



Letter from the President, Dr. Dianna Anderson, NCTM

Hello to all my fellow ND music teachers!

I hope you have found some time this summer to savor the outdoors and replenish energy for the teaching year. Fall is quickly approaching, and as I write this letter, I am back in the office at MSU, getting set for another school year. This past year and a half have been tumultuous to say the least, but I am finding it rewarding to thoughtfully determine which of the teaching practices I learned through necessity I will keep as we move forward. One thing I know I will continue is to take advantage of learning opportunities through MTNA. My summer was absolutely packed with learning, including our NDMTA state conference held online in June, and there will be many opportunities coming up. When we share ideas with each other, our teaching practices can't help but improve overall!



I wish you a wonderful start to the school year and thank you for your dedication to our profession. I hope to cross paths with many of you this year!

NDMTA Session I: Mikrokosmos

By Amy Mercer

The first session by Autumn Zander was titled Mikrokosmos – Bartok’s Practical Piano Legacy. Bartok wrote his six volumes of Mikrokosmos as a response to a big push for quality music for education and it contains 153 progressive pieces for study. As explained by Ms. Zander, the title Mikrokosmos foreshadows or allows for/gives permission for exploration of musical ideas. Exploration is the theme of Mikrokosmos. Aside from the preface, there is no direction or content among the pieces. This leaves it open for teachers to use as they see fit for each individual student. Pieces do not necessarily even need to be learned in order nor would a student have to learn every single piece. Many pieces have similar characteristics which is helpful for students who need more time on a specific concept. At times, there are no dynamics which leaves room for more exploration.



Autumn Zander, presenter

Ms. Zander first discussed pieces #11, #15, and #16. They all share similar characteristics in regards to legato and phrasing. With these pieces, she demonstrated how you can explore the character of these pieces by changing the dynamics and tempo. She made the point that students do not necessarily need to work towards the suggested metronome speed right away – they can work to-

Inside this issue:

POPPLERS COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS	2
NDMTA SESSION 1: MIKROKOSMOS	3
SESSION II: COLLABORATION	4
SESSION III: IMAGES FROM CHILDHOOD	5
SESSION IV: TONUGES, THUMBS & TENSION	6
SERVICE TO PROFESSION AWARD: DR. SUGUIR	6
IMTF LUNCHEON	7
FOUNDATION FELLOW	8
EXECUTIVE BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES	9
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES	10-12
UPCOMING EVENTS	12

This year's Popplers Competition was held virtually and judged by our wonderful convention presenter, Autumn Zander. Teachers, students and parents were very successful with downloading videos and scanning music! Autumn wrote helpful and excellent comments for each performer.

You can watch each of their performances by copying the YouTube link into your browser.

We were able to award a winner in the following categories:

- * The **Elementary** winner was Elaine Liu, student of Gloria Bethke. She is 10 years old and attends school in Grand Forks. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gglSch6FMVA>



Elementary Winner, Elaine Liu



- * The **Junior High** winner was Caleb Kessler, student of Susan Nagel. He is 13 years old and attends school at Fargo Oak Grove. <https://youtu.be/QeABQjpoaaA>

JH Winner, Caleb Kessler

- * Samuel Wiederholt, student of Priscilla Keogh, received Junior High honorable mention. He lives in Bismarck and is 14 years old. <https://youtu.be/HVn8UZKZQ3E>

- * The **Senior High** winner was Madison Lyman, 15 years old, from Minot, and student of Dr. Dianna Anderson. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y6YaI-kQU6M>

The winners were awarded with a check from Popplers Music, courtesy of Don Langlie. Karen Okerlund, Popplers Chair, was instrumental in securing these funds. Each student was invited to and chose one of their videoed pieces to be played at the winner's recital.



SH Winner, Madison Lyman

Thank you to all who participated!

(Continued from page 1)

wards that speed as the music grows with them.



The Mikrokosmos collection is a union of tradition and modernity. Bartok often employs different modes. Ms. Zander used #34 as an example of his use of the Phrygian mode. She encouraged exploration by suggesting that students could also play the piece in the natural minor mode by adding an F# so they can hear the contrast between modes. She also discussed #48 which is in the Mixolydian mode. This piece is also a great introduction to 5/4 time, especially since it stays within a five-finger pattern.

