



Letter from the President, Vangie Johnson-Parker



February 2020: "...we saw many changes in our studios and in NDMTA over the last few years. We will undoubtedly see more changes as we look forward to a new decade. I am anxious to see what is in store for us as we enjoy the benefits of NDMTA and meet new challenges together..."

This is an excerpt from my last President's message. Oh my goodness. Who knew what was in store for us and how will we meet these challenges together?

We will begin by continuing to meet these challenges together. United we should stand in supporting one another on this unusual journey. Sharing what you have learned while teaching online, be kind, non-judgemental and supportive if or when you receive a request for advice. This is where our NDMTA directory becomes even more valuable. Be in touch with each other. Whether you prefer telephone, emails or texts to communicate, reach out to your association members. Keep each other up to date with plans for the upcoming year as we look ahead to a brighter future.

These past few months have reminded us that although we are primarily the teachers, we are also continuing to adapt and be the learners. This is my final year as your president, and although we have faced some difficult hurdles we learned from them, met concerns head on and moved forward. Thank you for the opportunity to be your leader!

The best of luck and good health to you and your loved ones until we see each other again at our 2021 Conference at MSU in Minot, North Dakota!

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It's time to renew your

MTNA MEMBERSHIP

Renew online at <https://www.mtna.org/> or return the membership form you received in the mail from MTNA.

Teaching Online Experiences

Wow! Who thought teaching online was something we needed to add to our pedagogical skills?

Lisa Schuler, Nancy Harsh, Gloria Bethke, Michelle Kallod and Vangie Parker have shared the following teaching online tips and funny anecdotes for your education and enjoyment:

What we have learned:

Student Benefits

- Students retain the information we give them better when they are asked to write it in their own notebooks. The same goes for making their own notations in the music. They may lose the pencil amongst the books on the music stand, or disappear momentarily to get a pencil, or drop it between the fall board & the piano keys, or a pencil may mysteriously appear from someone you didn't know was off-screen, but they do retain the information better!
- No excuses for forgetting their assignment books at home!
- Students have more time to practice. We accomplish more during the lesson and it's so much more enjoyable for everyone!



Parent Benefits

- Parents can participate in the lesson in so many ways. Gloria had a student's parent assist by clapping to help their child learn a 6/8 rhythm.
- Parents are witnessing firsthand how the lesson is taught and what is accomplished.
- Less time in the car, bringing kids to and from lessons.

Teacher Benefits

- Online learning provides a great ear training opportunity. Nancy is finding that as teachers, we are challenged to listen a little harder. She was pleased to learn that her musical ear is in good working order!
- Seeing the instrument which students practice on and witnessing the practice environment first hand is valuable. We are aware of limitations and what to expect during the lesson.
- Some lessons that originally had to be scheduled during after school hours could be moved to during the school day.

Connection Issues & Troubleshooting Tips

- 🔊 Not running the microwave and not using too many other devices while doing online lessons goes a long way for a good connection. This is true for both students and teachers. Your bandwidth, or your connection, will improve significantly if you and your student are

the only two using the internet.

- 🔊 One teacher found it helpful to mute herself while the students play their piece to avoid time lag and other issues. (Just remember to un-mute when your student has finished playing).
- 🔊 Due to connection interruptions, it is best to wait until the student has completed playing the piece, before correcting errors or making suggestions.
- 🔊 Sending theory assignments and receiving completed assignments prior to the lesson saves time and energy.
- 🔊 Since lessons on a gloomy day need some comic relief, Vangie uses “Simon Says” for everything from theory to passage repeats and corrections. Online lessons can be fun!

Platform Preferences

- Facetime works well if the student and teacher have Apple devices (i.e. iPhone, iPad, Mac Computers). FaceTime can work with email addresses, as well as phone numbers, as long as the email is on a Mac computer.
- Zoom and Microsoft Teams have worked well for many teachers.
- The more complex the music is, the more difficult it is to discern what is being played. The website Cleanfeed (<https://cleanfeed.net/>) can be paired with Zoom. Zoom was created as a business platform, not a music platform. Cleanfeed provides cleaner and higher quality audio when partnered with Zoom’s video conferencing.

Spring Recitals

- Lisa Schuler is having her students upload videos of their spring recital pieces. She used Google photos. Once all videos are in, she will upload them to an unlisted Youtube channel for viewing the 2020 Spring Recital!
- Michelle Kallod had students submit recordings of their recital pieces via Dropbox, Google docs or simply via text. Families enjoyed viewing the recital on an unlisted Youtube channel. She dropped off recital packages at each student's home prior to the recital. The packages included awards, a recital program, note shaped cut out cookies, custom packaged kettle corn with the studio logo & student's names printed, summer projects & more!



