

WVMTA News

*West Virginia Music Teachers Association
Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association*

Volume 42, Issue 1

January, 2007

From the President's Desk

Karen Taddie, NCTM
President

The President's column in this issue of the WVMTA News will simply be to introduce you to, or re-introduce you to the MTNA Code of Ethics.

MTNA Vision and Values

The mission of MTNA is to advance the value of music study and music making in society and to support the professionalism of music teachers. The mission is accomplished by members who teach with competence, act with integrity, volunteer services to MTNA programs, provide professional support for colleagues and communities, and comply with all laws and regulations that impact the music teaching profession. The mission calls for an ethical commitment to students, to colleagues, and to society.

MTNA Code of Ethics

COMMITMENT TO STUDENTS—The teacher shall conduct the relationship with students and families in a professional manner.

- The teacher shall respect the personal integrity and privacy of students unless the law requires disclosure.
- The teacher shall clearly communicate the expectations of the studio.
- The teacher shall encourage, guide and develop the musical potential of each student.
- The teacher shall treat each student with dignity and respect, without discrimination of any kind.
- The teacher shall respect the student's right to obtain instruction from the teacher of his/her choice.

COMMITMENT TO COLLEAGUES—The teacher shall maintain a professional attitude and shall act with integrity in regard to colleagues in the profession.

- The teacher shall respect the reputation of colleagues and shall refrain from making false or malicious statements about colleagues.
- The teacher shall refrain from disclosing sensitive information about colleagues obtained in the course of professional service unless disclosure serves a compelling professional purpose or is required by law.
- The teacher shall respect the integrity of other teachers' studios and shall not actively recruit students from another studio.
- The teacher shall participate in the student's change of teachers with as much communication as possible between parties, while being sensitive to the privacy rights of the student and families.

COMMITMENT TO SOCIETY—The teacher shall maintain the highest standard of professional conduct and personal integrity.

- The teacher shall accurately represent his/her professional qualifications.
- The teacher shall strive for continued growth in professional competencies.
- The teacher is encouraged to be a resource in the community.

2006 Competitions Report

Dr. Scott Beard, NCTM
1st Vice-President

The 2006 MTNA Performance Competitions and the WVMTA Mountain State Competitions were held November 4th at Marshall University. Winners of the MTNA competitions will compete at the Eastern Division Conference January 5th and 6th at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

MTNA Competition Winners

Brass:

MTNA Young Artist Brass Representative: Kenton Brandy (Timothy DeWitt, teacher)

Composition:

MTNA Junior Composition Winner: Nicole Walch, (Karen Taddie, NCTM, teacher)

Strings:

MTNA Junior Strings Representative: Billy Fang (Hong-Guang Jia, teacher)

MTNA Senior Strings Representative: Maria Xu (Hong-Guang Jia, teacher)

Piano:

MTNA Junior Piano Winner: Billy Fang (Dr. Christine Kefferstan, NCTM, teacher)

MTNA Junior Piano Alternate: Demi Fang (Dr. Christine Kefferstan, NCTM, teacher)

MTNA Senior Piano Winner: Emily Yang (Catherine Crotty, NCTM, teacher)

MTNA Senior Piano Alternate: Leah Claiborne (Dr. Scott Beard, NCTM, teacher)

MTNA Young Artist Piano Winner: James Womack (Dr. James Miltenberger, teacher)

MTNA Young Artist Piano Alternate: Jason Solounias (Dr. Scott Beard, NCTM, teacher)

Voice:

MTNA Senior Voice Representative: Stephen Lovell (Barbara B. Stenger, teacher)

MTNA Young Artist Voice Winner: Alisha Atkins (Lillian Long, teacher)

MTNA Young Artist Voice Alternate: Ruthanne Propst (Lillian Long, teacher)

Woodwinds:

MTNA Senior Woodwind Representative: Lindsey Sinclair (Melissa Herceg, teacher)

WVMTA Mountain State Competition Winners

Composition:

WVMTA Junior Composition Winner: Angela Hewitt (Karen Taddie, NCTM, teacher)

