

MWR-AMTA Annual Business Meeting Minutes
Friday, March 21, 2025 | 4:45-5:45 PM Central
Iowa City, IA

Call to order - 4:45 PM - Felicia Magaña Voorhees called the meeting to order.

Approval of agenda - Felicia Magaña Voorhees moves to approve. Hannah Gross seconds. No revisions to the agenda.

Approval of the minutes from last year's business meeting - Felicia Magaña Voorhees moves to approve. Bill Matney seconds. No revisions to last year's business meeting minutes.

Motion to suspend Robert's Rules for this meeting - Felicia Magaña Voorhees moves to suspend Robert's Rules for this meeting. Kyle Fleming seconds. Robert's Rules were suspended.

Officer Reports

President - Felicia Magaña Voorhees

- Several AMTA committees have vacancies:
 - DEIAJ (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Access, and Justice)
 - Technology
 - Professional Advocacy
 - Reimbursement
 - Clinical Practice Networking
- Some of the aforementioned committees may be paused, holding, or inactive.
- Crystal Weaver was named the second representative for the APAC.
- When considering how to best use funds to support the members of the Midwest region, a hardship fund was proposed.
 - More information about this will be introduced after the conference.
 - The vision for this fund is that members can apply for it if they are in need, due to job loss, underemployment, etc.

Past President - Kelli McKee

Not present - No report.

Treasurer - Katey Kooi

- Current Financial Standing (reflects what has been spent at conference):
 - Current checking balance: \$59,299
 - Current savings balance: \$9,675
 - Edward Jones investment account: \$59,005
 - UMB CD: \$5,985
 - Total: \$133,965
- Last year's total on 1/1/2024: \$117,256

- New this year:
 - Moved money into Edward Jones account.
 - Board approved \$50,000 to be invested in low-risk bonds.
 - Board approved \$10,000 to be invested in ETF funds - requires more monitoring by the Treasurer due to fluctuations in the market.
- Board and membership to decide: What do we hope to do with income as it grows?
- Things to know:
 - Arrow Bookkeeping assists the region in reviewing every debit and credit, all cleared checks, accounting, and filing taxes.
 - The region receives a small portion of every AMTA membership (regardless of tier level) from the MWR as income.
 - MWR Treasurer, Secretary, and President are all on the region's bank accounts.
- Conference Financial Information:
 - Conference budget was created by the Vice President and Vice President-Elect and was approved by the Board of Directors.
 - There are many more expenses associated with in-person conferences than online conferences.
 - MWR 2025 had more sponsorships and exhibitors which greatly helped the budget.
- Stipends
 - Stipends for the Board of Directors were recommended by the previous Board of Directors, but they did not vote on this.
 - The current Board of Directors voted and passed the stipend recommendation.
 - These stipends will be added to the bylaws for transparency.
 - Board members must request these stipends - it is optional to accept the stipend.
 - The language in the proposed bylaw revisions will reflect different compensation for online versus in-person conferences.

President-Elect - Kirsten Nelson

- Bylaw Changes
 - Please see a full list of the proposed bylaw changes on page 10 of this document.
- Nominating Committee
 - Chair: Kirsten Nelson
 - Committee Members: Natalie Wlodarczyk, Tyanne Mischnick
 - Slate of Nominees:
 - President-Elect - Becca Kurtz
 - Vice President-Elect - Naomi Davis, Kailey Campbell
 - Secretary - Sydney Winders
 - Treasurer: Katey Kooi
 - Assembly of Delegates:
 - Jess Rushing
 - Rachael Willeke
 - Xavier Fleming

- Adam Summers
- Ellyn Donahoe
- Meghan Ross
- Alisa Kandel
- Angela Meier (need confirmation)
- Floor opened for additional nominations. No nominations from the floor. Will open floor for nominations at Business Meeting #2. Nomination slate closes Saturday.
- Nominations for Auditing Committee
 - We are seeking two volunteers to meet with Becca Kurtz and Katey Kooi to review regional finances from the past year. Audit will occur Saturday at 2 PM, after the Awards Luncheon.

