



Sounding Board

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Please visit www.wramta.org/soundingboard.html to view additional files, updates, and news.

President's Report

David Luce, PhD, MT-BC

Greetings Fellow Members of the Western Region! It is still hard to get over the fact that we were in Hawaii this past March! That single event has sown so many seeds and created so many potential opportunities! While it may take some time for all of them to emerge, they will need "tender gardening". So please be sure to do your part to nurture them, as you can. It will be truly exciting to see how it all unfolds, and we are truly indebted to those who paved the way for this incredible event and made it happen!

On behalf of the Western Region Chapter, American Music Therapy Association, our most sincere condolences were extended to Trudy Hanson Middleton Dreschner's family over her death and that of her 12-day old son in a tragic auto accident in Utah. The Chapter contributed to a scholarship fund that was established in her name. Trudy made a difference.

As I embark upon my term as WRAMTA President, I find myself totally amazed at the dedication, commitment, and the most simple, but all-important gift of time that your elected and appointed officers are willing to make to conduct the business of the Western Region. Finding ways to balance family, career, and volunteer service with attention to detail is a never-ending process that takes the sincere passion of a "dedicated heart". I am pleased and proud to be working with such a vibrant group of music therapists. I sincerely hope that you will be able to take a brief moment to meet and interact with your representatives in Louisville and Seattle.

The Executive Committee held its Mid-year meeting at Chapman University in June. Donated space and associated discounts helped the EC to work efficiently, effectively, and under budget. The EC worked through an extensive agenda and many projects and ideas were either set in-motion or continued in development: Bylaws Revision, Professional Advocacy Campaign, Fundraising and Development Committee (funding), Research & Development Committee (website), Budget Committee, Strategic Plan Task Force, new software to update the website, Job Descriptions, Policies and Procedures, a CBMT audit, and a compilation audit for the Region. Please refer to the officer reports, minutes, and this issue of your Sounding Board for more information and details.

As your colleagues prepare for their respective Assembly of Delegates and AMTA Committee meetings in Louisville, they need to hear from you. In this democratic process, each of them represents you, but in order to do so, they need to hear from you. So please do your part to let them know if you have any concerns or questions. You can find contact information for each of them on the Officer's page of the Website. In addition, if you would like to volunteer, please contact them to see if there is something that you can do to help. Please also take some time to read about and think about attending your future Regional conferences. As a member organization, your participation makes the Chapter what it is. You ARE the Membership! See you in Louisville!

IN MEMORIAM

On behalf of the WRAMTA executive council, I would like to express my appreciation of two wonderful and beloved music therapists who were lost this year, Kendra Jeanne Morse and Trudy Hanson-Middleton. Although I cannot hope to do justice in this newsletter to the memory of these extraordinary women, I encourage you all to take the time to learn more about the rich lives they both lived. More information will be posted on our website, www.wramta.org as it becomes available. If you have memories, sounds, or videos you would like to share to honor Kendra or Trudy, space will be dedicated on the website for that purpose. Please feel free to contact me at webmaster@wramta.org if you have anything you would like to contribute.

In memory of Kendra Morse, the Kendra Morse Medical Fund encourages remembrances and donations at First Tech Credit Union of Eugene, Oregon. Please check www.wramta.org for the latest updates on memorial funds and scholarships for both Kendra and Trudy.

Sincerely,

*Cliff Ewbank
Webmaster, WRAMTA 2nd VP*

Past President's Report

Lillieth Grand, MS, NMT

As Past-President, it is my main job to provide hindsight and act as an advisor to the current Executive Committee which I continue to do. I also continue to work as chair of the Historical Committee and act as WRAMTA Historian. If anyone has any historical information they would like for us to know about or have, please forward it on to me. The Historical Committee is hard at work and is doing some wonderful things for our region. You can look forward to a preview of some of their work at the conference in Seattle 2008, then the entire compilation at our historic conference in Stockton, CA in 2009. It's really exciting stuff!!! I hope that you will all be able to attend to appreciate it all. The other thing that I am looking forward to working on is as a member of the Strategic Plan Task Force. This region and the members that make up what music therapy is in the West are so important to me and I look forward to helping formalize things so that this region can become all that our members desire and more. Thank you again for the privilege of service!

President Elect's Report

Piper Laird-Riehle, MM, MT-BC

This year's Midyear Meeting was one of my favorites since becoming an Executive Committee member nearly 5 years ago. Being that I am in a period of observation, I was pleased to get to watch the Committee work from a new perspective. It continues to amaze me how much business transpires during the Annual Midyear Meeting. I have a few items to review from that meeting.