WVMTA Junior Composition Alternate: Jesse Sesse (Karen Taddie, NCTM, teacher)

Piano:

WVMTA Junior Piano Winner: Olivia Teng (Dr. Peter Amstutz, teacher)

WVMTA Junior Piano Alternate: Taylor Giorgio (Vicki Berneking-Cavendish, teacher)

WVMTA Junior Piano Honorable Mention: Kristin Meigh (Yih-Ching Schouler, teacher)

WVMTA Junior Piano Alternate: Matthew Williams (Dr. Gerald Lee, teacher)

WVMTA Senior Piano Winner: Maria Xu (Catherine Crotty, NCTM, teacher)

WVMTA Senior Piano Alternate: Jennifer van der Sloot (Catherine Crotty, NCTM, teacher)

WVMTA Senior Piano Honorable Mention: Erica Shen (Dr. Leslie Petteys, NCTM, teacher)

WVMTA Mountain State Competition Winners, continued

WVMTA Collegiate “B” Winner: Yuri McCoy (Dr. Leslie Petteys, NCTM, teacher)
WVMTA Collegiate “B” Alternate: Tiffany Claiborne (Dr. Scott Beard, NCTM, teacher)
WVMTA Collegiate “B” Honorable Mention: Kari Edge (Dr. Scott Beard, NCTM, teacher)

Strings:

WVMTA Junior Strings Winner: Allison Prescott (Mary Wilson, teacher)
WVMTA Junior Strings Alternate: Christina Deal (Patricia van der Sloot, teacher)
WVMTA Senior Strings Winner: Dianna Shi (Hong Guang Jia, teacher)
WVMTA Senior Strings Alternate: Lucian Mazza (Mary Wilson, teacher)
WVMTA Senior Strings Honorable Mention: Emily Ngan (Mary Wilson, teacher)

We had a total number of 40 participants in the competitions, with 16 MTNA competitors and 24 Mountain State competitors. Congratulations to all teachers and students who prepared for these competitions. The level of playing continues to be very impressive! Keep up the great work.

Membership Report

Dr. Gerald K. Lee
2nd Vice President

I am very happy to report that membership in WVMTA has grown significantly. In fact, over this past year (e.g., since January of 2006), 22 new members have joined our professional organization! To date, WVMTA is able to account for a total of 119 members (e.g., 95 independent teachers and/or college/university professors as well as 24 student members). Many, many thanks to *each and every one of you*—your active membership, support, and participation is of utmost importance to the vitality, strength, and continued growth of our organization. In reflecting back on 2006, I’d like to honor the following 22 new members—Welcome Aboard!

Morgantown MTA (District I)

Khe Sin Khoo, Joy C. Lin, Deborah Morgan, Yih-Ching Schoolar, Rebecca Turner, Patricia van der Sloot

Clarksburg MTA (District II)

Scott Auffhammer, Suzanne M. Leontopoulos

Huntington MTA (District V)

Rosemary L. Atkinson, Marshall S. Barnhouse, Ashley N. Bauyer, Leah D. Connelly, Melody D. Cook, Chandler Gearhart, Craig P. Hinchman, Joy N. McComas, Daniel G. Morgan, Sudatip Puengrusme, Christina E. Riley, Allison L. Thorp

Eastern Panhandle MTA (District VI)

Yevgeniya Anderson, Robyn Stevens

Marshall University Collegiate Chapter

Rosemary Atkinson, Marshall Barnhouse, Ashley Bauyer, Leah Connelly, Melody Cook, Alanna Cushing (reinstating), Chandler Gearhart, Craig Hinchman, Joy McComas, Daniel Morgan, Sudatip Puengrusme, Christina Riley, Allison Thorp

West Virginia University Collegiate Chapter

Yew Choong Cheong (reinstating), Khe Sin Khoo

And just in case you or someone you know may be interested in renewing membership in WVMTA, reinstating membership, or joining WVMTA as a new member, please keep in mind that the door is always open! To join or renew membership, check out the WVMTA membership page at www.wvmta.org or go directly to the membership page for our parent organization, Music Teachers’ National Association: <http://www.mtna.org/membership.htm>. Should you decide to join or renew membership at this point, the pro-rated dues for the 2006-07 fiscal year are \$12.50 for the State and \$29.50 for National. Your membership will remain active until June 30, 2007.