Vice President - Kelly Carlson

- Thank you to the local conference committee, co-chaired by Becca Kurtz and Abbey Dvorak! They will be recognized at the Awards Luncheon.
- 188 total registrants for MWR AMTA 2025:
 - 88 students
 - 87 professionals
 - 13 others
- We were proud to offer 4 CMTEs with 29 total registrants.

Vice President-Elect - Morgan Henderson

- In January, members should have received an email containing a survey regarding conference modality.
- The options were:
 - In-person conferences annually
 - Rotate between online/hybrid conference and in-person conference
 - Online conferences annually
- Majority of members preferred rotating between online/hybrid conferences and in-person conferences.

Secretary - Kailey Campbell

No report.

Archivist - Lindsey Wilhelm

- Last February/March, there was a crowdfunding campaign to digitize a scrapbook from Florence Tyson.
- We raised \$6,450 for mold remediation, preservation, and digitization.
- 247 high-quality images have been scanned.
- Lindsey Wilhelm and Emily Sevcik will present on this further at their concurrent session on Saturday, March 22 at 8 A.M.

SAAB Advisor - Amy Robertson

- Passages Student Conference was successful with 54 attendees.
- Students held a songwriting contest this past fall. None of this year's winners are present, but previous songwriting contest winners will perform at the Awards Luncheon.
- Students held a virtual symposium in the fall.
- Students hosted a T-shirt sale and a Panda Express fundraiser.
- At MWR 2025, students are selling tote bags at their exhibit table. They are also hosting Penny Wars to raise money for the region's students.

Online Media Coordinator - Andrew Knight

Not present. Please send in pictures from the conference for the website.

Social Media Coordinator - Anna Mitchell

Not present. No report.

Standing Committee Representative Reports**Government Relations: Ariel Kraus**

- There are no current legislative bills seeking state licensure for MWR states.
- Our national AMTA Director of Government Relations, Judy Simpson, is now sending weekly Government Relations updates via email, including calls to action. Some of those updates have included:
 - Acknowledging music therapy job losses related to Executive Orders or actions of the DOGE and what advocacy is being done in response to that
 - The attempt from some Congressional Members to move the Individuals with Disabilities Act out of the Department of Education and into the Department of Health and Human Services, potentially shifting the focus from education to health which could affect the school support for these children.
 - The lawsuit asking a federal court to declare Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act unconstitutional, a civil rights law as it relates to education prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability in programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance from the US Department of Education.
- I encourage everyone to follow along with these updates, and helping to keep our national organization informed on what is happening in your area related to recent federal actions and how they are impacting music therapy clinical practice and clients. Please share information by emailing Governmentrelations@musictherapy.org with "2025" in the subject line.

Research Committee: Cindy Colwell

Summary of completed activities since last in-person conference report:

- Accepted 16 research posters for the MW-AMTA 2023 Regional Research Poster Session in Lincoln, Nebraska.
- MW-AMTA 2024 Virtual Conference - Decision made not to facilitate a virtual research poster session.
- Accepted 18 research posters for the MW-AMTA 2025 Regional Research Poster Session in Iowa City, Iowa.
- Action Items/Recommendations for the MW-AMTA Regional Board to Consider (as warranted):
 - Requesting to consider an opportunity for the Research Committee to sponsor a CMTE for the 2026 MW-AMTA regional conference.
 - Requesting to have Research Poster Session if an in-person conference OR consideration of a virtual poster session if the conference is virtual.

