

LRMTA Minutes Monday, September 14, 2020, Zoom Meeting

Check out the website for updates and information regarding upcoming events and meetings at www.lrmta.com

Christine called the Zoom meeting to order and welcomed those participating. There were 9 members present: Lavinia Parker, Tamara Bowie, Chris Dittmann, Christine Rogers, Betty Jo Radley, Linda Dickey, Tracy Bozzi, Brenda Lockmuller and Lorrie Wittke.

Christine welcome new member Chris Dittmann and everyone introduced themselves.

Linda moved the approval of the agenda with Brenda seconding. Tamara moved the acceptance of the May minutes as circulated with Betty Jo seconding.

Christine gave the Treasurer's report in Megan Wittig's absence. The account balances as of September 14 are: Awards Account: \$5694.96 and Operating Account: \$1850.53. Christine presented the Annual Financial Report. There is a larger balance than usual in our operating account because of the ARMTA Continuing Education funding for the Voice Workshop which will be held until the event can be rescheduled (\$400). Also, last year we were able to access a number of grants that subsidized events, activities and recitals. Lastly, with events being cancelled because of COVID, our expenses were down. Any questions can be directed to Megan and Christine. Christine moved the adoption of the Annual Financial Report with Brenda seconding. Carried. As our Provincial Rep, Tamara will send a copy of the Annual Financial Report to our Provincial Administrator. Christine moved the acceptance of the Treasurer's report, Linda seconding.

Dates for the Lethbridge and District Music and Speech Arts Festival 2021 are **March 15 to 27, 2021**. Our awards contribution will be held over for next year's Festival. Please contact the Festival with any questions at (403) 381-6512 or the General Manager, Megan Wittig by email at: generalmanager@lethmsf.org

ARMTA News: The CFMTA Conference which was to be held in Edmonton in July of 2021 has been rescheduled with the same presenters for July 2023. All branches have been previously encouraged to contribute to help with provincial expenses. Originally we had planned to split the proceeds of the May 9th Gala Recital between our awards account and the Conference. Since that is no longer possible, and the Edmonton conference has been postponed to 2023, Christine will check with ARMTA as to what is required and expected financially. This coming summer 2021, CFMTA will hold a virtual conference. Tamara reported on the upcoming ARMTA Board meeting on Saturday, September 26th, and the upcoming ARMTA AGM which will be held on Friday, October 23rd at 1:00 pm. All members are welcome to attend the Zoom AGM. Follow the link to register: <https://armta.ca/upcoming-events/#!event/register/2020/10/23/armta-2020-agm> Thanks to Tamara for acting as our provincial rep!

Teachers discussed their experiences regarding recent RCM exams and registration. RCM Exams for the next session will once again take place remotely by Zoom. If you have any concerns or questions please contact our Alberta RCM Rep, Derek Chiu at derek.chiu@rcmusic.ca

Coffee and Conversation has been suspended for the time being.

Christine reported that she had made a brief presentation on ARMTA and our local branch at the University of Lethbridge Zoom Music Student General Meeting on Wednesday, September 9th.

Christine reported on the status of our branch's Yellow Pages print ad. Even after extensive contact with Yellow Pages representatives, our print ad has not appeared in the print version for the last 2 years. We do have a free online Yellow Pages posting. A short discussion followed regarding the need for an ad in the print Yellow Pages.

MOTION: Betty Jo moved that we discontinue our Yellow Pages print ad. Seconded by Brenda. All in favour. Carried.

A discussion regarding our free Kijiji ad followed. Thank you to Lorrie Wittke who has been managing this for us. Lorrie informed members about the process of maintaining a free Kijiji ad which needs to be renewed every three months to continue. Lorrie also explained other Kijiji promotional options available and their cost. After discussion, Lorrie offered to track the ad activity more closely over the next month or two to see if any of the paid options would be useful and viable.