Historically, all pianists were encouraged to compose, arrange, transcribe, and improvise and Bartok inspires these skills through the Mikrokosmos collection. Teachers can use the pieces for sight-reading, exploration of different musical ideas, as a basis for creation, collaboration (there are some pieces for two pianists and some with singers) and repertoire for performing. One other idea that Ms. Zander gave that she does with her students is to have them arrange a solo piece as a duet arrangement.

Lastly, a quote by Bartok nicely sums up the main takeaway idea from this presentation, "One cannot be a pianist without being a musician". This surely influenced his ideas behind Mikrokosmos and can give us a lot of food for thought as we explore using this collection in our teaching.

Beo Quartet: Teaching Through Music

"Teaching Through Music" was the theme of the session led by the BEO Quartet. BEO shared that they present sessions to musicians of all ages – youngsters through adults. BEO's basic premise is education through entertainment.

BEO always begins by playing a piece of music, to involve attendees in a very positive way. And BEO always uses activities to emphasize and explain the concepts that they are focusing on. Members of the BEO Quartet are firm believers in keeping the number of concepts small – probably two or three concepts is just right for a large or a small group of learners. Providing ways for the attendees to be a physical part of the concepts is a strong teaching method. "OH!" moments are always memorable for people.

The BEO Quartet believes in teaching through the illusion of entertainment. Developing critical listening and critical thinking

skills are important goals for BEO to make available to attendees of their teaching sessions. In closing, Sean Neukom stated that "Music is always doing something." Helping people become aware of that fact widens the musical pathway for those folks and helps to make music a physical part of them.

The BEO Quartet's performance of 19-20, by Sean Neukom as NDMTA's Commissioned Composer was truly amazing! The BEO Quartet's recital was amazing as well! What a pleasure to have the BEO Quartet as part of our 2021 NDMTA Conference!



NDMTA Session II: Fostering Collaboration Through Piano Music and Narrators

By Lisa Schuler

Many music teachers think of music collaboration in terms of instrumental and vocal ensembles or a combination of instrumentalists and vocalists. Clinician, Autumn Zander, introduced the possibility of bringing piano music and the reading of text as a collaborative encounter. It was an enlightening session that explored text and piano relationships. She demonstrated three types of collaborations; narration that alternates with piano selections, narration within the music where the reading of the text placement is suggested, and narration within the music that is placed at exact moments within the music.

In a discussion that occurred at a coffee hour the following day, teachers seemed to be excited to try this type of collaboration with speech teams or drama students. This type of collaboration could also be performed in a recital setting or a group lesson setting. Maybe you can think of other interesting ways to have music and the spoken word presented.

Here is the list of collaborations presented by Autumn Zander. These are for elementary to intermediate piano levels.

Narration that alternates with the piano

- The Stonecutter by Lajos Papp (Editio Musica Budapest)
 - Autumn mentioned the Stonecutter could be played by a Level 3A Faber student
- Scenes from Alice in Wonderland Op. 50 by Frank Lynes (Kjos)
- The Snowman Picture Book by Howard Blake (Chester)
- The Key by Lajos Papp (EMB)

Narration with the music – placement generally suggested

- Childish Smalltalk (Menus propos enfantins) by Erik Satie
- Farewell to the Earth (Abschied von der Erde) D. 829 by Schubert

Narration with music - placement specifically notated

- The Fairy Tale of Teeny-Flea and Weeny-Louse – Orff arr. (Schott)
- The Half-Filled Cookie Jar by David Carr Glover (Belwin-Mills)
 - Autumn mentioned the Half-Filled Cookie Jar could be played by a Level 2B Faber Student

Autumn Zander stated, "Pianists are often doing solo works and are isolated, so we need to pave a way for students to collaborate and create with others. So many skills can be learned while having fun and engaging with others in music." Autumn also pointed out

("Collaboration" continued on page 5)



("Collaboration" continued from page 4)

some of the challenges; pacing the text and the music, it needs to be a solid performance so both the pianist and reader needs to be in character and be in communication at all times (they will learn non-verbal communication), they must let the music breathe at the phrase ends, and the pianists can't play any faster than the text can be spoken and the reader cannot speak any faster than the pianist can play the piece.

This valuable session gave teachers yet another avenue for their students to collaborate with others.