Academic Program Approval Committee (APAC): Crystal Weaver & Nicole Jacobs

The Academic Program Approval Committee's (APAC) primary focus is to review applications of new academic programs and re-approval applications for established programs, then provide recommendations to the AMTA Board of Directors for approval, deferral, or denial. In recent years the Committee has also implemented a 3-Year Status Update for newly approved programs to further assist them in their early program development, and Substantive Curriculum Change applications which are submitted by programs making significant changes, such as moving the coursework to online formats.

New Programs Approved since January 2024:

- Truman State University (Missouri)
- Louisiana State University
- University of Memphis
- University of Alabama-Birmingham
- University of Houston
- St. Cloud State University (Minnesota)– This program was approved by AMTA, then the University chose not to move forward with the program.

Total of 12 Program Re-approvals, Substantive Changes, and 3-year Status Updates completed in 2024-2025.

13 Re-Approvals, Substantive Change, and 3-year Status Updates currently in progress

5 New Program proposals currently under review.

APAC completed 19 reviews since January 2024, and combined with those that continue to be processed, we have had 37 applications in our docket this past year. Every application requires multiple hours of initial review, then possibly weeks or months of discussion and follow-up reviews before the application can be recommended for AMTA Board approval. The Committee is comprised of one representative from each region and six At-Large members appointed by the AMTA Board of Directors. To assist the committee with this heavy workload the Board approved two extra At-Large members last year. This year the Committee plans to submit a proposal to the Board to amend the AMTA Bylaws to permanently expand the number of members. A motion to amend the Bylaws will ultimately go before the general membership for a vote.

Currently we are seeking Regional Representatives in the Great Lakes Region and the Western Region.

APAC is excited to be working with a new Council Coordinator, Becky Engen, who was a former chair of APAC for many years. We also want to thank the AMTA Board of Directors for providing a subscription to the online platform Box, which is a more secure and streamlined document management program that APAC is now using with Universities and Colleges for submission of applications. All our application forms have been updated to make the process smoother for both the Music Therapy Programs and the Committee Members. We are putting the final touches on a revision of the official Policies and Procedures for the Committee and will be submitting that document to the AMTA Board, and then to the Assembly of Delegates for approval within the next few months.

APAC is also in the process of formulating a response to the 21st Century Commission Report and the Revised Competency Proposal that was recently submitted by the Competency Review Task Force. Eventually the Committee will be making proposals to the Board and the Assembly of Delegates to revise the AMTA Standards of Education and Clinical Training to implement some of the recommendations suggested. This work will continue throughout the next few years.

Association Internship Approval Committee (AIAC): Beth Mosko

There are currently 16 active National Roster (NR) internship sites in the Midwest region. This includes a new site in Wyoming, which is exciting. I'm aware of one additional site (which also happens to be in Wyoming!), that will likely open sometime this year.

I want to remind all internship directors to please send in your annual report if you have not already. You should have received a link to the report in an email from Veronica Fernandez. It just takes 5 minutes and is very useful to have. If you are not getting emails from AMTA, please reach out to Veronica or me.

My contact info is on the AMTA website, and you should have also received an email from me this week with a reminder to send in your site evals and to report new interns as they are accepted at your sites. I've received reports for 12 interns who completed their internship in the Midwest region in 2024.

A few reminders for anyone considering or currently in the process of applying to become a national roster site:

- The supervision CMTE is free and can be found online (AMTA-U).
- You can request templates and examples of forms during the application process.
- You can reach out to me for assistance with your NR application, and I can preview your application before you submit it.
- All NR sites must include the AIAC regional rep's contact info in onboarding paperwork, dismissal policy, site eval. (update names and contact info if needed). AIAC has provided sites the full, updated list of all regional reps and national committee members/co-chairs and many interns find this full list helpful.
- If anyone has experienced difficulty finding the national roster of internship sites on the website, there is now a PDF version which Veronica uploaded with a full list of sites nationally. AMTA is working through bugs as the website platform is in transition.

