

August 16, 2021 – WV-ASTA Meeting

Zoom Meeting

Andrea Houde called the meeting to order

Ms. Houde congratulated last year's award winners

- Cassie Nelson - Outstanding Classroom Teacher
- Catherine Baker - Outstanding studio Teacher
- Jeffrey Lipscomb - Distinguished Service Award
- Avery Knutsen - Outstanding Graduating Senior

Solo Competition

- Tentative date (before this meeting) was Oct. 2 (a week before the MTNA competition)

Reminders:

- WVMEA Conference is March 3-5 - mark your calendars.
- National Conference is something we can all go to because it is on March 15-19 in Atlanta.
- Ms. Houde is not sure about Viola Day - there are issues that are potentially blocking it for this Fall, along with worries about the Delta variant.
- Erin Ellis has a date for Cello Day: Oct. 23 - It hasn't been heavily advertised yet because she's worried about the health and safety of the children (most of whom will be under 12 years old). Ms. Houde suggested keeping it to a certain age limit. Dr. Ellis replied she could, but it would make it a lot smaller. She also said she considered an online component, but would rather use that for other events, not Cello Day.

Patty Brock suggested congratulations for being named the executive director of the Huntington Symphony.

Treasurer's Report

- At the end of last year we had \$7,437.10
- We've had one expense since then: Feb. 18 - \$25 Secretary of State business registration fee
- Our current balance is \$7,412.10
- Ms. Houde asked if we were billed for the awards plaques, since they were purchased over the summer. Ms. Brock said she hasn't received a bill from that company. Ms. Houde made a note to follow up with them about that. Ms. Houde said she did send the company the information to send the bill to Ms. Brock.

Solo Competition Revisited

- Ian Jessee said he doesn't want to reinvent the wheel for the competition and will follow Mary Wilson's format.
- Fairmont State is the goal for a host site, but Mr. Jessee still needs to confirm.

- Mr. Jessee will also send Jeffrey Lipscomb and Ms. Houde information soon when he gets it.
- Ms. Houde asked who is qualified to compete (ages or other qualifications) - Mr. Jessee replied there is a Junior Division and a Senior Division, and the qualifications is the same as currently on the website. He said the confusing part is that there are different competitions based on the instrument, and in his opinion there are too many competitions

Ms. Houde posed the question, “What can we do to meet our own needs in this state?”, followed by, “What are our needs?” - are there any ideas for how we can support our teachers and students.

- Justin Jones said something he’s noticed other ASTA chapters do is bringing in a guest speaker every quarter, like a conference session. People would submit and vote on topics to address. Sessions would last about an hour and would be online.
  - Ms. Houde relayed news from the national office - they’ve compiled a database of people willing to volunteer their time for such a thing (including Yo-Yo Ma). There is also a set format for the sessions. This would be something that would be very easy to put together.
- Ms. Brock said that communication has been a problem, especially with the solo competition. She also mentioned that it was difficult keeping track of who’s a member, and there is one individual who should be a member but isn’t listed.
  - Ms. Houde proposed having a volunteer membership guru (or membership director), who keeps track of membership and contact information. If we know of anybody who should be a member, or if their membership has lapsed, we could send that info to them.
- Fred Meyer asked how many student chapters are there in WV. Ms. Houde didn’t know, she’s only aware of the one at WVU. There used to be one at Marshall. Mr. Meyer said he could ask Dr. Smith.
  - Ms. Houde nominated Mr. Meyer as the new membership director. Mr. Meyer said he wanted to see how things went attempting to communicate with Dr. Smith before agreeing.
- Dr. Ellis asked if it would be helpful to keep a list of events that would be offered on the website, even those not affiliated with ASTA (like Cello Day)
  - Ms. Houde replied that Dr. Lipscomb is in charge of social media, and any information to be advertised should be sent to him.
- Dr. Ellis said doing something like a Facebook Live chat might be a way to incorporate Mr. Jones’s idea. It could be used as a way to attract more members in that one of the sessions could be Facebook Live and then the others on another platform.
  - Ms. Houde replied that something discussed in the past was a teacher jam/brainstorming session, and maybe that would be something to pursue. Mr. Jones agreed, but said we should structure it the same as the sight-reading session at the conference where everybody brings in only one thing. It has to only last 6 minutes.

- Ms. Brock mentioned asking Dr. Lipscomb to set up a column on the website listing upcoming events, plus public concerts, or a new events column
- Dr. Ellis suggested a member profile series.

#### Solo Competition Re-revisited.

- Mr. Jessee asked about holding the solo competition online again. Ms. Houde said it might be easier on people for travel and might encourage more participation. Dr. Ellis said that her take was all of the competitions will be virtual from now on. Mr. Jessee said he'll follow the same format as last year and keep it virtual.
- Dr. Ellis asked about the Collegiate Division, but the required repertoire for that is graded for high school and middle school, and was wondering if collegiate could put together a 45 minute program.
- Ms. Houde remarked there hasn't been a collegiate competition yet. Dr. Ellis said it is on the website. Ms. Houde said that the website needs to be updated.
- Dr. Ellis moved to establish a Collegiate Division to the solo competition. It was seconded by Ms. Houde.

Meeting was adjourned