Session III: Lera Auerbach's Images from Childhood, Op. 52

By Sheryl Kjelland

Little written has been written about these 12 intermediate pieces but it is fair to assume they were inspired by Schuman's Album for the Young Op. 68 and Scenes from Childhood Op. 15

Lera Auerbach was born in 1973 in the Russian city of Chelyabinsk and came from a long line of musicians. She began composing at the age of 4 and wrote her first opera at the age of 12. Her creative gift flows easily and she is quoted as having said "...I was born to do this." As a teenage musician, she toured America and chose to defect to the USA after her tour. She studied at the Manhattan School of Music, Julliard and Columbia University. She has composed chamber music, orchestral works, ballets, opera and choral pieces She is known as one of the most widely performed composers of the new generation.



Lera Auerbach

While there are several musical parallels between Scenes from Childhood and the Images from Childhood collections, Schumann and Auerbach also share several commonalities on a literary level. Schumann was an author of several literary works and Auerbach is a published author of both prose and poetry. Her latest book, "A is for Oboe" is a collection of poetry and slated to be on the shelves in the fall of 2021.

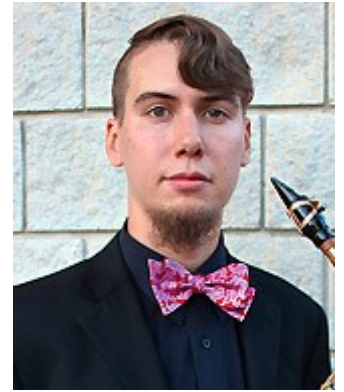
Ms. Zander performed passages from the collection. These selections demonstrate Auerbach's exploration of clusters, bold dynamic contrasts as well as changing harmonies and meter. Her compositions also include dissonance with changing accidentals, pacing of loud dynamics and a wonderful opportunity to teach technical control of grace notes. The technical requirements are comparable to Schumann's The Happy Farmer or the Wild Rider. A reasonable amount of maturity is required for interpretation, phrasing and delivery.

It was a very enlightening and educational segment of the conference. The next time you find yourself looking for new and fresh music, consider Lera Auerbach's Images from Childhood Op. 52.

Session IV: Tonuges, Thumbs and Tension, presented by Charles Young

Charlie Young is a woodwind professor at Minot State. His presentation focused on the connection between body tension, especially in the neck, jaw, and arms, as it relates to particular technical issues in woodwind playing.

By Dianna Anderson



Charles Young

One of the most interesting points of this presentation is that it is impossible to see what is happening inside the mouth, and therefore important to direct a student's attention to developing a vocabulary for describing feelings within the mouth early on in study before bad habits can form. Often, tongue position can create unwanted tension in the neck and jaw. Charlie recommended using vowel glissandi to observe the tongue and tongue position. The website, Pink Trombone, has an interactive graphic representation of tongue position and is a great resource for understanding how tongue position effects sound. Each woodwind instrument has particular tongue positions and vowel shapes that work best to promote air-speed. Articulation can also be a source of unwanted tension if the student doesn't understand the correct tongue placement required.

Thumbs are a source of tension as well. The thumb knuckle is often a place where the student will rest their instrument. Additionally, the thumb can be easily placed out of alignment. Charlie recommended different positions for the thumb in relation to the rest of the hand depending on the instrument.

Service to the Profession Award

By Amy Mercer

The 2021 Service to the Profession Award winner is Dr. Nariaki Sugiura. He was nominated by both the GGFMTA and UVMTA local associations. The nominations stressed his involvement by presenting programs to their local associations, masterclasses for students of all ages, organizing local competitions, giving performances, arranging for the 2015 and 2019 NDMTA conferences to be held at UND, and the work he does with the music program at UND. Congratulations to Dr. Nariaki Sugiura!



Dr. Nariaki Sugiura

Thank you! Outgoing Officers & Welcome our Incoming Officers!

Office
Vice President
Secretary

Outgoing
Mary Motta
Sharon Geggleman

Incoming
Tamara Bertram
Sheryl Kjelland

IMTF Luncheon, hosted by Upper Valley MTA

By Dianna Anderson

This session was loaded with useful ideas given by NDMTA members from around the state. The topic was technology use in the studio, and each presenter had a different take on various apps, programs, and devices to use in the studio. Technology is always changing and developing, and it was great to see what teachers are currently using.