Membership Report, continued

So, why should you consider joining WVMTA or renewing your membership in WVMTA?

Networking: Music Teachers' National Association (MTNA) is made up of nearly 24,000 independent and collegiate music teachers like you in all fifty states and the District of Columbia. As a member you will receive the American Music Teacher (a bimonthly magazine from MTNA), quarterly WVMTA state newsletter, and an annual WVMTA Member-Directory. WVMTA directories and the quarterly newsletter are available, online, to members and can be mailed upon request.

Professional Standards: MTNA has an extensive certification program for its members that sets a standard of excellence and professionalism. Please contact the state certification chair, Marilyn Horton, for more information.

Professional Development: Career training and development can be found at the local, state and national levels, in the form of workshops, clinics, and performance-oriented activities. Grant money may be earned from Teacher Training Funds and Matching Grants for Local Associations from the MTNA Foundation Fund.

Student Activities: Students of WVMTA members may participate in theory tests, technique tests, workshops, recitals, adjudicated performances and competitions. Through participation in WVMTA events, students earn points that accumulate to trophy awards. For a full description of student events through WVMTA, please see the Student Performances Plan on our web site: www.wvmta.org

State & National Conferences: Every year, State and National Conferences feature such invaluable activities as group discussions, workshops, master-classes, guest artists, recital performances, and a wide array of student competitions.

Arts Advocacy: There exists, through MTNA, a National Advocacy for Music Education Partnership, Advocacy Training, as well as a Congressional Liaison.

Other Benefits: Group health and disability insurance, retirement planning, group liability insurance, and credit card programs are also available through MTNA.

♪ Awards ♪

Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to **Dr. Scott Beard**, NCTM, (Eastern Panhandle MTA), **2006 WVMTA Teacher of the Year!**

May 1 is the deadline to submit nominations for the 2007 WVMTA Teacher of the Year. According to rules as set up by the WVMTA Administrative Board on October 25, 1996, "Nominations will be limited to three." Also according to rules, the qualifications are:

- demonstrates innovative teaching and creative musicianship
- has held membership in WVMTA for at least five years

Nominees will be introduced in the June issue of WVMTA NEWS. Mail nominations to: Karen Taddie, 1122 Queens Court, Morgantown WV 26508, or send by email.

Past Teacher of the Year Recipients

- * 1991 Peggy Johnston, NCTM
- * 1992 Christine Kefferstan, NCTM
- * 1993 Carol Beall, NCTM
- * 1994 Linda Seime, NCTM
- * 1995 Lena Lim, NCTM
- * 1996 Mary Wilson
- * 1997 Ray Martin, NCTM
- * 1998 Leslie Petteys, NCTM
- * 1999 Ruth Carder, NCTM
- * 2000 Catherine Crotty, NCTM
- * 2001 Bonnie Miltenberger
- * 2002 no award given
- * 2003 Lya Cartwright
- * 2004 Olive Meyer, NCTM
- * 2005 Mila Markun, NCTM
- * 2006 Scott Beard, NCTM

Distinguished Leader of the Year

Congratulations to **Barbara Heckert** (Mid-Ohio Valley MTA), **2006 WVMTA Distinguished Leader of the Year!**

- This new award is based on accumulated years of leadership and service contributed to the organization, over and above 10 years.
- This new award will be based on whether the award was or was not already received (award was once called "member of the year") by a particular member previously. (The award CAN be granted to the same individual more than once, however).
- This new award will be based on the recommendation, every year, of the current committee's research and records (if you are interested in becoming a future member of the Awards Committee, please notify Karen Taddie, NCTM, Carol Beall, NCTM, or Mary Wilson).