I brought forward the idea of online balloting for the next election. The board appeared interested, and I was charged with researching the process and reporting the findings to the Executive Committee at National Conference in November. My next Sounding Board report will contain the results of that research.

I presented the revised Nominations and Election Procedure that David Luce and I were charged with compiling following Regional Conference. I brought forward a recommendation to wait to adopt the procedure into the Policy and Procedure Manual until after the suggested changes to the by-laws were voted on later this fall.

I was appointed chair of the newly formed Strategic Plan Task Force. The SPTF members are Lillieth Grand, Cliff Ewbank, Kathleen Walsh, and David Luce, ex-officio. The committee was given the well defined charge to recommend format, prioritize current goals and objectives, recommend a SWOT analysis plan, and develop a data collection tool. So far, the SPTF has ordered materials and has set a meeting during National Conference to review the materials and begin work on this large task.

Please begin consideration of serving the region as an elected official, assembly delegate or committee representative. For WRAMTA to grow, it needs your ideas, your enthusiasm, and your unique talents to continue its mission to increase public awareness of the benefits of music therapy and to increase the access to quality music therapy services throughout the nine states of the western region.

1st Vice President's Report

Rachel Harr, MT-BC

Before I tell you about the developing plans for the WRAMTA Conference 2008, here is little refresher about the information already announced. This conference will be held at the Best Western Executive Inn in Seattle, Washington from April 4 – 6, 2008 with CMTE's offered on April 3rd. The theme of the conference is *Music Therapy: Your Operating System for Life*. I am pleased to share with you some of the new additions to our conference. Not only will our conference offer stellar CMTE's and Concurrent sessions, we will also host a Symposium for Non-Music Therapists on April 3rd and a Passages Conference for music therapy students and entry level music therapists on April 6th. The Call for Papers is available online and the deadline for submission is October 15, 2008.

Also available online are the 2008 marketing packet, registration form, and hotel information. Have something to donate to the silent auction? Interested in placing an advertisement in the program? Want to be an exhibitor? Then, visit the marketing packet online and return the agreement with payment to me ASAP.

Thank you to everyone who mailed back their WRAMTA ballots with the *Member Survey of Reasons to Attend Conference*. We received survey responses from 126 of you! The information you provided was discussed by the Executive Committee. A topic of much concern was the expense of going to conference. In 2008 the hotel rooms for conference at the Best Western Executive Inn are only \$98 for a single or a double and \$118 for a triple or a quad. Be sure to book your rooms early! In addition, the suggestions about topics and types of sessions were shared with the Continuing Education Representative to assist her committee in the selection process.

While I am excited about everything the Seattle conference will offer, I know that the celebration of our 50th Anniversary the following year will be spectacular! We return "home" in 2009 to the location of the first WRAMTA conference, Stockton, California. In keeping with that sentimental feel, the 2009 WRAMTA Conference theme will be *Our Golden Anniversary: Looking Back & Moving Forward*.

Don't miss out on any of the exciting details about Conference 2008! Be sure to check the website and check it often at www.wramta.org/conference2008.html!

SAVE THE DATE TO JOIN US IN SEATTLE!

"Music Therapy: Your Operating System for Life"

WRAMTA Regional Conference, Best Western Executive Inn in
Downtown Seattle

April 3-6, 2008.

Hotel rates start at only **\$98 a night!!** Two luncheons and snacks **INCLUDED** in the price of registration. Check the www.wramta.org website **OFTEN** for updated information and the Call for Papers.

Treasurer's Report

Kathleen Walsh, MT-BC

Hello Everyone,

First of all, I would like to thank you for entrusting me as Treasurer of WRAMTA as this is my first year on the executive committee and I have a lot to learn, although the midyear meeting was quite a crash course! We spent a considerable amount of time discussing the financial future of WRAMTA and this committee is very excited to begin the journey to fiscal stability.

As you can see in the FY07 Budget VS. Actual Report* we ended up below budget for FY2007. This was no small feat and I want to personally thank all the 06-07 Executive Committee for their hard work to make this happen, despite the financial stress of organizing our fabulous conference in Hawaii.

In FY08 WRAMTA have many financial challenges that must be addressed and supported by our entire membership. The largest forthcoming challenge is our duty to support the legislative efforts in California to protect our profession as a whole. This is a high priority for WRAMTA and I would like to thank you in advance for your effort and contributions to this campaign.