Recital plans for the year were discussed. Tamara has offered to put together a video recital of students' performances of Canadian music for Canada Music Week this year. She had success using this format for her own students in the spring. Teachers will forward videos of students performing Canadian pieces and Tamara will add them to a video with slides containing extra information including information about the Canadian composers. The recital video will be uploaded to YouTube and a private link will be shared with students and teachers. A video viewing party on Zoom was suggested as a way to promote the performances. Lorrie suggested a treasure hunt activity might be linked to the video performances to engage students. Lorrie and Christine are willing to help Tamara with any arrangements. If any other teachers would like to help, please contact Christine. More details will be circulated soon.

Zoom recitals were suggested as possibilities for our Christmas activities. If anyone has any other ideas, please contact Christine.

Branch handouts and information are available at: <https://lrmta.com/member-documents/>

Branch award information was confirmed by Christine. Branch award entries for students of LRMTA members must be submitted on or before our next meeting, **October 5**. Please use the

Awards Submission Form which can be accessed on the LRMTA website under <http://lrmta.com/member-documents/>

Members may submit all of their first class honours marks--80 or above (not just your highest marks) for practical and theory exams for the December 2019 session through all 2020 examining sessions. All first class honours students will be listed on our awards program.

Please use separate forms for theory and practical exams. Also please review and make sure the disclosure boxes are checked off.

If practical students have taken theory with another teacher, please coordinate and make sure that the theory mark is submitted.

Teachers may drop off submissions at Christine's home at 1621 Lakeshore Road S or email scanned completed forms. If possible try to get signatures from parents or students (if over 18). This will be more difficult since many of us are teaching online only at this time because of the Pandemic. Teachers may get verbal permission for release of marks and photographs and then sign their own name.

Christine will collect all submissions and collate them in a document to share with teachers for confirmation. She will then draft the disbursement to circulate to a committee for confirmation. In addition to the \$1500 our branch contributes, there is \$750 available from the ARMTA Recognition Fund. Cheques will be written by Megan Wittig and envelopes prepared by Christine. Since we won't be having an in-person recital and awards presentation, awards will be delivered to teachers to give to students. An acknowledgement will be printed up to circulate to students so that they can be recognized.

A discussion followed regarding the eligibility of RCM online theory course marks for awards. A question had been submitted to Christine and she had consulted the executive before the meeting. Concerns raised included that the RCM courses might be replacing teachers, but the experience shared by some members and information relayed from Alberta RCM Rep Derek Chiu, helped address these concerns. It was agreed to consider that our awards program is for our students no matter the format of their exam.

MOTION: Brenda Lockmuller moved that first class honors marks received by students of LRMTA teachers who have completed the online RCM theory courses be eligible for the annual branch awards. Seconded by Linda. All in favour. Carried.

Betty Jo raised the concern that teachers are not acknowledged as having students complete exams for the online theory exams for their RCM accreditation. She will contact Derek Chiu to gather information. **NOTE:** Here is the information from Derek Chiu which was obtained after the meeting (Thank you Betty Jo!): *During the online RCM theory course registration procedure for students, there is a place for students to enter their teacher's RCM number. If you have had students who have previously taken online theory courses, but you have not been credited and*

don't have access to the students' results, the students can contact RCM and let them know that they studied with a teacher during the online course and submit their teacher's name and RCM number so that the teacher can be acknowledged.

CFMTA Branching this year is Professional Peer Outreach. The deadline for activities is March 15, 2021. We are hoping to offer an online event for teachers in our community.

The Voice Workshop and Masterclass will be rescheduled. We have received a \$400 ARMTA Continuing Education Funding for this event.

As a result of the Gala Recital cancellation we have a credit for piano rental from the U of L Conservatory of Music.

After discussion it was decided to postpone our Practise-a-thon which was scheduled for February 2021 until the following year because of the Pandemic.

After discussion, it was decided that we award long time member Marilyn Sinclair (who retired from ARMTA in April) an honorary branch membership. Christine will contact Marilyn.

MOTION: Betty Jo moved that we make Marilyn Sinclair an honorary branch member. Seconded by Lorrie Wittke. All in favour. Carried.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 5th, 2020 by Zoom. Details will be circulated by email.

Minutes prepared by Christine Rogers