Lisa Schuler led off the discussion, dividing her presentation into the categories of communication, bill paying, lessons, and continuing education. She suggested communicating often and in various ways, including email and text messaging to streamline communications with students and parents. Useful technology for payments include Venmo and setting up bill payment through your bank. Apps and programs useful in the lesson are Presto, Flashnote Derby, Rhythm Cat, as well as YouTube. Lisa uses a voice recording app for everything from memos to recording duet parts. She suggested making use of the MTNA webinars available archived on the MTNA website, as well as the podcasts Decomposed and Beyond Measure for continuing teacher education.

Mike Langer demonstrated the usefulness of eNovative Piano, a digital textbook/curriculum designed for college class piano. The curriculum is extremely flexible and could be used for any age group. Mike highly recommends it for teach-

ing piano in groups of any kind. He also mentioned musictheory.net as a valuable resource to support music lessons.

Michelle Kallod demonstrated many different apps, including Note Rush, Rhythm Swing, Flashnote Derby, Waay, Tenuto, Blob Chorus, Play Ahead, TMASG, Decide Now and Rhythm Solitaire. These game-oriented learning apps are great for young students as well as more mature students. She recommended Music Teachers Helper and My Music Staff as resources for record keeping and scheduling. Other web resources include colorinmypiano.com, Susan Paradis for Avery labels, Carol Matz interactive method, and Wendy Stevens for comment cards, music & recital templates. She enjoys the podcast, Vibrant Music Teaching. Her final tip was to print your own post-it notes, especially for recital reminders.

Vangie Johnson-Parker demonstrated the use of iMovie for her spring recital. Instead of having a traditional live recital, she created a movie trailer followed by student performances. The use of video caused an explosion of creativity unleashed by the students. There were creative introductions, costumes, and props. In a traditional recital, it would be difficult to get this level of theatricality, and it was obvious that the students enjoyed this opportunity to use their imaginations very much.

MTNA Competitions

By Sue Nagel

The MTNA competitions are a great way to keep your students engaged and inspired! This year's performance competitions are scheduled for Saturday, October 23, 2021 at Valley City State University. Applications are due September 15. If conditions change, we will go with the video competition. I'll stay in contact with VCSU about this. Winners/representatives will advance to a video-only division competition, and division winners will compete live in Minneapolis.

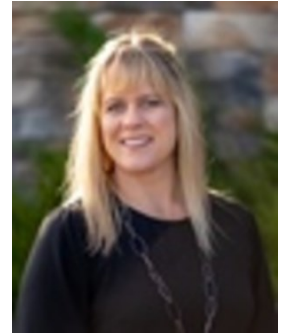
Composition competitions are also three tiers. ND hasn't had a composition participant for years! Perhaps we can change that this year or next.

Entry information for all competitions can be found on the MTNA website, <https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Engage/Competitions/Competitions.aspx>

Call Sue at 701-361-0193 with any questions!

Foundation Fellow Update

The Covid-19 health threat has disrupted our teaching styles, our social networks, our family lives and our giving to the MTNA Foundation. We are a little behind in our Foundation Fellow donations as we go into our fall season. As of this August, only \$775.00 toward our \$1500.00 goal has been met. Lisa has been a valued member of NDMTA and I know we can make up the difference by the end of the year. We want to be sure she is honored at the 2022 MTNA Conference in Minneapolis! You may give online via the MTNA website (be sure to request your donation to go directly to Lisa as Foundation Fellow nominee, or you can mail a check to MTNA. Please be sure to note Lisa Schuler in the memo section of your check).



Lisa Rae Schuler is a NDMTA Certified Teacher of Music. She is married to Jeremy Schuler and has 3 children. She's a 1985 HS graduate from Langdon, North Dakota. She graduated from the University of North Dakota in 1989 with degrees in Elementary Education and Music. Lisa has taught piano and flute lessons in her home studio for 32 years and has taught preschool music classes for 20 years. She is an accompanist for the Langdon Area High School, Langdon Community Musicals and Reviews, Missoula Children's Theatre, and she plays for weddings, funerals, and worship services at her church. She also played in an 8-piece band for over 20 years. Lisa adjudicates Music Rallies and Federation Festivals. Her students are involved in several recitals each year, the annual Music Rally, NDMTA Competitions and some have gone on to earn college degrees in music.