Member of the Year/Distinguished Leader of the Year Honorees

- * 1991 Mary Shep Mann, NCTM
- * 1992 Bobby Loftis, NCTM
- * 1993 Judy Lambert, NCTM
- * 1994 Jane Mangus, NCTM, & Sandra Hastings
- * 1995 Mila Markun, NCTM
- * 1996 Marija Sommer, NCTM
- * 1997 Marguerite Bostonia, NCTM
- * 1998 Jean Douglass, NCTM
- * 1999 Connie Arrau Sturm, NCTM
- * 2000 Olive Meyer, NCTM
- * 2001 no award given
- * 2002 no award given
- * 2003 James Miltenberger
- * 2004 no award given
- * 2005 no award given
- * 2006 Barbara Heckert

Convention Appreciation

Yennie Myers
President-elect

Thank you to all who helped make this past convention a success. I send special thanks to Dr. Leslie Petteys, NCTM, site coordinator, to Dr. Scott Beard, NCTM, 1st VP in charge of competitions, Judy Lambert, Huntington MTA chair, who, along with District V members, provided the food, Karen Taddie, NCTM, for countless advice, and, of course, to Marshall University, host institution. We also extend our gratitude to Skip Campbell, husband of Leslie Petteys, for producing the WVMTA 40th anniversary video with photos provided by Pat Zabel, WVMTA Historian.

Foundation Fund Gratitude & Acknowledgment

Karen Taddie, NCTM
Foundation Fund Chair

A generous Thank You goes out to the following WVMTA members, for being the most recent contributors to MTNA's Foundation Fund (as listed on the MTNA Foundation second quarter Individual Contribution Report: April 06 - June 06). The Foundation Fund provides assistance for, among other things, student travel expenses, awards & grants, victims of natural disaster tragedies. Thank you again.

--Barbara Heckert
--Judy Lambert, NCTM
--Mary Morrison, NCTM
--Dr. Connie Sturm, NCTM
--Harriet Tucker, NCTM

New WV State Certification Chair

Karen Taddie, NCTM
President

Marilyn Horton, NCTM, (Mid-Ohio Valley MTA) has accepted the position of WVMTA State Certification Chair.

Marilyn's responsibilities will be:

- to continue to promote & celebrate Certification among our State's Members
- to work alongside the Eastern Division Commissioner of the National Certification Commission in coming up with ideas/suggestions relating to Certification in general.

Look for Marilyn's articles on certification in this and every issue of The WVMTA News.

Welcome back on Board, Marilyn. Congratulations. And Thank You.

Certification Resolutions

Marilyn Horton, NCTM
Certification Chair

The following paragraphs are from Sylvia Coats, NCTM, National Certification Chair:

Can you believe it is already 2007? If you are like many, you probably already have made and broken a few New Year's resolutions. This year, however, MTNA encourages you to make a lasting resolution—the resolution to complete your MTNA Professional Certification.

Your commitment to the music teaching profession is exemplified by your membership in MTNA, and there is no better time to take this professionalism one step further and become a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music. By achieving MTNA Professional Certification, you demonstrate to the public, as well as your students and colleagues, a commitment to high professional standards.

Information about the MTNA Certification program is available at <http://www.mtnacertification.org> .

You also may request a packet from MTNA national headquarters by calling (888) 512-5278 or e-mailing mtnacertification@mtna.org .

Get 2007 off to a good start by pursuing your MTNA Professional Certification.

Congratulations are in order to Mila Markun, Catherine Crotty, and Karen Taddie for achieving Permanent Certification status. Also, certification renewals have been granted to Dr. Mary Lynne Bennett and Dr. Scott Beard.

Come Collaborate With Certified Colleagues in Canada!

MTNA Nationally Certified teachers are invited to collaborate with NCTM colleagues at a lavish Certification Reception hosted by Hal Leonard. Relax, socialize, and enjoy refreshments. The Sotto Voce Trio--a collaboration of Sylvia Coats, National Certification Chair, piano, Dorothy Crum, soprano, and Jean Lansing, saxophone, will provide entertainment. Presiding: Debra Hadfield, NCTM, National Certification Commission South Central Division, and Karen Taddie, NCTM, National Certification Commission Eastern Division.

