadline for Music Day. Teachers must register for the theory exam online. Sample tests are available at GMTA website.

I need teachers to provide CD players and pencils/erasers for the GMTA exam (Music Day), and pencils/erasers for GATE (Local Audition).

**HOSPITALITY​ ​– Tina Darden**

If we can have refreshments at our in-person meetings this year, Whitney from Music and Arts, Lawrenceville, has volunteered to provide the coffee and donuts. She was given a budget of $50, so she may be able to do a little more, but I told her not to spend any of her own money. I will bring water and paper products.

**DISCUSSION:** Cathy suggested Tina put donuts on individual plates OR we may need to consider individually wrapped food items.

**JUNIOR/SENIOR​ ​SCHOLARSHIP​ ​AUDITION​ ​– Yumi Patterson**

Junior-Senior Scholarship is scheduled for April 16, 2022, at PianoWorks Recital hall.

The judge will be David Watkins.

**MED/PED SCHOLARSHIP – Gloria Park**

Cathy encouraged teachers to enter students.

**MEMBER AT LARGE – Susan Andrews**

No report

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**MEMBERSHIP​ –​ Deb Hughes**

New calling cards with the current President's name are ordered and will be available at our first in person meeting in September. Due to a special sale, I got them for half of the usual price so every member can take more than a few if they like so to pass them on to prospective members.

We have two brand new members who have joined June. They have received welcome emails and a personal phone call from me. They are: Theresa Pellicer of Lawrenceville - piano and Judith Tope of Grayson - piano & voice.

Please advise if you are interested in being a mentor for new members.

I've reviewed the process of how the names of all of our members are placed online in our Directory.  Robin (Treasurer) and I are still sorting out how to most easily keep it up to date since last year there were over 50 names listed in our Directory that were not current members. As of last year, our membership was the largest in Georgia with North Fulton with only one less. I believe there are lots of independent music teachers who are in Gwinnett County that would greatly benefit from membership in GCMTA.

I will ask that everyone who has access to music stores and/or academies will please place cards for distribution. I did not reorder rack cards since they were not used in the past three years, were unpopular and didn't seem to generate any membership. Although I welcome to hear ideas about generating new members for GCMTA.

**DISCUSSION:** Patti Bennett

- Timothy Jones has joined.

- There was also discussion on how a prospective member who is still in high school can join GCMTA.

**MUSIC LINK – Nora Martin**

MusicLink continues strong in Georgia with 10 teachers registered. Any teacher can register to receive benefits. Benefits have increased.

Currently, we have a 13–14-year-old piano student, already approved, who is looking for a teacher. She lives near Simonton Rd. at New Hope Rd. She would be considered a beginner - although she’s had prior lessons – because she’s been out of practice for a couple of years.

Any teacher who is already teaching a student at a discount of at least 50% can register both themselves and the student in order to access all the benefits that ML offers such as teacher grants, student scholarships, and free/reduced materials from our many business partners. Anyone with questions should contact Nora Martin.

**MTNA​ ​FOUNDATION/GMTA​ ​AWARDS​ ​– Mary Ann McTier**

GCMTA donates a basket for the raffle that is held at our annual GMTA conference. I would love to hear from members regarding a desired theme for this year. This may include donations of small items from individual members.

Discussion resulted in the decision to have a spa themed basket. Members will bring items to the September and October meetings, and Mary Ann will combine these into an attractive basket to take to the GMTA conference.

There was a brief explanation regarding the GMTA Award funds. Contact Mary Ann for more details.

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**NEWSLETTER​ ​– Maggie Frick**

Remember to send articles for newsletter by the 1st of each month. The newsletter will be sent to the membership around the 7th of the month.

**PERFORMANCE DAY – Lois Simon**

Performing at the Mall of Ga. is probably not going to be possible this year. If anyone has other ideas, please pass them on to Lois. Patti Bennett suggested an outdoor venue might be possible.

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**PUBLICITY (Social Media)​ ​–**

No report

**TEACHER​ ​OF​ ​THE​ ​YEAR​ ​– Pam Asberry**

Dec. 31st is the deadline for submissions

**OLD​ ​BUSINESS:**

Checks are still outstanding for the winners of the Med/Ped Scholarship.

**MOTION:** Susan Andrews – ***Any check that is misplaced and not cashed within 6 months should be voided. If the check is reissued, the amount will be minus the stop payment amount.***

SECOND: Mary Ann McTier

VOTE: **Passed** (Majority vote - 10 out of 17 yes)

DISCUSSION – Nora Martin – Please add this Motion to the Procedural Manual

**NEW​ ​BUSINESS:**

1. Deb Hughes – Can we record our meetings?

**DISCUSSION:** We might be able to offer it through Facebook Live on the GCMTA Facebook page. The videos do not expire. Cathy Thacker later reported that Eva Bone will not be able to continue her role in doing Facebook Live for our meetings, and we do not have a Social Media Chair at this time.

2. Deb Hughes – Can we offer a meeting on a weekend instead of during the week?

**DISCUSSION:** We could consider an evening or weekend meeting once a year in August or January.

3. Deb Hughes – Regarding Federated Festival scholarships – Should non-piano beginner students be considered for an award if not in high school? Shouldn’t only intermediate level students be considered?

**DISCUSSION:** There was discussion about instituting minimum classification levels for the guitar/strings, voice, and woodwinds competitions associated with our Federated Festivals.

Deb Hughes, Debbie Murphy, and Kathy Dawal worked out the wording for the motion, and it was followed up by an email vote as follows:

**MOTION**: Deb Hughes – ***Non-piano scholarships will be awarded to eligible entrants in the following  minimum class levels for students entering GCMTA Federated Festivals:***

***Guitar/Strings-  Intermediate/Medium I***

***Voice - Junior I***

***Woodwind - Medium I***

***Note: It is always at the discretion of the judge as to whether a scholarship is awarded.***

EMAIL VOTE: **Passed** (Majority vote - 16 out of 22 yes)

4. Deb Hughes – Can we consider offering an Ensemble Performance event this year?

**DISCUSSION:** Most board members opinion was this should not be considered this year. We can reconsider it next year.

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**GOOD​ ​OF​ ​ORDER:**

Mary Ann McTier – Teacher discount – Music & Arts is now offering 25% off every day and 30% off 1st Monday monthly

Cathy Thacker – GCMTA is very fortunate to still be thriving. Many associations are struggling.

Deb Hughes – Look for GMTA Podcasts beginning in September. Several of our members will be participating.

Deb Hughes – Please plan to attend the Sept. 18th GFMC annual meeting at Piano Works.

Deb Hughes – She and Pam Asberry will be presenters at the GMTA conference this year. Please plan to attend their sessions.

**ATTENDENCE:** Jiyeon Kwak, Kimber Kwiatkowski, Beth Ann Wise, Cathy Thacker, Judy Harper, Patti Bennett, Lois Simon, Mary Ann McTier, Kathy Dawal, Rie Hosoi, Tina Hughes, Susan Andrews, Deb Hughes, Robin Engleman, Pam Asberry, Maggie Frick, Nora Martin, Debbie Murphy

**MOTION​ ​TO​ ​ADJOURN: 11:46a.m.**