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**WCMT Mission**

The Wisconsin Chapter for Music Therapy is committed to supporting students and professionals in the field of music therapy by advocating, educating and creating access to quality music therapy services.

http://www.musictherapywisconsin.org

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**The 61st Annual Conference**

**Great Lakes Region**

**American Music Therapy Association**

March 26 – 30, 2014

Crown Plaza Hotel in Rosemont, Illinois
President’s Report
Tiffany Vollrath

This report completes my two-year term as WCMT President. I want to thank the executive board for their dedication in completing their duties and making our chapter run smoothly. It really makes the role of president quite easy and enjoyable!

As I hand over the reins to Alexis Graff, I want to mention some of the accomplishments of our e-board and friends.

A big thanks goes out to:
- Hanna Pieper for keeping the board on track with completing reports on time and over-seeing Dropbox.
- Alexis Graff for making sure the Founder's Fund was made available and awarded and also for being available to me to bounce ideas off of.
- Nancy Dexter -Shabow, Richelle Kroening and Laurie Farnan: These ladies have donated countless hours of time by being available for conference calls attending meetings in Madison with our lawyer and also attending several TIAC (Treatment Intervention Advisory Committee) meetings to support and defend our WI Music Therapists and clients receiving funding. Our fight is not over, but we have made strides and, in the process, have accumulated beneficial research!
- Sara Devine and Thea Vorass for keeping us current with our CMTE’s - I’m so proud of our chapter for providing us with a variety of good quality CMTE Classes so close to home!
- Elizabeth Pupeter who undertook a revision of our bylaws in her first term and also took on the role of fundraiser chairperson, taking time to research and found a new item to sell (water bottles).
- Kathy Schumacher for her consulting time in helping Elizabeth in the bylaws revision.
- Erica Flores for her 2 years as Treasurer.
- Thea and Steve Vorass for their many hours of time and commitment in providing our chapter with the best and most up-to-date website!
- Brenna Beecroft for researching and making us aware of PR possibilities and making sure we had people to man our booths - especially for giving up much of her own time to man the booths herself.

In the clinical practices realm, it was brought to my attention last fall that Mercy Hospice Care in Janesville was advertising music therapy, although there was no music therapist employed there. I must say that I was quite nervous to contact them but when I called and spoke to their coordinator, she was very nice and open to what I told her about the definition of music therapy and why they needed to hire a music therapist or change the name of their program. She told me she would first of all change the name of their program and also look into contacting a local therapist to do a presentation for the board. Currently, they’ve changed the program name to “Music for the Heart”.

I want to take time to remember 2 wonderful women and music therapists who were so important to our chapter - Nancy Lloyd and Christine Henes - who both passed away in 2013. Nancy Lloyd was the professor of Music Therapy at UW-Oshkosh for 26 years and was active in the WI chapter. Christine had a thriving private practice in Madison and was also active in our chapter and our most recent president before my term. I know she mentored many of our music therapists, including me. She was a wonderful role model professionally and a true friend. I’m so glad to have known both of these women and they will be missed.

In closing, I feel bittersweet about finishing my term as President. Two years went by quickly. Previously, I was also the treasurer for 4 terms. It will be good to let others take over these responsibilities, but I will definitely miss interacting with this incredible group of music therapists on a regular basis!
Membership Report
Erica Flores, Chair

WCMT is starting 2014 off right with 57 professional members, 9 student members and 0 retired professional members for a total of 66 members. This is up from this time last year from 46, way to go WCMT! Thanks to all who have renewed this year and welcome to any new members!

To become a member of WCMT, please visit our website at www.musictherapywisconsin.org and either purchase a membership in the store section using paypal or by printing a form and mailing it with a check.

This month marks the end of my two years serving as membership chair for WCMT and the torch will be passed onto Tamra Fricke. Thank you so much for the opportunity to service you and for the chance to get to connect with so many amazing music therapists throughout our state!

Please continue to encourage other music therapists throughout the state to join the Wisconsin Chapter for Music Therapy so that they can receive the many benefits that being a WCMT member holds!

Webmaster’s Report
Thea Vorass, Chair

Greetings fellow Music Therapists,

Our monthly Intervention Share continues to be a success. This has been an added benefit for WCMT members. So far our executive board and I few people I have reached out have been sending out their interventions (including population, goals & intervention description). All Intervention Shares are stored in the member’s section of the website for you to access in the future. Please e-mail me you intervention to share!

The website continues to see tweaks and adjustments. WCMT updated our donation page to list allocation of funds/in memory of and amount donated to the Founder’s Fund.

The newest addition to the website was the voting app for our Executive Board and MT of the year. This program has been a huge help in keeping the voting process confidential and tallying the votes automatically to make this process easy for the nominating committee and webmaster.

When on the website if you ever seen a link that is broken, an e-mail address that doesn’t work, or any other “mishap” please e-mail me at webmaster@musictherapywisconsin.org so that the problem can be resolved.
I am pleased to announce that the winner of the 2014 Music Therapist of the Year award is Laurie Farnan. The award honors Wisconsin music therapists that demonstrate outstanding personal character and clinical skills in addition to contributions to the music therapy community by way of volunteer service, public education, or advancement of clinical practices related to music therapy. The American Music Therapy Association has summed up Ms. Farnan's contributions to the field:

“Laurie Farnan has influenced therapy practice in a visionary way throughout the past 3+ decades. She served as the Coordinator of Music Therapy Services at Central Wisconsin Center for the Developmentally Disabled for 36 years, training 121 interns! Not only did she develop an innovative community partnership with the Madison Symphony Orchestra, as a consultant for their “HeartStrings” project, but she has also been involved in Very Special Arts. Laurie has designed research-based innovative sensory stimulation techniques to enhance the music experience for people with developmental disabilities, and her original songwriting work provides scaffolding for the development of songwriting skills that can be generalized to a variety of settings and populations. Laurie has served our professional associations at the state, regional and national levels. She was a member of the Clinical Training Committee, author of the Clinical Training column for Music Therapy Perspectives, and a member of the Commission on Education and Clinical Training. She also possesses a prolific record of presentations and publications. She has influenced the growth of music therapy from the grassroots clinical perspective, serving as a role model and continuing to push boundaries and develop services to meet the current and future needs of consumers.”