Saturday, March 24th

5:00-6:00 p.m.

Sheraton Centre, Toronto Long Bar Room

From the Top --MTNA PROGRAMS

Did you know that over the past few years hundreds of students nationwide have participated in MTNA's Music for Everyone programs? Each year more and more teachers use these programs in their studios to motivate their "everyday" students. Through the use of the Music for Everyone programs, teachers encourage students of all abilities to set manageable goals and work toward them. While they are achieving these goals, they develop self-confidence and a sense of accomplishment, in addition to an appreciation of music.

The first of the programs is the Music Study Award. This is an excellent way to encourage your students by acknowledging their commitment to music lessons. Through MTNA, you can order certificates celebrating the years of music making your students have completed. Whether it is their first or their twelfth year, they deserve to have their commitment recognized.

The next program is the Studio Festival Program. This is designed to give students the opportunity to perform and receive a supportive critique from an experienced adjudicator whom you choose. Students receive performance certificates and also have the option of ordering medals commemorating their experience. This program is ideal because you, the teacher, tailor the festival to meet the needs of your studio. MTNA provides detailed guidance to help you through all the steps from event preparation to publicity. This will surely be a memorable event for any studio.

The final MTNA sponsored program is the Music Achievement Award Program. The purpose of this program is to encourage all the students in a teacher's studio to continue their music study. With this program, the teacher works with each student to set measurable and achievable goals. Upon completion of these goals the student will not only be intrinsically rewarded, but will also have a tangible pin as a symbol of their accomplishments.

The programs have been very successful in studios across the country. One teacher noted the great progress her students made when she was using the Music Achievement Award Program. The following year her students did not participate in the program and they did not show as much musical growth as they had the previous year. Let this be the year that your students show tremendous growth as musicians, no matter what instrument they play.

For more information about the Music for Everyone programs, visit the MTNA web site at www.mtna.org and click on "Programs and Projects" and select which program interests you from the drop down menu, or contact MTNA at mtnanet@mtna.org or by calling (888) 512-5278.

POLYPHONY & TEACHING TIPS

Do you have a music teaching question you would like to have answered? Perhaps you have a practice tip for students you would like to share or a studio idea you are trying differently this year. Did you know your questions and ideas could be shared with MTNA members through the Polyphony column in AMT or the

From the Top --MTNA PROGRAMS, continued

teaching tips on the MTNA web site? These two MTNA features offer members the opportunity to interact with other teachers from across the country to share their expertise.

To participate, send MTNA your questions, ideas and tips to MTNA, 441 Vine St., Ste. 505, Cincinnati, OH 45202-2811; fax (513) 421-2503; or e-mail to amt@mtna.org.

TORONTO

The long anticipated Toronto Conference is nearly here! Have you purchased your ticket and sent in your conference registration form? And do you have your passport? This is an unparalleled opportunity to exchange teaching ideas and methods with our Canadian colleagues—the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers' Associations and The Royal Conservatory of Music—and to experience the culture of a world-class city, Toronto. Members should plan to arrive by Thursday evening to attend Pedagogy Friday and the Junior and Chamber Music Performance Competitions, and leave the following Wednesday unless staying for one of the tours.

Here is some updated information to share with your members with regard to the hotel and the conference itself.

The MTNA Board of Directors held its winter board meeting in Toronto in early December, staying at the conference hotel, Sheraton Centre. It is a beautiful hotel, with magnificent views of the city, located in the heart of Toronto. Downtown Toronto is connected by a complete underground city, like a huge shopping mall, which connects to the city's subway system. Food courts, boutiques and shopping, including "The (Hudson) Bay," and Eaton Centre, are located within a block or two of the hotel. You don't even have to go outside if there is inclement weather! The convenience and ease of getting around for events and sessions cannot be emphasized enough. It is one of the best conference venues we have had.

