

**2018 MTNA NATIONAL CONFERENCE
LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS FORUM MEETING MINUTES**

Lake Buena Vista, FL
Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Sue Field, SW Division Director, presiding

Attendance:

Twenty-five people attended the meeting. Sue Field, CA; Diane Blanchard, NC; Selina Manson, OR; Maria Lonchyna-Lisowsky, MI; Kathy Wilson, OK; April Larsen, CO; William Perry, FL; Gloria Singleton, AZ; Jeanine Skinner, NC; Lauren Schack Clark, AR; Kari Johnson, MO; Bobbi Morgan, FL; Kathy Gault, OR; Benny Swiker, NY; Anne Morris, ND; Joy Morin, OH; Evelyn Hartwell, WA; Sharon Jensen, IA; Alice Ma, MD; Kathy Hoster, IL; Sara Anderholm, AK; Sarah Alexander, TX; Tim Shook, KS; Margaret Ann Randolph, TN; Axel ?

Sue introduced herself and allowed everyone to introduce themselves. She explained the reason for the Forum and asked the group what pressing issues they were dealing with in their local associations.

Technology Issues:

- Issues with the membership spreadsheet from national; not user friendly; doesn't copy and paste; leaves the local association feeling like they receive so little from MTNA and that this isn't very friendly; also not pleased with dealing with paper checks-could it go to a digital process;
- Website Issues: overall-the national website is still hard to navigate-the headings are confusing – 'Engage', 'Connect', etc.; drop downs would be more straightforward
Difficult to find location for liability insurance and certificate of insurance-some state websites have direct links on their home page for common things local associations might need
- Find a teacher – happy that all teachers are listed now instead of just the certified teachers; some spoke up that all the teachers don't appear; it was explained that there is a box under each members personal profile that allows their name to appear under Find a Teacher' Suggestion – could MTNA send the instructions on how to do this when a member joins the association along with the membership card? Or send in a confirmation email?
- Someone suggested MTNA set up more like the Suzuki website – has teacher pictures and profile and links directly to Google; this would be huge for young teachers to have students find them

Suggested that Brian give a webinar or two on navigating the MTNA website

Accessibility of local associations: Teachers physical access to locals, number attending meetings, days and times of meetings, length and format of meetings. Most associations seemed to have 20-30% attendance at meetings; some met for short business meeting and a meal, others for longer business meetings and a program

Low meeting attendance: emails are used for communication (issues with emails – can't be too long or too frequent; also keep subject line relevant and concise; time of day email sent is important – send later in the day

Hard to find volunteers: some require teacher to work at event in order to participate; split the work – co-chairs or more; have teachers shadow chairmen before taking on a job

Looking for Program Development help from MTNA: Could MTNA provide a list of people willing to travel to do programs (some locals said they look to nearby local associations for ideas) In OR, there is a state fund from a deceased member that will pay 80% of cost to provide programs; some use local members to do programs; suggestion to talk to presenters at the national conferences; suggestion to network with local university professors; some locals pool their resources to bring in presenters from out of state; suggestion – grad students good resource; find ideas at the state conference; some states will pay for member to attend a conference and come back and give a program on what was learned; suggestion – Skype and webinars

Tim Shook on certification The importance of local associations in the area of certification has been shown to be valid, especially where the process has been handled through group gatherings.

Other issues from local associations:

Alaska local association is unaware of just what benefits MTNA has to offer them. AK doesn't feel that their group is being effective at the local level and would like to change that. Answer: there are discounts (listed on the website), MTNA Competitions, education through conferences and webinars, E-Festival

Seemed to be a consensus that there is a communication gap that exists between national and the locals; MTNA is sending ideas and information to the state level and it's not always getting through to the locals – for instance the VIP newsletters- the teachers thought these were full of great ideas – they loved them, but these sometimes stop at the state level- could MTNA also send these to the local associations?

Mentorship would be appreciated for new members. A new member is twice as likely to get involved in an association if they have a mentor. Sue mentioned it might also be a great idea to Mentor-upwards.

Sue told the participants that these minutes will be available on the MTNA website under Forums. She thanked everyone for coming.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Blanchard, NCTM
MTNA Southern Division Director-Elect