I look forward to serving as your WRAMTA Treasurer. See you on top of the Space Needle.

*To view the FY07 Budget VS Actual Report in Excel format, go to www.wramta.org/soundingboard.html.

Webmaster/Second Vice President's Report

Cliff Ewbank, MT-BC

Hopefully, by now you've noticed this newsletter is shorter, easier to download, and quicker to point you to what you want to read. In response to the steady stream of suggestions we've received from you, I have made every effort to reduce lengthy reports and complicated graphics so that you can access your regional news more easily. Please let me know if you have any difficulty reading the *Sounding Board* or any attachments. I encourage you to explore all of the attachments, as they are each indispensable parts of WRAMTA's operations and affect all of us.

Finally, we are continuing to evolve as a region, and this means major renovations to the website and communications, and I need help! I have been charged by the executive board with recruiting a committee to tackle technology and to determine how we can better get the largest region in the country networked. The pay is purely intrinsic, I'm afraid, but it's still an exciting time to be involved. We have brand new, top-of-the-line Adobe Creative Suite 3 software to work with and the sky's the limit. To give you an idea of the direction we are headed, I am currently updating and retooling the web design, adding mp3 and video capabilities, and designing a discussion board for the entire WRAMTA membership to access freely.

If you have any interest in getting involved in WRAMTA and like computers, or even just surfing the internet, PLEASE contact me ASAP to help create the future of WRAMTA. I work on a Mac, but I am happy to collaborate with anyone who is interested, especially if you have Adobe, HTML, or other web/graphic design experience.

Student President

Bill Dluhosh

Hello everyone. I hope your summer has gone well and you are rested for this upcoming year. First I would like to introduce the new WRAMTAS Board that was elected in Hawaii during the 2007 Western Region Conference:

President – Bill Dluhosh

Marylhurst University

Vice President – Angie Kopshy

Marylhurst University

Secretary – Carrie Pemberton

University of Utah

Treasurer – Wendy Stapley

Arizona State University

Parliamentarian – Alli Swain

Arizona State University

In order to insure that all the schools and students in the Western Region are represented we also have the following people who have graciously agreed to represent their respective schools:

Lauren Bevilacqua

Chapman University

Christina de Leon

University of the Pacific

Crystal-Jo Cuevas

Cal State Northridge

I personally want to thank everyone above for their willingness to represent their schools and the students of the Western Region. Thank You.

The first main topic that I want to address in this issue of the Sounding Board is the importance of what has happened in New York State with the Creative Arts Therapist License (LCAT) and what we in the Western Region are currently going through in California with Article 163 of the Education Law, AB-1486. To summarize quickly, in New York State, MT-BC's now also need to have a CAT License to practice music therapy. In California this past year a similar bill was introduced and is currently going through the Legislative process. AMTA, CBMT, and WRAMTA are all concerned with this bill and I'm sure you'll be hearing more about it over the next year. This is something that will greatly affect all of the current MT students and recent graduates. As I am still trying to understand all the ramifications of this myself, so I encourage you to look into it yourself and to ask any questions you may have.

The second main topic that I have has to do with the upcoming WR Conference in Seattle, WA. In addition to the regular conference there will also be a Passages Conference held on Sunday, April 6th at Seattle Pacific University. This Conference is specifically designed for current students and recent MT-BC's. This will be the first time the WR will be holding such a conference and with the success that other regions have had we are really looking forward to this opportunity. You will be hearing more of this over the year and I hope that everyone is already planning on attending the Seattle Conference in April 2008. It will be an incredible and fun experience.

The last thing I want to address is the upcoming songbook that the WRAMTAS Board will be putting together. We will soon be asking for song submissions that were composed by students and used in their various Practicums. These will be combined into a songbook and will be sold at the WR conference in Seattle as a fundraiser for the WRAMTAS. We will have more information over the Fall Semester.

I hope this year goes well for everyone and I look forward to seeing you in Seattle.

Updated WRAMTA Bylaws!

Helen Dolas, MS, MT-BC
WRAMTA Parliamentarian

The following is an excerpt from the introduction of the "Proposed Bylaws Revision" document available online at www.wramta.org/soundingboard.html.

...As provided in Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised Tenth Edition, "changes of the bylaws that are so extensive and general that they are scattered throughout the Bylaws should be effected through the substitution of an entirely new set of bylaws, called a *revision*." In accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, these revised Bylaws are "open to amendment". This Proposal to Revise the WRAMTA Constitution and Bylaws will be posted at www.wramta.org for review and open to amendment by the membership at the WRAMTA Business meeting in Louisville, Kentucky.