The Toronto Pearson Airport is easily navigated and the customs process uncomplicated. Those who have difficulty walking should plan to have a wheelchair made available since some of the gates involve long walkways to the customs and baggage areas. Be sure to keep your receipts for purchases made in Toronto. Upon your departure, you will go through U.S. customs at Pearson Airport not on your re-entry into the United States.

The Board attended the Toronto Symphony Orchestra concert in Roy Thomson Hall on Saturday evening with Yefim Bronfman, soloist, performing the Rachmaninoff Third Piano Concerto. What a magnificent performance! We will hear this incredible artist at our March Conference in a solo piano recital. We also will hear the Toronto Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Bramwell Tovey, performing the Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 4 with Jane Coop, soloist, Saint-Saens "Organ" Symphony No. 3 with Patricia Krueger, organist, and Stephen Chatman's Over Thorns to Stars. Both of these events, as well as our opening session featuring The Royal Conservatory of Music Orchestra and American and Canadian concerto soloists, are DON'T MISS EVENTS!!!

Remember that Monday night will be a FREE night at the conference with no events planned—a wonderful opportunity to enjoy one of the many fine restaurants in Toronto, perhaps eat at the CN Tower and view the city (not only is the view great but the food is excellent!). Check out the Toronto Tourism web site at <http://www.torontotourism.com/Visitor/WhereToEat> for information about Toronto restaurants.

And then, there are American and Canadian student competitions, master classes, plus sessions too numerous to mention. Our ending event, the Conference Gala, (black tie optional) will be a special evening in itself. It will be a conference to be remembered!

District News

Charleston MTA (District III)

Karen Morris & Vicki Berneking-Cavendish, chairs

District III held their annual Fall Festival on December 9, 2006 at the Baptist Temple in Charleston, West Virginia. The theme was Dance. Many students played dances for their selections, and the presenter was local folk dance expert, Jerry Grady, who had the entire audience doing the hokey pokey, then led a small group of volunteers doing a variety of other dances. He explained that dancing brings joy to performers and audiences. There were 28 piano playing participants, 17 violin players, and one organist. Two first level (6 point) trophies were awarded--Rachel Feldhaus, violin, and Taylor Giorgio, piano. Two second level (12 point) trophies were presented--Aaron Morris, piano, and Julia Knisely, piano.

RACE Program

This comprehensive national examination program covers performance, theory, technique, ear training and sight-reading. Exams and examiners are offered to testing sites twice a year - in December and May. All RACE examiners complete an apprenticeship and attend annual training. Examiners sit in with a mentor examiner for three sessions, and their critiques and scores are analyzed. This extensive training of examiners ensures that students in small towns are evaluated by the same standards used in large cities. The Royal American Conservatory promotes objective assessment by sending examiners to centers where they are not acquainted with any teacher or student. Examiners for RACE have these minimum qualifications: (1) Bachelor of Music or equivalent degree, (2) five years professional teaching experience with students of all ages, (3) adjudicating or judging experience at competitions or festivals.

Work is under way to establish a testing center in Morgantown. Parkersburg members have established a site for May 19, 2007 testing. Another possible venue may be around Huntington. A minimum of 20 students is needed for testing to occur at any site. Another option for teachers/students is to travel to out-of-state sites that might be geographically closer.

Local teachers are NOT responsible for registering their students or collecting fees. Registration is done by the parents, and is available online. All scoring, record keeping, fees and certificates are handled by the Royal American Conservatory.

It is recommended that new RACE centers begin with young students. In the earliest level, the Preparatory A Level Practical Examination requires three pieces--one each from Lists A, B and C. Pieces from List A would feature LH melody and part playing, from book one or early book 2 in most method books. List B features pieces in which the melody is in RH, and List C is a piece of the teacher's choice. Memorization is not required in the Practical Examination, but extra points are awarded for memorized performances.

Please consider purchasing the RACE syllabi, and begin working students toward successful accomplishments in this new endeavor. Complete information about performance requirements is found in the RACE Piano Syllabus. The syllabus is available from Heritage Music Press (a subsidiary of the Lorenz Music Corporation) or by calling 1-800-444-1144 x 1. For more information about the RACE program itself, please visit www.royalamericanconservatory.org and start getting acquainted with the site.

