



LOS ANGELES SECONDARY MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (LASMTA)
P.O. BOX 34666 Los Angeles, CA 90034-9998

LASMTA MEETING

Date: February 11, 2014

Official Meeting Time: 6:00-8:00 pm

Hale MS

- I. Called to Order** by Julie West at 6:14 pm.
- II. Attendance:** Julie West, Dan Taguchi, Jennifer Elliott, Desiree Fowler, Mark Johnsen, Jeff Dellisanti, Erica Clewett, David Zavala, Linda Escobar, Johnathan Hass, Robin Sharp, Jim Lownes, Scott Johnson, David Yakerson and Steve Burch
- III. Reports**
 - A. Approval of the Minutes from January
 1. Motion to accept January's by Dan Taguchi with the correction to the number of members. Mark Johnsen seconded. All approved.
 - B. Treasurer's Report
 1. Dan Taguchi reported that as of February 11 we have a balance of \$11,811.22.
 - C. Secretary's Report
 1. The minutes were prepared by Jennifer Elliott and members were notified of tonight's meeting.
 2. Jennifer reported on Chris Rodriguez's behalf that there are 3 additional festivals. A Jazz Festival held at Manual Arts HS on May 3 hosted by Romeo Vera, a Mariachi Festival at Hale MS on May 17 hosted by Dan Taguchi, and a Vocal Jazz Festival held at Verdugo Hills HS on May 23 hosted by Ed Trimis. He also suggested that if teachers would like feeder information, they can go to their principals for their feeder schools and then contact the schools to get contact information for the music teachers there. If this doesn't work, people can contact Chris.
 - D. Vice President's Report
 1. Desiree reported that we have 35 members as of tonight. 2 more joined tonight. Desiree has also worked on finding judges for the Solo and Ensemble Festival.
 - E. President's Report
 1. Julie West was at NAMM and SCSBOA and Darnella Davidson was given an award there. Mark Johnsen has a former student that is in the President's Marine Core Band.

Old Business

- Solo and Festival applications are due by February 19. The festival date is March 8. The percussion judge is Dwight Asberry, David Sears is doing winds/percussion, Kerri Epps is doing strings, Aaron Mosely is doing vocal. We are still looking for guitar.
- The LASMTA Scholarship is May 3 with the application deadline being April 21.
- The Stewart Rupp Memorial Scholarship for Music Education application is due May 2 and the amount awarded will be \$500. The application will be posted online soon.
- The Music Repair Shop- Things are coming back now more quickly. KPCC called Julie for an update. We don't want things to get bad again. We are encouraging people to keep sending instruments in.
- The District Arts Festival is still on for March 15 at Grand Park.

Tricks of the Trade

- Dan Taguchi presented on mariachi music. He had a handout that includes examples of method books, where to purchase instruments, uniforms and accessories and recordings. ☺ "Mariachi Mastery" by Jeff Nevin is a method book that he recommends.
- Julie West talked about a chamber music unit she does in preparation for the Solo and Ensemble Festival. A class of 74 has 22 ensembles that they all can choose to be with. She had a hand out that the students fill out about their piece. ☺ The students also fill out evaluations for all of the performances.
- Mark Johnsen presented on a composition assignment he does. ☺ They first write a melody any way that they can. Then he talks about basic I, IV and V triads and then harmonize it. They then have to



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transpose it for another instrument. He also included the table of contents of the Music Educator's Handbook on the lasmta.org.

New Business

- Yakerson asked how to find money for accompanists for choral programs. Some schools have the school pay for 2 rehearsals and a concert performance. If it's student body the performance has to be for the entire school. There was another question about charging for concerts. Mark Johnsen says that if students can't afford the ticket price, they can let him know ahead of time to get tickets for free. Julie West said she collects donations at the beginning of the year.
- Steve Burch asked if anyone uses SmartMusic. Mark Johnsen has played around with it but knows of no schools that use it. Steve went to San Diego for a training and uses it for his own playing but wants to try it with his students.
- Steve Burch asked for feedback on the arrangement of Turn, Turn, Turn for the Arts Fest at Grand Park.
- Next week is the state music conference in Fresno. Julie West, Robert Eisenhart and Linda Moridian are on a panel on music in urban areas.

Next meeting: Thursday, March 6 at Revere MS. April meeting will be Wednesday, April 9 at Van Nuys HS. The May meeting will be at the Grammy Foundation in Santa Monica.

Adjournment : The Meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM. Dan Taguchi moved, David Yakerson seconded. All approved.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jennifer Elliott