The key elements of the proposed revision are as follows:

- Consolidation of the Constitution and Bylaws into a single document in accordance with current practice as described by Robert's Rules of Order and AMTA Bylaws.
- Codifying the WRAMTA Bylaws with the Articles of Incorporation by establishing a legal link between the two documents.
- Establishing a consistent name identity for the organization within the Bylaws.
- Clarifying and establishing the organization's purpose, mission, and goals for improved strategic planning and to establish consistency with AMTA Bylaws.
- Codifying membership classes to be consistent with AMTA membership classifications and benefits of each membership class.
- Establishing an Executive Board and an Executive Committee in order to be consistent with the Articles of Incorporation and to provide the Chapter with the ability to respond to emergent issues in a timely manner.
- Clarifying the duties of WRAMTA Officials - including provisions of succession for the Secretary and Treasurer - as is appropriate for the Bylaws and assigning other duties and responsibilities to relevant job descriptions in the Policy and Procedures Manual.
- Clarifying issues related to parliamentary procedure as described in Roberts' Rules of Order Newly Revised Tenth Edition, the Chapter's Parliamentary Reference.
- Simplifying the Article related to Nominations, Elections, and Bylaws Amendments and assigning appropriate parts of the existing document to the Policy and Procedures Manual.
- Identifying WRAMTAS, the student organization as an Auxiliary Organization within the Chapter and clarifying that the student representative on the Executive Board has the right to vote.

...Please read the rest of this vitally important document before voting on it at the AMTA conference in November! Again, the address is <http://www.wramta.org/soundingboard.html>.

AMTA Committee Reports:

Government Relations Committee

Rachel Firchau, MT-BC, Fellow/UANMT

I want to thank everyone who responded to the call-to-action regarding reauthorization of the Individual's with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C (early intervention services). Regarding Part B of IDEA, AMTA is continuing to pursue a clarification letter from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). The AMTA letter from OSEP dated June 2000 falls within the category of letters that we understand will be re-issued. Unfortunately, it was just announced in June that OSEP Director, Dr. Posny, whom AMTA has met with several times, has accepted the Kansas Education Commissioner position beginning July 1, 2007 and will be leaving the department within the next few weeks. Therefore, the incoming Director will be briefed, as necessary.

Additional national developments to be aware of:

- Exciting developments resulted from contact with U.S. Representative Grace Napolitano (D-CA). The visit aimed at expanding awareness and access to music therapy for adolescent mental health and veterans' care.
- AMTA is exploring opportunities within the Combating Autism Act for improved access to music therapy services for children and adults diagnosed with ASD.
- Centers for Medicaid and Medicare (CMS) have two initiatives: 1) trying to determine if the Minimum Data Set (MDS) 3.0 assessment items impact resource utilizations and 2) developing a post-acute assessment tool.
- Serving as co-chair of the National Alliance for Pupil Services Organizations (NAPSO) research team, AMTA has participated in meetings with the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) staff over the past few years. AMTA is requesting that the Department provide opportunities for related service professions to receive funding support for research. Visit AMTA's website regarding research grant opportunities targeting related services and Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Please see the Government Relations page under "officers" for updates on state activity, particularly AB 1486 in California.

Don't forget to read "Own It" on the front page of WRAMTA's website.

Current Constitution and Bylaws are now available online!

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.wramta.org



E-MAIL:

webmaster@wramta.org

What Happened to the Minutes?

Due to a steady stream of suggestions from you, the WRAMTA membership, about the long download times of the Sounding Board, the minutes of the 3 annual meetings of the WRAMTA executive council will now be offered exclusively as attachments on the website at www.wramta.org/soundingboard.html.

This allows you to peruse them at your leisure with shorter wait times and multiple available formats. Please feel free to comment on the new format, or offer suggestions for future editions of the sounding board at webmaster@wramta.org

A very special thanks to our WRAMTA Secretary, Alison Wendel who does incredible work typing, editing, and preparing all of the minutes of all of the meetings for publication. This is a monumental task, and I encourage you to download and view her handiwork so you can see in great detail how your elected officials are serving you.

Coming up in the Next Edition of the *Sounding Board*...

- Highlights of the 2007 AMTA Conference in Louisville
- A guide to the new and improved www.wramta.org
- A sneak peek at future WRAMATA conferences, including our 50th!