

LRMTA Minutes April 14th, Long and McQuade

Christine called the meeting to order at Long and McQuade. There were 7 members present: Linda Dickey, Christine Rogers, Joan Milton, Betty Jo Radley, Karen MacDonald, Kate LaRocque and Brenda Lockmuller.

The agenda was approved by Linda with Joan seconding. Brenda noted a change for the minutes regarding the Yellow Pages ad. The charge was just over \$200 and not under \$200. The March minutes were approved as amended by Betty Jo, seconded by Karen.

Brenda reported on a situation that arose regarding an awards cheque, which came up after we had made the decision last meeting to cancel all outstanding awards cheques after 6 months. At the request of a teacher we rewrote a lost awards cheque and cancelled the original one. The teacher offered to pay for the \$12.50 in bank charges. Brenda felt very uncomfortable with the situation because our motion last month did not include any directions for unique situations such as this. After discussion it was decided to clarify our awards cheque policy by stating that all outstanding awards cheques will be cancelled after 6 months and fees will be applied for rewriting cheques. This information will be circulated to teachers. It will also be stated at the awards presentation and will be included with each award cheque given to students.

A motion was made by Brenda to write a cheque from the awards account to reimburse the teacher for the recent \$12.50 bank fees charge. Seconded by Karen. Carried.

Our operating balance is \$787.32 and our awards account balance is \$3386.82. The Library rental for the March recital has been paid. The receipts for local fees have been written and are in the process of being sent out or delivered. Brenda informed the members that she will continue for one more year as treasurer and would be happy to help train someone to replace her. Linda seconded the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Thanks to Brenda for her contribution to our group as treasurer.

Kiwanis Festival dates for 2015 are March 16th to 28th. The registration deadline is January 7th. A discussion followed concerning the difficulties of such an early deadline. Christine will contact our Festival Rep, Doreen and see if she wants to approach the Festival Committee regarding our concerns. Brenda wrote a \$100 cheque to the Kiwanis Festival for the two piano awards which we sponsor. Christine will take care of mailing the cheque to the Kiwanis Club.

ARMTA news: Joan reported on events and clinicians (including tenor, Ben Heppner) for Alberta Music Conference on October 24th and 25th. She will forward the information and Christine will circulate. After discussion it was decided that we will designate our May coffee meeting to the ARMTA survey that Karen is developing. The ARMTA Provincial Recognition Fund Awards has \$2100 per year available to ARMTA Branches. Each of the 7 Branches that make up ARMTA Provincial have \$300 per year to use as an award to the student of an ARMTA member who met the requirements of Branch Awards. This \$300 may be given as: one prize of \$300; 2 prizes of \$150; or 3 prizes of \$100. Christine will draft a policy for review at the next meeting. It was agreed to divide the award into 3 prizes of \$100 for junior piano, senior piano and senior theory.

Our next coffee and conversation is set for Thursday, April 24th at 9:30 a.m. at Linda Davies' home at 1260-5th Ave. S. (Not 5A). Please call Betty Jo at 329-1655 or Linda at 328-6085 to let them know if you will be attending. We will be helping with Piano Class Festival programming. This was lots of fun last year! Betty Jo will confirm the time with Linda. We will set aside the May coffee meeting to discuss ideas for the ARMTA survey.

Our Yellow Pages has been renewed by Brenda. Thanks to Brenda!

Christine arranged with Deanna Oye to distribute our membership leaflet to U of L students. Betty Jo offered to take some to Music Court and the Allied Arts Council Office. Christine will leave some at Long and McQuade and at the University Conservatory at Casa. She will also develop a membership email to send out to prospective members including our 3 members at large.

Kate is moving and will need new nameplates. She will forward her address to Christine.

A brief discussion regarding advertising followed. Members were unsure if the cost of ads in the *Sign Me Up insert* or the *Leisure Guide* were worth the money. It seems that most referrals still come from other students, parents and teachers. Brenda suggested the Shaw Cable scrolling feed and the Movie Mill might be possibilities. She will check into the cost of the Movie Mill.

Thanks to Karen and Kate for convening the Festival prep recital on March 29th at 2:30 p.m. at the Lethbridge Public Library. Karen gave the silver collection to Brenda for deposit. Thanks to Karen and Deanna for arranging for a guest performance by University students. Marilyn has the LRMTA Banner.

Our final general recital will be Saturday, May 3rd at 2:30 p.m. in the University Recital Hall at the University of Lethbridge. Christine will take the names for the program. Please send her your entries by April 30th at the latest. Lorrie Wittke originally volunteered to convene, but is playing a wedding that day. Joan will be there if needed. Lorrie Wittke checked with some other teachers and Cheryl Hudak may be able to be there as well. Betty Jo will confirm with Deanna as to whether or not she can be there to open the recital hall for us.

Our final adult get-together will be on Saturday, June 7th at 10:00 a.m. in Betty Jo's studio at 810 Kodiak Bay North. An opportunity for students to run through their exam repertoire will take place following at 11:00 a.m. **Please contact Betty Jo at 329-1655 and let her know if you have students who will be coming** so that she can prepare for the number of people attending. Thanks again to Betty Jo for the generous offer of her studio for these events!

Christine reported that dates for next year's *Keys to Piano* Workshop have been booked for February 27th and 28th, 2015 at Casa. She read a thank you letter on behalf of our branch that she will deliver to Peggy Mezei and Terena Wiggers of the Conservatory. Thank you to everyone who supported this workshop and made it such a success! Ideas for future clinicians include Terry Dawson (UBC), Sylvia Shadick-Taylor (recent Kiwanis adjudicator), Dale Wheeler (Red Deer) and Edwin Gnandt.

Christine informed members that the application for the \$50 "Branching Out" grant was prepared and submitted. The cheque has been received and deposited. As a result, a cheque for \$50 has been written to the U of L Conservatory to help offset costs of the Piano Workshop. Christine circulated a thank you letter from the Conservatory.

Linda Dickey moved to accept our executive as follows for the 2014-2015 year. Karen MacDonald seconded. Carried. Brenda will continue for one more year and offered to train anyone interested in replacing her as treasurer. The Vice President and Provincial Rep positions are vacant. Thanks to Tamara for all her contributions as Vice President the past few years. Joan Milton will attend Provincial meetings if necessary, but would like another member to assume the representative duties. Thank you to those members continuing in their positions. We are grateful for their commitment to our branch.

President: Christine Rogers

Vice President: vacant

Secretary: Kate LaRocque
Treasurer: Brenda Lockmuller
Corresponding Secretary: Mary Lee Voort
Provincial Representative: vacant

The Piano Class Festival will take place this year from May 20-24. The adjudicator will be Glen Montgomery. The Syllabus will be the same as last year. Anyone interested in helping with class scheduling can attend the April 24th coffee and conversation at Linda Davies' home. Volunteer secretaries to the adjudicator will be needed. Teachers can sign up at the May meeting or contact Karen.

Christine proposed the idea that members of our branch who are interested could give short presentations on any teaching or music topic of their choice. We have excellent, qualified teachers in our group with lots of experience and we can all learn from sharing ideas. We will plan to begin these sessions in the fall. They will be scheduled at times other than meetings, possibly at our monthly coffee and conversation time. Please let Christine know if you have a topic or idea that you would like to share.

Our next meeting will be **Monday, May 5th**, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at Long and McQuade.