Some important points to ponder (as presented by Dr. Scott McBride Smith at the 05 WVMTA State convention in Fairmont):

*A structured curriculum helps foster interaction/cooperation between the independent studio teacher and the public school teacher.

*Surveys have shown that 25% of Americans have studied piano; however, less than 1/100th of 1% still play piano in adulthood. Regular assessment of musical accomplishments encourages students to study music longer. Research has shown that piano students who are assessed study music 2.7 years longer than those who are not assessed.

Highlights of January 06 Approved Administrative Board Minutes

[implementation of the minutes are spelled out in brackets]

1. National News:

- State Pride gift: A woman from Mississippi won our quilt [quilt was made by Karen Adams of Morgantown, and was given to the Foundation Fund Annual National Conference 06 Drawing].
- Beginning July 1 (2006) MTNA provides legal consultation services for members.
- MTNA joins up with Fisher-Price to include brochure on choosing a music teacher in "I Can Play Piano" toy.
- New MTNA competition category @ Senior (ages 15-18) Level: 1-piano, 4-hand duets effective 07-08.
- Composition Competition change: limit of 9 performers or less.
- Raise in Official Accompanists fees
- Establishment of a national award to recognize the collaborative skills of the accompanist in the Young Artist voice, piano, strings, woodwinds, and brass competitions.
- Establishment of an online companion journal to the American Music Teacher Magazine.
- Toronto convention (Mar 23-27, 2007) travel documents: passport or birth certificate w/photo id [passport will be enough].
- 06 WV National Jr. Piano Competitions Winner: congrats to Scott Beard & George Fu.

2. Membership: We have 105 members listed on the web.

Welcome to new member Yih-ching Scholar from Bethany College faculty.

3. Treasurer:

- Notification made to National to increase our state dues by \$5.00 for upcoming year [have now completed 2nd year of 3 year increase].
- our finances are healthy.
- 06-07 Budget was presented and approved [see September 06 Newsletter].
- Proposed, Passed, & Implemented: open another CD, for \$1,000.00, if checking account balance reflects June 30 '06 assets of greater than \$5000.00.
- Ray will be resigning from his position and Karen is looking for someone new [Ray has resigned, Dr. Mary Lynne Bennett NCTM has become Treasurer].

4. Certification: Proposed and Passed - the WVMTA board initiate(s) an incentive for members to become nationally certified, by instituting a \$100 rebate award. This award would be a reimbursement of up to \$100 of the certification application fee once the certification application process has been completed. The award would be presented at the state convention in November each year.

5. Technic:

- New Answers Sheets distributed to District Chairs for Prep & Elem levels; begin using Fall '06.
- Intermediate Level drafts distributed to District Chairs for member perusal. Send comments by Aug 31 [entire syllabus should now be in the hands of, and in use by everyone].

6. Website:

- Laura Hamm reported that the web site will be updated and redesigned by students at Ohio Valley University.
- Renewals for '06-'07 will be on the web page. [No emails will be listed.]

Dates to Remember

- 07 MTNA National Conference: Toronto Canada/March 23-27, 2007
- 08 Eastern Division Competitions: Penn State University, State College, PA/January 11, 2008
- 08 MTNA National Conference: Denver, CO/March 29-April 2, 2008
- 09 Eastern Division Competition: West Chester University, West Chester, PA/date TBA.