Workforce Development and Retention: Rachael Willeke

We have updated our goals and tasks and been working in subcommittees. I have two big pieces of news:

1. We are excited about the Workforce Analysis Survey! In March it was piloted by the national office staff, regional presidents and president elects, and the BOD. It should be ready for the music therapy community soon (hopefully in April). This will be coming to you from CBMT. Please make sure that CBMT has an accurate email address for you (for example if you're a new professional, make sure CBMT has your professional email address, not your student email address). We are excited to get accurate data about our workforce to better support our profession.

2. Our MWR high school outreach event is scheduled for next weekend, March 29th at 10:30AM CST via Zoom. I'm hopeful it will be well-attended!

Interprofessional Collaborative Resources Committee: Faith Halverson-Ramos

There isn't much to report from the ICRC. We haven't met since last March and haven't gotten direction from the board as to what we should be working on. Sarah Pitts, the chair of our committee, has been proactive in reaching out to other committees to see about the potential

for collaboration, but nothing has come of that so far. We're talking about seeing if we can declare the committee "inactive" for the time being.

Membership Committee: Sydney Winders

The AMTA Membership Committee has been meeting roughly every other month to continue its work. In the last meeting on March 16, 2025, the standing committee reported several regional representative vacancies. Currently the committee is collaborating to work on Professional Membership Benefits Analysis, which gathers information from international music therapy organizations and comparable professions to assess how AMTA's membership benefits align with industry standards. As of November 2024, the committee chair has stepped down, and the committee is currently reviewing previous charges to determine their relevance. Despite these transitions, the committee remains dedicated to promoting the value of AMTA membership and evaluating the needs of its members.

Judicial Review Board: Hae Sun Kim

AMTA had paused the Judicial Review Board for a while, so there are no updates to report and I did not hear anything from Minda regarding updates.

Continuing Education Committee: Hayley Turner

No report.

Standards of Clinical Practice Committee: Stephanie Johnson

No report.

International Relations Committee: Soo-Jin Kwoun

No report.

Board & Assembly Nominations

From Kirsten Nelson, Nominating Committee Chair: At the end of every even-numbered year, the membership is counted, based on the number of AMTA members in the region, which determines our number of delegate seats. At the most recent count, the MWR lost one delegate seat. Members are encouraged to update their AMTA membership to promote MWR representation at the national level.

Floor opened for nominations. No nominations given for the Board of Directors or Assembly of Delegates.

Auditing Committee:

- Grace Troesser and Barbara Ashton volunteered. They will meet with Becca Kurtz and Katey Kooi to review the region's finances from the past year.

Announcements

Business Meeting #2 is on Saturday, March 22, 2025 at 4:45 P.M. There will be door prizes!

Meeting Adjourned at 5:43 P.M. Central.

Bylaw Changes (highlighted sections reflect proposed changes)

ARTICLE II. OFFICERS AND ASSEMBLY

Section 1. The elective officers of the Region shall be elected by ballot following a regular annual meeting and shall continue in office for a term of two years, or until the next subsequent election. The regular term for office shall commence ~~the next fiscal year (July 1)~~ following the completion of the election.

Proposed Wording

Section 1. The elective officers of the Region shall be elected by ballot following a regular annual meeting and shall continue in office for a term of two years, or until the next subsequent election. The regular term for office shall **commence on July 1** following the completion of the election.

ARTICLE II. OFFICERS AND ASSEMBLY

Proposed Addition

Section 3. The President shall preside at annual meetings, or additional meetings of the Region; shall call and preside at meetings of the Board of Directors; shall appoint all standing committees as well as representatives to committees of the National Organization, subject to approval of the Board of Directors; shall be an ex-officio member of all Regional committees without the Right to Vote; shall serve as a delegate to the Assembly of Delegates; shall approve all expenditures of the Region; and shall perform the other duties implied by the title. **The President may request the cost of a hotel room, registration waived, mileage at federal rate or airfare, and stipend if they attend in person MWR of AMTA conference. They may request a waived registration if they attend an online MWR of AMTA conference.**