Here's what Ms. Farnan had to say about her experiences in the field of music therapy and her perception of the model clinician.

Question: What made you want to be a music therapist?
Answer: I was and am still keenly interested in the effect of music on human behavior. It continues to intrigue and engage me.

Q: How many years have you been in the field of music therapy? What has been your motivation for staying in the field?
A: Counting my undergrad study days, I have been in the field of music therapy for 40 years - and still counting. I still find it interesting. There is always more to learn.

Q: Which treatment population(s) are you most passionate about?
A: My primary client population has been individuals with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities including those with complex medical and genetic disorders.

Q: Do you have any words of wisdom for new music therapists or students at the beginning of their career?
A: Learn, cooperate, contribute, practice, and lead.

Q: How do you de-stress or unwind after an intense day?
A: I find it very important to leave work-related issues at work. When I would leave the building at the end of the day, the door would close on the issues for that day. It was a good strategy and worked well most of the time. It freed me up to do other important and enjoyable things away from work.

Q: What is the best part for you about being a music therapist?
A: Studying and learning to understand the way music impacts human behavior.
Q: What is the hardest part for you about being a music therapist?
A: I don't have any "hardest" parts, but I am challenged knowing I still have so much more to learn and understand.

Q: What skills and/or characteristics make a good music therapist?
A: Better-than-average functional music skills; better-than-average understanding of the elements of music (rhythm, melodic structure, chord structure, phrasing, harmony, and vibration); openness to others and their ideas; flexibility; leadership skills; creativity; willingness to see others' points of view; respect for others; and willingness to work very hard every day, every group, every meeting.

Ms. Farnan's award as Music Therapist of the Year includes a $100 gift card to West Music and a complimentary annual membership to the Wisconsin Chapter for Music Therapy.
March is Music Therapy Month
(Press Release)

The Wisconsin Chapter for Music Therapy is pleased to announce that Governor Scott Walker has proclaimed March 2014 as "Music Therapy Month" in Wisconsin.

Music Therapy is the clinical and evidence-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program. As an established healthcare profession, music therapy uses music to address physical, emotional, cognitive, and social needs of individuals of all ages. Music therapy interventions can be designed to:

- promote wellness
- manage stress
- alleviate pain
- express feelings
- enhance memory
- improve communication
- promote physical rehabilitation

Approximately 145 music therapists provide services statewide. Wisconsin is also home to Alverno College, which has produced a number of music therapy alumni through its well-established degree program founded in 1950.

Research in music therapy supports its effectiveness in a wide variety of healthcare and educational settings. For further information, please explore the Wisconsin Chapter for Music Therapy website at www.musictherapywisconsin.org, or contact Brenna Beecroft, WCMT Public Relations Chair at (414) 793-3292.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT:
What Music Therapy Is and Is Not

January 23, 2014—SILVER SPRING, MD— The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) supports music for all and applauds the efforts of individuals who share their music-making and time; we say the more music the better! But clinical music therapy is the only professional, research-based discipline that actively applies supportive science to the creative, emotional, and energizing experiences of music for health treatment and educational goals. Below are a few important facts about music therapy and the credentialed music therapists who practice it:

Music therapists must have a bachelor’s degree or higher in music therapy from one of AMTA’s 72 approved colleges and universities, including 1200 hours of clinical training.
Music therapists must hold the MT-BC credential, issued through the Certification Board for Music Therapists, which protects the public by ensuring competent practice and requiring continuing education. Some states also require licensure for board-certified music therapists.
Music Therapy is an evidence-based health profession with a strong research foundation.
Music Therapy degrees require knowledge in psychology, medicine, and music.

These examples of therapeutic music are noteworthy, but are not clinical music therapy:

- A person with Alzheimer’s listening to an iPod with headphones of his/her favorite songs
- Groups such as Bedside Musicians, Musicians on Call, Music Practitioners, Sound Healers, and Music Thanatologists
- Celebrities performing at hospitals and/or schools
- A piano player in the lobby of a hospital
- Nurses playing background music for patients
- Artists in residence
- Arts educators
- A high school student playing guitar in a nursing home
- A choir singing on the pediatric floor of a hospital

Finally, here are examples what credentialed music therapists do:

- Work with Congresswoman Giffords to regain her speech after surviving a bullet wound to her brain.
- Work with older adults to lessen the effects of dementia.
- Work with children and adults to reduce asthma episodes.
- Work with hospitalized patients to reduce pain.
- Work with children who have autism to improve communication capabilities.
- Work with premature infants to improve sleep patterns and increase weight gain.
- Work with people who have Parkinson’s disease to improve motor function.

AMTA’s mission is to advance public awareness of the benefits of music therapy and increase access to quality music therapy services in a rapidly changing world. In consideration of the diversity of music used in healthcare, special education, and other settings, AMTA unequivocally recommends the unique knowledge and skill of board certified music therapists.

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For more information on this topic please visit the American Music Therapy Association at www.musictherapy.org and click on the Research tab. To set up interviews with board certified music therapists please contact AMTA at (301)589-3300.