She credits most of her success to her membership in MTNA, NDMTA, and the Langdon Area Music Teachers Association. She was a charter member of LAMTA in 1991. In 2003 Lisa applied for the MTNA Local Association of the Year Award on behalf of her local and they won the award! When she was state president in 2015, she applied for the MTNA State Affiliate Award on behalf of NDMTA and they won that award as well! Lisa loves promoting MTNA and being active at the local and state level. She has held all positions in her local association and at the state level she has been Secretary, Local Associations Chair, Vice President, President, Foundation Fellow Chair and she is currently the Membership Chair for NDMTA. Lisa is honored to be a 2022 Foundation Fellow Nominee and appreciates that funds raised in her name are going toward the MTNA Foundation.

Online Votes Between Regular Scheduled Meetings

On May 27, 2021 Vangie Johnson-Parker made a motion via e-mail to approve the conference budget as presented. Sue Nagel seconded the motion. A second motion was made to delete/remove late registration fees for the 2021 NDMTA conference. Sue Nagel seconded the motion.

Online voting was held. On May 31, 2021 both motions passed.

NDMTA Annual Business Meeting June 3, 2021

Online Zoom Meeting

President Dianne Anderson called the meeting to order.

Secretary: The minutes from last year were accepted as posted online.

Treasurer: Michelle Kallod reported that we have \$20,487.32 in our checking account. To date 20-21 income is \$12,891.59 and expenses are \$10,792.05.

Vice-President: Mary Motta will be stepping down as Vice-President. A new candidate has been found and will be voted on during this meeting.

President: Dianne Anderson reported that she has attend the Summit and the National Conference online. She has presented at 3 local association, Badland, Upper Valley, and Fargo-Moorhead.

Conference: The 2022 Conference will be in Fargo on June 1-3, 2022 with Melody Bober as the presenter.

Foundation: Vangie reported that only \$525 has been raised for our 2022 Foundation Fellow, Lisa Schuler. We need to have donations of \$1500 by January 20, 2022.

Budget: An updated budget for the 2021-22 year was presented by Michelle Kallod. Corinne Nustad moved, seconded by Sue Nagel to approve the budget. Motion carried.

Dues Increase: It has been 10 years since the state has increase the dues. Corinne Nustad moved, seconded by Vangie Parker to increase dues \$10 for regular and senior members. No increase for collegiate members. This will apply starting next year 2022-23. Motion carried.

Election of Officers: Kathy Bresee moved, seconded by Lisa Schuler to nominate Sheryl Kjelland for the secretary position. Motion carried. Kathey Bresee moved, seconded by Anne Morris to nominate Tamara Bertram for the Vice-President position. Motion carried.

Installation of Officers: The installation ceremony was conducted by Dianne Anderson.

Next in line for the IMTF luncheon is NW association.

The 2022 National Conference will be in Minneapolis on March 26-30.

Corinne Nustad moved, seconded by Lisa Schuler to adjourn. Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Gegelmann

Executive Board Meeting Minutes, June 2, 2021

President Dianna Anderson called the meeting to order. Roll call: Vangie Johnson-Parker, Sharon Gegelmann, Michelle Kallod, Anne Morris, Amy Mercer, Michelle Schumacher, Sue Nagel, Jean Guenther, Sheryl Kjelland, Kathleen Johnson, Cheryl Dockter, Tamara Betram, Corinne Nustad, Lisa Schuler, and Kathy Bresee.

The agenda was accepted as presented.



NDMTA Conference Attendees on Zoom Call

Officers Reports

Secretary: Minutes from the February 6, 2021 board meeting were posted online. Sheryl Kjelland moved, seconded by Lisa Schuler to accept the minutes. Motion passed.

Treasurer: Michelle Kallod reported a checking account balance of \$20,487.32. Total assets at the end of third quarter were \$41,186.11. Third quarter (Jan1 – Mar 31) income was \$60.40 and expenses were \$78.00. Conference expenses have not yet been paid. She has been working on setting up online banking, and setting up PayPal to receive online payments.

Vice-President/Commission Composer: Mary Motta reported that she will be moving. A new Vice-President will be elected at the annual business meeting tomorrow. President: Dianne Anderson reported that she attended the National Conference, including meetings with the West Central Region and State Presidents Advisory Board. She has been working to organize the virtual annual conference.

Committees

Conference: Dianna Anderson reported that she has worked with MSU to grant Collegiate Chapter attendees half of conference

registration and obtained a \$1000 grant to help cover the Beo Quartet presenter fee. She has also worked with Michelle on managing online registration.