ARTICLE II. OFFICERS AND ASSEMBLY

Proposed Addition

Section 4. The immediate Past President shall serve as advisor to the President and Board of Directors, as a delegate to the Assembly of Delegates, and as nominating and election chair for one election cycle. **The Past President may request registration waived and stipend if they attend in person MWR of AMTA conference. They may request a waived registration if they attend an online MWR of AMTA conference.**

ARTICLE II. OFFICERS AND ASSEMBLY

Proposed Addition

Section 5. The President-elect shall assume all the duties of the President in the case of the resignation, disability, or absence of the President; shall act as chairperson of constitution and bylaws revisions; shall act as chairperson of membership, coordinating efforts with National

Office; shall serve as a delegate to the Assembly of Delegates; and shall have such other duties as may be assigned by the President and the Board of Directors. The President-elect may request registration waived and stipend if they attend in person MWR of AMTA conference. They may request a waived registration if they attend an online MWR of AMTA conference.

ARTICLE II. OFFICERS AND ASSEMBLY

Proposed Addition

Section 6. The Vice President shall assume all the duties of the President-elect in case of resignation, disability, or absence of the President-elect; shall act as program chairperson; shall serve as an alternate delegate to the Assembly of Delegates; and have such other duties as may be assigned by the President and the Board of Directors. A vacancy in the office of Vice President is filled by the Vice President Elect. The Vice President may request the cost of a hotel room, registration waived, mileage at federal rate or airfare and stipend if they attend in person MWR of AMTA conference. They may request a waived registration and stipend if they attend an online MWR of AMTA conference.

ARTICLE II. OFFICERS AND ASSEMBLY

Proposed Addition

Section 7. *The duties of the Vice President Elect are to assist the Vice President as requested, to study the duties of the Vice President in anticipation of assuming the responsibilities of the Vice Presidency, and to assume all duties of the Vice President in case of resignation, disability, or absence of the Vice President. A vacancy in the office of Vice President Elect is filled by presidential appointment with approval of the Board of Directors. The Vice President Elect shall serve as Regional Information Coordinator, assuming responsibility for coordinating efforts of state contact persons to facilitate flow of information to the Online Media Coordinator. The Vice President-elect may request the cost of a hotel room and stipend if they attend in person MWR of AMTA conference. They may request a waived registration if they attend an online MWR of AMTA conference.*

ARTICLE II. OFFICERS AND ASSEMBLY

Proposed addition

Section 8. *The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all business meetings of the Region and all meetings of the Board of Directors; shall send copies to each member of the Committee within thirty (30) days after the meeting; shall report the annual meetings to the Executive Director of the National Organization; shall notify all officers of their election and committees of their appointment; and, in general conduct the correspondence of the Chapter. The Secretary may request registration waived and stipend if they attend in person MWR of AMTA conference. They may request a waived registration if they attend an online MWR of AMTA conference.*

ARTICLE II. OFFICERS AND ASSEMBLY

Proposed addition

Section 9. *The Treasurer shall pay all bills upon authorization of the President; shall keep an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements; shall present a financial report to the President at any time upon request; shall submit a Region fiscal report to AMTA; shall submit a written financial report to the Board of Directors and the General membership at the annual regional conferences shall close the books at midnight on the last day of the fiscal year. The Treasurer may request registration waived and stipend if they attend in person MWR of AMTA conference. They may request a waived registration if they attend an online MWR of AMTA conference.*

ARTICLE II. OFFICERS AND ASSEMBLY

Proposed addition

Section 10. *The Delegates to the Assembly will represent the Region on the legislative body of the American Music Therapy Association, Inc. The assembly delegates may request their registration at the student rate if they attend in person MWR of AMTA conference.*

ARTICLE IV. FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year shall be from ~~July 1 through June 30.~~

New wording:

*The fiscal year shall be from **January 1 through December 31.***