2005-2006 END-OF-FISCAL-YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Dr. Mary Lynne Bennett, NCTM
Treasurer

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Beginning 05-06 Cash Balance (July 1, 2005):	\$ 4,940.93
Total 05-06 Income:	+\$ 14,461.33
Total 05-06 Expenses:	<u>-\$ 13,144.94</u>
Ending 05-06 Cash Balance (June 30, 2006):	\$ 6,257.32
CD 07560044444 (as of 6/30/06):	\$ 8,239.92 (matures 8/23/06) (1.7%)
CD 07220543887 (as of 6/30/06):	\$ 2,538.48 (matures 3/26/07) (5.2%)
CD 1009642701 (as of 6/30/06):	<u>\$ 2,558.16</u> (matures 7/13/07) (3.9%)
CDs (as of June 30, 2006):	\$13,336.56
 GRAND TOTAL 05-06 (Cash-on-hand, CDs)	 \$ 19,593.88

Arts Advocacy & Awareness

Suzanne Tabb

The following remarks are taken from "Are There Hidden Benefits to Music Lessons?" an article written by J. Chamberlin for the American Psychological Association's *Online Monitor On Psychology*, Volume 34, No. 9, October 2003.

"Music lessons may offer children intellectual benefits and fine-tune their sensitivity to emotion in speech, according to research by two University of Toronto psychologists presented at APA's 2003 Annual Convention.

In one of the reported studies -- in press at *Psychological Science* -- E. Glenn Schellenberg, PhD, recruited 144 6-year-olds to take free weekly arts lessons at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto for one year. He randomly assigned children to either keyboard or voice lessons -- the experimental groups -- or drama lessons or no lessons -- the control groups. The drama lessons served to control for increases in IQ that could result from participation in any extracurricular activity, said Schellenberg.

He tested children's IQ before and after the year of lessons, and found that while IQs increased across the board by about 4.5 points because of attending a year of school, scores for the children in the music groups increased an additional 2.5 points. That's a small, but significant, connection, he noted. He suggested that the periods of focused attention, memorization and concentration associated with the lessons and practice may explain the increase.

When the children took the post-lessons IQ test, a subset of them also participated in a study -- in press at *Emotion* -- led by Bill Thompson, PhD, to test whether music lessons promote sensitivity to speech prosody, which is the musical aspects of speech used to convey emotions. Thompson and his collaborators, Schellenberg and graduate student Gabriela Husain, presented children with eight happy and sad sentences in random order, once in English and once in Tagalog -- a Filipino language foreign to all participants.

Children identified whether the speaker sounded happy or sad by pressing a button directly below a corresponding picture, then repeated the process with a set of fearful and angry sentences. Next the children heard computer-generated tone sequences and, for each, judged whether the computer was happy or sad in one phase, and scared or angry in another. The researchers had expected high scores from the

Arts Advocacy & Awareness, continued

drama lessons group -- given that using the voice to convey emotion is central to drama -- and they were right. But they were surprised to find that children who took keyboard lessons scored just as high, and significantly better than the children who took voice or no lessons. What's more, the researchers found similar results in additional studies with adults who had taken music lessons as children."

FOOTPRINTS

♥Best wishes to Dr. Scott Beard NCTM (Eastern Panhandle MTA) as he recuperates from heart surgery. Last October Scott was diagnosed with "mitral valve prolapse". In December he traveled to the Cleveland Clinic and underwent 3+ hours of repair surgery. We are glad and grateful for his continued and smooth recovery.

♥Thank you, and welcome to Marilyn Horton NCTM (Ohio Valley MTA) for joining the administrative Board of WVMTA as State Certification Chair. Look for her articles in each newsletter, and contact her for information regarding teacher-certification.

♥Thank you, and welcome BACK to Carol Beall NCTM (Morgantown MTA) for re-joining the WVMTA Administrative Board. Carol will step in, yet again, as 'Acting' Immediate Past President, and will complete the remaining duties of that position through November 07, when a new slate of officers takes over leadership responsibilities.

♥Congratulations to Dr. Mary Lynne Bennett NCTM (Clarksburg MTA) on being appointed to MTNA's National Certification Commission as "Eastern Division Commissioner for Certification" for an 07-09 term of office. Her responsibilities will be to act as liaison from National to all State Certification Chairs (including our own Marilyn Horton NCTM) within the Eastern Division region of 13 states (CT, DC, DE, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT, WV). She replaces out-going Eastern Division Certification Commissioner of 5 years, Karen Taddie NCTM.

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