Advertising: Anne Morris reported that two checks for advertising have been received. She encouraged all local associations to support NDMTA by placing ads. If anyone has an idea for new advertisers, please contact her.

Certification/Service to the Profession: Amy Mercer reported that she received nominations for the Service to the Profession Award. An ad hoc committee was formed to rank the nominations.

Competitions: Sue Nagel reported that state competitions have been scheduled at VCSU for October 23, 2021.

Directory: Michelle Schumacher reported that she is working on the 2021 Directory. Please send a list of updated officers for your local association by September.

Foundation: Vangie Johnson Parker stated that \$525 has been raised for our 2022 Foundation Fellow, Lisa Schuler. Funds are

(Continued on page 11)

usually raised at our annual conference which is virtual this year. Please consider making an individual or local association donation.

Historian: Jean Guenther reported that she is updating the scrapbooks with new information.

IMTF: Sheryl Kjelland reported that the topic of - How technology is used in teachers' studios – will be presented by a panel of 4 teachers at the IMTF Luncheon.

Membership: Lisa Schuler reported that currently we have 42 members paid for the 2021-22 year. Last year we had 123 members. 75 regular, 33 seniors, and 15 student memberships.

Newsletter: Michelle Kallod requested volunteers to write articles about the sessions at the conference. She requested that the articles be submitted by June 18. The next newsletter will come out in August.

Nominating: Priscilla Keogh with Kathy Bresee reporting at the online meeting reported that 2 vacancies on the board needed to be filled, Vice-President and Secretary. Tamara Bertram has agreed to the Vice-President position and Sheryl Kjelland has agreed to the Secretary position.

Popplers Competition: Sue Nagel reported that there were 4 video submissions for this year's competition – 1 Elementary, 2 Junior High, and 1 Senior High. The videos have been sent to our judge. Each student will have their choice of video pieces to be performed at the Wednesday evening concert. A discussion was held regarding giving an award for 2nd place. Currently awards are only given to 1st place winners. Corinne Nustad made a motion, seconded by Vangie Parker to continue to send payments only to 1st place winners. Motion carried.

Rally: Sheryl Kjelland reported that there were 3 Rallies this past school year. Twelve teachers entered 104 students. Income from Rallies was \$1560. With expenses of \$1190.27.

Technology: Kathleen Johnson reported that including online registration on the NDMTA website was a very slow process due to a family medical issue with the webmaster. Due to this she did not charge us for adding the online registration page.

Old Business: None

New Business: A discussion was held regarding the presenter fee for our annual conference. Currently we pay \$1000 to the presenter for 4 sessions. Melody Bober is our first choice for presenter at the 2022 conference in Fargo. She asked about raising the presenter fee to \$1200, or \$250 per session. Corinne Nustad made a motion, seconded by Anne Morris to raise the presenter fee to \$1200, for 4 presentations at our state conference. Motion passed.

Our bylaws state that our nominating committee should consist of 3 members



NDMTA Conference Attendees on Zoom Call

(Continued on page 12)



www.ndmta.org

(Continued from page 11)

appointed by the president. We currently have only 2 members. Tamara Betram volunteered to be the 3rd member of this committee.

A discussion of the IMTF luncheon rotation was tabled to the next meeting.

The proposed budget for the 2021-22 year was discussed. The last several years we have received a donation to help balance the budget. This was not received this year, so to balance the budget the President and Vice-President stipends were decreased. A discussion was held to increase state dues in 2022. Kathleen Johnson made a motion, seconded by Vangie Johnson-Parker to raise dues by \$10 for regular and senior memberships, with no change for student memberships. Motion carried. Corinne Nustad made a motion, seconded by Lisa Schuler to change the travel stipend amounts on the proposed budget to \$725 for the President, and \$1500 for the Vice-President. Motion carried. Kathleen Johnson moved, seconded by Amy Mercer to approve the proposed budget as amended. Motion carried.

Local Association reports were given.

Lisa Schuler made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Michelle Schumacher. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Gegelmann

Upcoming Events

2021 MTNA State Competition Deadline	September 15	
2021 MTNA State Competitions	October 23	VCSU, Valley City, ND
2021 WCD Competitions	December	Video Performances
2022 MTNA Conference	March 26-30	Minneapolis, MN
2022 Popplers Music Competition	June 1	NDSU, Fargo, ND
2022 NDMTA Conference	June 1-3	NDSU, Fargo, ND