

MTAC San Fernando East Valley Branch Meeting

June 22, 2015, 10:00 a.m. @ Piano Play, Sherman Oaks, CA

10:37 Meeting Begins

Many thanks to current volunteer board members. Gillian thanks Laura for being Treasurer the last three years. Laura will continue to help communicating with Valley College for future events. Thanks to Mark for being Vice-President, hosting a master class as well as being chairperson for the scholarship competition. Thanks to Francine for being our Membership Secretary. Thanks to Kim for being Correspondent Secretary and hosting a meeting at her house as well as being chairperson of the Classical/Romantic Festival. Thanks to our Directors Rita, Anahit and Arjang for helping out at various events. Thanks to Director, Michael Paul, for running the October General recital and for being our liason with Valley College. Thanks to Dilara for keeping up with our branch website. Special thanks to Sharon for being CM Piano Chair and to Francine for being CM Wind Chair. Because of the amount of work involved in being CM Chair, both Sharon and Francine were presented with plaques in recognition of their efforts; in addition Sharon received \$400, and Francine \$200 in lieu of compensation they did not receive as CM chairs for the past several years.

10:44 Concert Venues and Prices

There is much to think about when choosing a location for branch events; these include the following: cost, quality of the piano, convenience of location, as well as the sound absorption of the performance room/building. Below are a number of venues that have been noted as possible locations to host branch festivals and/or competitions. Opinions have been noted as well.

- 1) Hollywood Piano—a free location but pianos are not best quality and noise can be heard from outside the building
- 2) Valley College—ideal location, but expensive (\$250/room, \$4000 for entire building)
- 3) Keyboard Concepts—a free location, but space is limited to 45 people. We are not sure how many concerts they will allow our branch to use their location so Gillian will be calling to find out.
- 4) Beverly Hills Steinway Gallery—a free location and seating capacity is large but the back door is open to Wilshire, therefore, sound interference from ambulances and other street noise is a consideration.

Let's continue to search for more options. We may even consider a church, library or a teacher's home. It was mentioned that Certificate of Merit evaluations in some other branches are conducted at individual teachers' houses. Meg and Kim volunteered their houses as an option for Certificate of Merit evaluations, if necessary. It was generally agreed that Valley College is ideal for Certificate of Merit despite the expense. It is motivating for students to be among many others involved in the same activity, and the atmosphere is more professional.

10:56 New Board Members

There have been a few changes to the current list of board members helping out various festivals. Gillian thanks Roger, Rita, Laura, and Meg who helped out at the Honors Festival this past year. Next year, Roger, Laura and Connie have volunteered to assist in this festival. Next year, Kathleen will chair the Bach Festival and Aziza will assist her. Thanks to Aziza for volunteering as Treasurer for the upcoming year. Thanks to Thelma for volunteering as both Recording and Correspondent Secretary.

Our branch has been steadily growing. Currently, our branch consists of 80 members.

Roger reads the slate of board members for the upcoming year. It is as follows:

- a) President: Gillian Smith
- b) 1st Vice-President: Mark Richman
- c) 2nd Vice-President: Francine Ross-Pancost
- d) Treasurer: Aziza Syed
- e) Recording Secretary: Thelma Mericle
- f) Corresponding Secretary: Thelma Mericle
- g) Directors: Arjang Hedayati, Rita Hovanesian, Michael Paul, Anahit Sevoyan, and Kathleen Rabun

11:05 Treasury Report

Laura reports a surplus of \$600 for this fiscal year, which is better than last year. Certificate of Merit was our biggest cost; we paid \$5500 for the venue (Valley College), paid Sharon \$400 and Francine \$200 for being CM chair piano and strings, respectively. From now on will be paying CM chairs \$2/registered student, hence we have raised the CM fee by \$1. Our surplus is largely due to the fact that we held six events at free spaces.

11:13 CM Convention

Sharon has volunteered to attend the CM Convention business meeting on behalf of our branch, therefore we voted to give her a stipend of \$250 to help out with any expenses she may incur along the way.

11:17 Contributory Members

The question arises whether we, as a branch, should allow contributory members to participate in our festivals and competitions. Since each branch independently writes their own rules and regulations regarding contributory members, guidelines from other branches will be researched to further our understanding of how this situation can be handled. Our branch does not currently allow contributory members to participate in CM or Bach Festival.

First, this question applies to their participation in the Scholarship Festival. Mark noted that a contributory member from the Irvine branch enrolled her students to participate. She has followed all guidelines including the \$20 contributory membership fee as well as enrolling her students into at least one previous SFEV Branch event. Three of her students won the scholarship competition. It does not seem fair that they should receive monies that could be

given for our branch teachers' students. We voted to prevent participation by contributory members in the Scholarship Festival. We also voted to raise the contributory member fee to \$40.

We voted on whether contributory members may participate in other branch recitals. The results are listed below:

- 1) General Recital—Yes
- 2) Contemporary Festival—Yes
- 3) Classical/Romantic Festival—Yes

12:01 Teacher Rules and Policies

Because there are over 300 students/year participating in CM, Sharon's job as CM chair is rather extensive. Although deadlines for student registration and repertoire are noted via email on a regular basis, there are a few teachers who do not follow deadlines as they should. CM registration fees are due on October 31st (postmark). In the past, Sharon has always accommodated these teachers, in spite of stress it may have caused her. Although, she could easily unregister those students whose teachers have not sent in the check by the due date, Sharon has gone to great lengths to keep them registered. As a result, our branch has informed Sharon that she has our full support to unregister any students whose teachers do not provide payment by the postmark date October 31st. In addition, she should forward requests and/or complaints regarding this matter to the Board of Directors.

12:13 CM Day Volunteers Rules and Guidelines

There are a few volunteers who do not properly handle their appropriated jobs. We need to consider how we would like to inform volunteers of their responsibilities on CM day, given they are representing our MTAC SFEV Branch. While it is obvious to most members what is allowed, others may need to be reminded not to use their cell phones while on duty, or to simply find another volunteer in case they need to step out due to a serious problem or emergency. Generally, our branch members are generally exceedingly cooperative and positive, and it was agreed that regulating behavior in words was not desirable. However, it was noted that a few teachers complained about the pianos, or took time out to listen to and coach their own students, or derided those in charge for this and that, and while doing so were not taking good care of their appointed CM posts. A suggestion letter will be sent out to our CM volunteers.

12:23 Event Dates

The Classical/Romantic may be moved from Feb 14th to another date, but this has yet to be decided.

12:26 Meeting adjourned