Amusing Anecdotes:

- ☺ Who knew that in March, when it’s 15 degrees outside, kids wear shorts instead of pants?
- ☺ We don't have to worry about waiting until Saturday or Sunday to cook fish, or other dishes with loads of spices!

(Teaching Online continued on page 8)

Foundation Fellow Giving

Foundation Fellow Program monies go toward funding Teacher Enrichment Grants, Student Competitions, Collegiate Chapters of the Year awards, American Music Teacher of the Year Awards, and makes recognition of many other professional awards possible as well.

Due to the unprecedented circumstances surrounding the Covid 19 health threat, our local associations have not been able to meet. More importantly, we have not been able to meet as a State affiliation for our annual Conference. Since we have missed these vital in-person events, our Foundation fellow giving/funding for nominee Marge Johnson is much lower than expected.



Marjorie began her career in 1955 as a teacher of music in West Liberty and Sioux City, IA. After moving into the North Dakota/Minnesota area, she began teaching at the Concordia Conservatory of Music in Moorhead, MN and also taught as a private music instructor. She continued her studies at Briar Cliff College, North Dakota State University, and Princeton, NJ. Marge holds a teaching certificate for Kindermusik and has attended many workshops and seminars to enhance her teaching skills.

She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Iowa and is a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music in MTNA. She is a past president of both FMMTA and the Fargo Music Club. She has also served on many committees and judged festivals, contests and guild auditions. Her students have successfully participated in festivals, guild performances, recitals, and church contests.

Marge has been a widow since 2012 and has 2 sons, 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandsons.

She humbly accepts the honor of Foundation Fellow Nominee for 2021 and we are so proud to have her as our representative for NDMTA!

You can donate on the MTNA website

<https://www.mtnafoundation.org/contribute/contribute-now/>

or write NDMTA Foundation, Marge Johnson on the memo line & send a check to:

MTNA Foundation Fund
1 W. 4th St., Ste. 1550
Cincinnati, OH 45202

NDMTA Executive Board Meeting, June 4, 2020

President Vangie Johnson-Parker called the meeting to order.

Roll call: Vangie Johnson-Parker, Sharon Geggemann, Dianna Anderson, Michelle Kallod, Gloria Bethke, Kathleen Johnson, Sue Nagel, Corinne Nustad, Lisa Schuler, Jean Guenther, Priscilla Keogh, Cheryl Dockter, Karen Okerlund, Anne Morris, Mary Motta, Ellen Croy, Amy Mercer, Michelle Schumacher, Sheryl Kjelland.

Officers Reports

Secretary: Minutes from the January 25, 2020 board meeting were posted online. Minutes were accepted as written.

Treasurer: Michelle Kallod reported assets of \$41,186.11, income of \$60.40 and expenses of \$78.00. There was only 1 Rally held this year due to Covid-19, but that Rally made a profit. Also Directory and Web Advertising brought in more than was budgeted. We will still need to pay the Commissioned Composer this year even though the composition has not been performed for the membership. There will be no expenses for the ND Conference in Fargo that had to be cancelled due to Covid-19. The 2020-2021 budget was presented. Anne Morris moved, Sue Nagel seconded to accept the budget. Motion passed.

Vice-President/Commissioned Composer: Dianna Anderson reported that she has been working with Vangie and Lisa to plan the 2021 conference in Minot. She has also worked with Sean Neukom, the Commissioned Composer for 2021. A contract with him is in process.

President: Vangie Johnson-Parker reported that she has applied for an Affiliate Enrichment Grant to assist with costs for the 2021 Conference in Minot. We are required to have an annual meeting of the membership. Other states have been doing

Zoom meetings. She will look into this possibility and set up a meeting.

Committees

Conference: Nothing to report on the 2020 Conference since it was cancelled due to Covid-19.

Advertising: Anne Morris noted that ads for this year may be down due to Covid-19.

Certification: Corinne Nustad has stepped down from this position. Amy Mercer will be the new Certification chair.

Competitions: Sue Nagel reported that competitions have been scheduled for VCSU on October 17, 2020. MTNA has approved the use of video entries for the state competitions, but currently we plan on doing live competitions. Pending, of course, on new developments or instructions from VCSU.

Directory: Michelle Schumacher reported that the MTNA reenrollment date has been extended from July 1 to the fall. Discussion followed on how to update and/or publish the new directory. A decision on this was tabled until the October meeting.

