

WASTA Board Meeting Minutes for Saturday, October. 19th, 2013

Meeting held at Great Wolf Lodge, Centralia, WA in the Fallen Timbers Salon B from 10:00 AM-6:00 PM

In attendance: Myrnie Van Kempen, Brian Steves, Ann Medellin, Ian Edlund, Nathan Rengstorf, Liz Petersen, Jennifer Lyne, Andrew Krus.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM. The following agenda items were covered

• **Birch Bay Teacher's workshop**

-Ian Edlund presented a history of the workshop dating back to 55 years ago that was both fascinating and informative. The roots of the workshop began as a collaboration between WWU and Music West and was held on the campus of WWU with Barton Frank at the helm. (Anyone interested in more details can contact Ian or Myrnie ☺)

-It was agreed that WASTA will be playing a greater role in supplying support both monetary and otherwise.

-Ian submitted his letter of resignation as the organizer and proposed that he hand this job to his successor, Chip Schooler. The WASTA board then voted unanimously to approve Chip as the new organizing chairman. Ian will continue to conduct the workshop.

-It was agreed that Chip and the WASTA board will work closely to continue the success of this workshop. Myrnie will be getting in touch with Chip to discuss ways to facilitate this.

- On Nov. 11th Myrnie and Chip had a conversation regarding his assuming the leadership and what that would look like. They are now working to get the new information out to teachers for the Aug. 2014 workshop.

• **WASTA By-Laws**

-President Elect Brian Steves presented a pamphlet that included the current By-laws along with some from other states . The board proceeded to work through the current structure, revising, updating and tightening up the bylaws and the voting board. Brian will continue to work on the document. When completed, the revised by-laws will be posted on the WASTA website for review and also submitted to National ASTA.

-The new by-laws will also reflect the addition of new board members and committees.

-The new by-laws will be ratified by online voting by the membership after a 30 day review.

• **Budget**

-Treasurer Ann Medellin presented a historical perspective of the budget, what has worked and what hasn't as well as what is currently in the bank.

-The board discussed the expansion of activities and how the budget would support those.

-Currently, WASTA is in the black but there is a concern that as we add new activities that number of members will also need to grow commensurately.

-It was decided that there should be one checkbook and that Ann as treasurer should be the only person allowed to write checks.

- There was some discussion about WASTA setting up a PO box in Washington so correspondence would go there instead of to Ann's home in Portland, Oregon.
- Ann will be constructing a more detailed budget that reflects the additional activities as well as greater details for debits and credits.

- **Webmaster/Newsletter**

- The WASTA newsletter (Overtones) has been a hard copy mailed out to members twice a year. It was decided that it will now become strictly online.
- Advertisers will continue to have their ads placed in the newsletter which will be both emailed out to members as well as posted on the WASTA website
- Our new webmaster is Nathan Rengstorf, orchestra teacher in the Edmonds School District.
- The WASTA board wants to acknowledge and thank Ramona Holmes for her diligent work as newsletter editor for the past 14 (or so) year and Jennifer Obannon who constructed the first WASTA website three or four years ago.
- It was decided that Nathan will be in charge of maintaining the website, it's activities and posting anything that the newsletter editor is able to gather.
- It was agreed that he will receive a yearly stipend for this service.
- Nathan agreed that a potential goal would be to set up a paypal account on the WASTA website that will facilitate the potential of WASTA members being able to sign up for and pay for the Birch Bay workshop fees and orchestra teachers to pay their application fees for the WASTA orchestra festivals.
- Nathan will also be in charge of sending out emails to WASTA members that will include links for the various festivals and activities.
- It is proposed that we delegate the newsletter to a different person than the webmaster as the web design and maintenance is very time consuming.
- There was discussion of setting up a blog on the website in which members could make comments and share their point of view on WASTA activities.

- **WASTA High School Orchestra Festival**

- Festival Chair Andrew Krus presented the current status of the Festival.
- This year it will be held on Thursday, February 6th, 2014 at the University of Washington. Anna Edwards from Roosevelt HS is working with Andrew. She is getting her PHD in conducting and was able to secure Meany Hall as the performance space as a result of being on the UW campus.
- More details on the U-WASTA festival will be forthcoming. Information can also be found on the WASTA website. (wasta.org)
- Discussion revolved around the budget for the festival which is being developed.

