

MTAC EAST VALLEY BRANCH MEETING - MONDAY MAY 9, 2016

The meeting took place at Dilara Khalilova's home which began with a piano recital, then a delicious brunch.

Board Members in attendance:

President - Gillian Smith

1st VP - Mark Richman

Treasurer - Aziza Syed

Corresponding and Recording Secretary - Thelma Mericle

Directors Arjang Hedayati and Anahit Sevoyan

Non-Board members present included Dilara Khalilova, Yue-Fun Chuang, Yolande Witkin, Meg Falk, Janet Kaplan, Mariko Urushidani, Ivana Malo, Roger Eshleman, Nicole Nale, and Barbara Yellin.

Gillian thanked Dilara for hosting the meeting. She also thanked the four pianists who performed works by Mozart, Rachmaninov, Chopin, Bach, Schumann and Liszt for the group before the official meeting started. They were: Anahit Sevoyan, Yue-Fun Chuang, Dilara Khalilova and Mark Richman.

The members of the Nominating Committee, Roger Eshleman, Mark Richman and Arjang Hedayati, were introduced. Before voting on the slate of nominees they were to propose, there was discussion about the number of directors that could be put on the slate. Mark Richman proposed that, although the Branch By-Laws state that 3 to 4 directors can be appointed, we have a more flexible number of directors, between 3 and 5, depending on the number of willing volunteers. The idea was that, due to the resignation of a board member earlier this year, having more directors might cover that possible deficiency in the future. Roger brought up the point that there might be some correlation between the number of directors allowed per branch based on the number of members in the branch. We agreed to vote on Mark's proposal as a tentative measure pending investigation into the Branch and the State By-Laws on this issue. The motion was seconded by Arjang Hedayati and passed unanimously.

The Nominating Committee then proposed the following slate of nominees for the 2016/17 season of MTAC SFEV Branch:

President - Nicole Nale

1st Vice President - Mark Richman

2nd Vice President - Meg Falk

Treasurer - Aziza Syed

Corresponding Secretary - Thelma Mericle

Membership Secretary - Francine Ross-Pancost

Recording Secretary – Barbara Yellin

Directors - Arjang Hedayati, Rita Hovanesian, Kathleen Rabun, Anahit Sevoyan,
Gillian Smith

There were no nominations from the floor. The slate was voted on and passed by unanimous consent.

Gillian was asked what was the biggest job of the President. She said that she had taken the job with the understanding that dealing with Valley College would not be part of her duties, because it is a big job in and of itself. She praised the work of Laura Halladay during this last season, saying that Laura had done an outstanding job as our Branch Liaison with Valley College, and had sent many, many diplomatic emails coordinating all the events we held there during the year. Gillian said that dealing with other venues for branch events was relatively easy, that emailing information during the course of the year was the biggest part of the job.

Treasurer's Report from Aziza: the Bach Festival had a profit of \$60. The Benefit Concert lost approximately \$50. There is a balance of \$3613 in the savings with projected expenses for the rest of the year being close to that.

Gillian reported that the Benefit Concert lost money this year. A big reason for that is that, due to the heavy rainstorm that day, many members of the audience who were traditionally our biggest donors did not attend. Dilara agreed to chair the Benefit Concert, next year, taking over for Paul Pitman who would like to step down as Chair, a job he managed for many years. Dilara asked that we look for assistants at the meeting in June. Yolanda Witkin immediately volunteered to help Dilara. The Benefit Concert needs a new venue: the Lifehouse Church in Northridge was suggested.

Gillian informed the group that LA Valley College will no longer allow us to use the VC facility for Certificate of Merit – Piano. Gillian explained that the VC authorities stated that nothing should be moved - pianos, desks, etc. – instructions which are exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, for our branch to comply with during our two-day process. We were notified that we would not be able to use the facility in the future for CM, but that we might be able to use the Recital Hall for other events. Janet Kaplan, who was the Branch President approximately 30 years ago, brought up the quite interesting fact that a grand piano was donated by the San Fernando East Valley Branch to LAVC with the agreement that the Branch could use the facilities as a matter of good will. Janet said that she would investigate this bit of history and find out whether or not that piano is still at Valley College. Discussion of alternate sites for CM were discussed.

We may be using the LAVC Music Building Recital Hall for the Spring Recital, May 29.

Gillian informed the group that Keyboard Concepts is happy to host General Recitals, which last two hours, but not the Scholarship Competition which lasts 4 hours. Although they are allowing us to hold that event at their facility this year, we will have to find another venue for that event, next year.

Gillian also proposed that, at the planning meeting in June, we should discuss holding the Scholarship Competition earlier, perhaps in late April, since many of the students involved have difficulty juggling this music event with the heavy academic demands of finals, AP testing, etc., scheduled during the month of May. Mark agreed, adding that students have their repertoire ready for CM, and prefer not hanging onto old pieces for two months after that.

Minutes taken by Thelma Mericle.
Additions and corrections made by Gillian Smith.