Foundation: Vangie Johnson Parker noted that donations for our 2020 Foundation Fellow, Marge Johnson are down. Only \$285.00 has been received. We will need to raise \$1215.00 more by January 2021. Members are encouraged to give. If mailing a check please put Marge Johnson in the memo line. Online giving is also an option.

Historian: Jean Guenther reported that she has connected with a friend who does Creative Memories and has been getting ideas for the scrapbook.

IMTF: Sheryl Kjelland – Discussion was held regarding the IMTF Luncheon rotation. Upper Valley was planning the 2020 presentation but now will be in charge of the 2021 IMTF Luncheon.

Membership: Lisa Schuler reported that membership renewals have been very low. Since the state conference was cancelled, she will be sending out 10, 25, and 50 year certificates. She again reminded local chapters to send items/pictures of local events that can be posted on Facebook.

Newsletter: Michelle Kallod stated that the usual May newsletter will come out in June. This will allow us to include the board minutes and new officers.

Nominating: Priscilla Keogh reported that Mary Motta has agreed to serve as Vice-President for at least 1 year. Dianna Anderson will be moving up to the President position. Amy Mercer is the new Certification/Service to Professions chair.

Popplers Competition: Karen Okerlund reported that there were no competitions due to the cancellation of the conference.

Rally: Sheryl Kjelland reported that only 1 Rally was held with 39 students.

Technology: Kathleen Johnson reminded everyone to send pictures from local association ac-

tivities to post on the website. Also please send in a local officer list if it has changed.

Old Business

State dues were reviewed. No change in dues for the upcoming year. Board members were asked to review their job description and send an updated description to Dianna.

New Business

Local associations were asked to send ASCAP reports to Dianna.

A discussion of Dr. Meyer’s composition was held. The composition was to be premiered at our annual conference this year. An audio recording will be submitted to National. The possibility of showing a video of his composition at next year’s conference was discussed.

Next year’s conference will be in Minot on June 2-4. Dianna presented the proposed conference schedule. Corinne Nustad moved, Anne Morris seconded that the scheduled be accepted. Motion carried.

Other Business: Dianna Anderson, Mary Motta and Amy Mercer were installed by outgoing president Vangie Parker-Johnson. Local Association reports were given. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Geggmann

Upcoming Events

2020 Membership Meeting	July 22	Zoom
2020 NDMTA Competitions	Oct 4	VCSU, Valley City
2020 WCD Competition Deadline	Dec 2	Online
2021 MTNA Conference	March 13-17	Atlanta, Georgia
2021 NDMTA Conference	June 2-4	Minot State University
2021 Popplers Competition	June 2	Minot State University
2022 MTNA Conference	March 26-30	Minneapolis, MN

2020 NDMTA New Officers



*Dianna Anderson,
President 2020-2022*



*Mary Motta,
Vice President 2020-2021*



*Amy Mercer,
Certification /
Service to
Profession Chair*

2020 Zoom Membership Meeting

Mark your calendars for the 2020 Membership Meeting to be held via Zoom on Wednesday, July 22 at 10:00am.

If you did not receive an email of meeting details from Vangie Parker on June 6, please contact Vangie no later than July 15 for login information, vangie58801@yahoo.com. You will need to have the latest Zoom update downloaded on your device (computer, iPhone, iPad, Android phone).

If you do not have a Zoom account, you will need to set one up. Look for "Zoom Cloud Meetings" in your App Store, or go to <https://www.zoom.us/> to set up a free account.

**Wednesday,
July 22
10:00 am**





Thank you Vangie for your term as NDMTA President!

(Teaching Online continued from page 3)

- ☺ House-a-tosis is a non-issue when teaching online!
- ☺ Who knew how many untuned pianos there were in the world.
- ☺ Kids become creative when they have extra time on their hands. The following happened at one of Lisa Schuler's lessons: "Hey Mrs. Schuler, I have to show you something really cool!" A few seconds later her student returned with a zip-lock bag exposing some suspicious looking green stuff. In between laughs, the student exclaimed "Hey Mrs. Schuler...it's zombie barf"! Apparently, this was a family project!
- ☺ Things you never thought you'd say or hear:
 - ☺ We'll be just a minute... he just fell off the piano bench!
 - ☺ I need you to stop watching the dog watch the mailman.
 - ☺ Can you excuse me for a minute while I talk to my sister [who is] knocking on the window for me to come outside and play?
 - ☺ Could you find a place for the cat besides on top of the piano keys?