- **Middle School/Elementary Festival**

- Chairs Jennifer Lyne and Elizabeth Petersen presented some ideas and concepts in which teachers of younger orchestra students could partake.
- Discussion revolved around where the festivals would take place and how to manage the number of students who could potentially be involved.
- The format of how a festival for younger students would be handled was also discussed keeping in mind that it would most likely need to be held during the day and

students would need to be bussed to the event.

-The possibility of dividing the state into quadrants and supplying a budget on a rotating basis for a clinician, transportation and facility management was discussed.

- **. Eclectic Styles**

-Chairperson Brittney Newell (orchestra teacher at Ballard HS) was not at the meeting but did send a document that included suggestions for implementing fiddle and traditional music into an orchestra classroom

-Brittany also included names of people who could be used as resources.

-WASTA is dedicated to supporting eclectic styles in string players and will include that category in upcoming orchestra festivals.

- **Membership Chair**

-This is an unfilled position at the present time and a very important one.

-It was decided that getting someone to become a membership chairperson would be a vital catalyst for the forward momentum of the organization.

-The job description for this position will be discussed at a future meeting.

-If there is anyone out there that would be interested in this position, please contact Myrnie Van Kempen.

- **College Liaison**

-Ramona Holmes has graciously accepted this position since there are at least 5 or 6 universities and colleges that are WASTA members. We are excited to support Ramona as she helps us formulate how WASTA can help our higher Ed. colleagues.

- **. Small Grants Chair**

-Our current chairperson is Joanne Donnellan although she has decided to step down.

-We want to thank Joanne for her 20 years of service in this capacity!

-Joanne supplied us with a very interesting and enlightening report of the history of the WASTA “mini-grants” as well as her perspective on what the future of these grants should be.

-Although she was not able to be in attendance, there was discussion about how WASTA can further the development of the grants.

-This included the following brainstorm items

-WASTA Enrichment/ Inspiration Grants

- : Have a pull down menu of options with price tags on it. Title I school,, studio teacher with a caveat “up to a certain amount”

-Clinicians (Mark O’Connor, Bob Gillespie, etc. Tracy and Spencer Duo)

-Eclectic strings grants

-Mark Wood

-Workshops Fall symposiums on each side of the state

-Make sure recipients write a thank-you and report of how the project went (to be posted on the website)

- **WASTA Solo Contest Chair**

-In light of the fact that the Solo contest no longer has state eliminations, there is no need to run a contest.

-Up to last year, there was a day long contest held at SPU in which a state solo winner was selected to be sent to the National ASTA solo contest.

-Currently, interested students make an online video of themselves playing which is then uploaded to the screeners at National ASTA.

- **Private Teacher Rep/ASTA-CAP**

-We are very excited to have Dr. Kelley Johnson on our board as a representative for the private teachers in our state.

-The current list of WASTA members includes many private teachers and we want to offer incentives for them to maintain their membership and be involved in activities that will enhance their studios as their hard work helps us all.

-Kelley is very interested in promoting ASTA-CAP and has outlined ways this will help unite the private teachers in our state

-Kelley wasn't able to make the board retreat but Myrnie will be meeting with her in a couple of weeks to talk about ASTA-CAP and its implementation.

-Myrnie subsequently met with Kelley and had a great meeting getting more details on how ASTA-CAP works. Stay tuned for more.

- **Nominating Committee**

-Currently unfilled but necessary to find people for the at large positions and other unfilled positions. Combine with membership chair?

- **New Business/Announcements**

-The next general meeting will be held at the WMEA conference on Friday, February 14th, 2014 in the convention center. Hefty kudos to Treasurer Ann Medellin for working with the WMEA powers that be to secure a convention center room during the same time as the college "cocktail hours". There will be a no-host bar and catered horsie doovers. We will also have a voting box for any members who hadn't yet voted online for new candidates and ratification of the by-laws.