

# CONCENTO

April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019

Vol. 14, Issue 8

## Overture

Like many of you, in addition to teaching full-time, I also serve as a church musician, working at a church where I bring the average age down by a statistically significant margin. One of the things I hear regularly is a rather tired complaint: Why aren't there any young people here? Why are the sizes of our [mainline] churches dwindling in general?

This situation is not unique to the church I serve, of course: Surveys and studies show decreased church attendance over the last couple of decades across the country. What might be more significant to mention, though, is that attendance in many membership-based organizations is down as a whole- not just mainline churches- and it includes ours.

I would personally argue this has several driving factors: While lack of visibility and a clear pipeline (read: universal college chapters) is one, and time availability is another, I would also throw in a third: We, like our students (or maybe more so their parents), are making fewer commitments.

Marriage, for example, is a classic commitment. Consider this: You join a membership organization (of two, but still), sign paperwork, have a ceremony to honor the occasion, receive a certificate, and hopefully the union is mutually beneficial! Joining MTNA has many parallels, as does joining any organization. Obviously, the ties in a marriage are much stronger, and it is significantly more difficult to both enter into that partnership, and to leave it. Often we as teachers will set up similar "barriers to entry" and "barriers to exit," as they are called in economic terms, by interviewing potential new students and their parents, asking them for a deposit for the year, or requiring lessons for a certain amount of time by a signed contract.

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It can be difficult to make a commitment to lessons, to a partnership, and to an organization. We all know it takes an enormous amount of work, but ideally the effort more than justifies the significant rewards we enjoy as a result.

This year I ask you to consider being counter-cultural: In a world filled with instant gratification, “ghosting,” and free 4-week trials with a guaranteed return policy, I encourage you to renew your *commitment*. Please consider serving in a volunteer role in this organization. Help out with our events. Maybe become the new editor of this newsletter!

Thank you for your investment and commitment to MTNA and to this chapter.

*Kevin Peterson, editor*

## Open Chapter Leadership Positions

Beginning with the June chapter meeting, the following positions will need to be filled:

- Vice President: Attend meetings, be willing to lead meetings in the event the President is unable to attend, and schedule all meeting guest speakers (completed by the end of August): *Your name here!*
- Scholarship (could potentially co-chair with Deanna Dent): *Your name here!*
- Newsletter editor: *Your name here!*
- MAP (could potentially co-chair with Julie Swienty): tentatively Heather White
- Treasurer: tentatively Heather White
- Publicity: tentatively Lynnette Emme

Please let Kevin Peterson know of any other potential openings, and please let current Co-President and President-Elect Lena Aleksandrova know if you are interested in serving in one of these positions.

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## Next Chapter Meeting

The next chapter meeting will be on Tuesday, April 9th at Zion Lutheran Church in Kent at 9:30 am.

## Chapter Meeting Minutes

Please see the document attached at the end of this newsletter for minutes from the March chapter meeting.

## Scholarship Process

Applicants for our scholarship awards will *not* be present at our April chapter meeting; instead, a separate even will take place where applicants will present to a small panel of judges. If you are interested in serving on this panel, please contact Deanna Dent directly. The date and time of the applicants' presentations will be determined by the judges at a time mutually convenient to all involved.

## Pedagogy Classes by Oksana Ezhokina

There is a possibility that Dr. Oksana Ezhokina, Chair of Piano Studies at PLU, would be willing to lead a workshop series on piano pedagogy with our chapter. This idea is currently in its infancy, and nothing firm is set, other than it would likely be outside of our regular meeting time and incur a fee. If taking a workshop or series of classes from Dr. Ezhokina on piano pedagogy is of interest to you please let Julie Swienty know via email, phone, or in person at our next meeting.

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## Church Job Openings

Zion Lutheran Church in Kent (where we have our monthly chapter meetings) is seeking a new organist/pianist. Please see the flyer attached at the end of this newsletter for more information.

Also, Cross and Crown Lutheran Church (on SE 168th in Renton) will soon be searching for an organist for their services. They pay \$125/service with just one service, at 10 am on Sundays. They have a tracker-style organ. Please contact Glen Aaberg at (425) 344-0956 if you know of anyone who may be interested.

## Preparations for the State Conference

Please be prepared to discuss the creation of the chapter poster (roughly 2x3 feet) for the state conference at our upcoming chapter meeting. We will also discuss donating a gift basket or money towards the state's scholarship fund.

## Contact Information Update

Please change Amy Weller to Amy (Weller) Peyton. Congratulations, Amy!

## Studio Openings

Deanna Dent  
Aubrey Ross  
Lena Aleksandrova  
Julie Swienty  
Gwendolyn Koch  
Caroline Crabill (violin, viola, and piano)  
Lynneette Emme

## SKCMTA Meeting Minutes

March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019

9:37 - Call to Order

Treasure Report - Lisa Hogg

Gibson Scholarship Event – Deanna Dent

Deadline for the applications: March 15<sup>th</sup> (Postmarked)

Panel Review date will be determined when all applications have been turned in.

The panel review will be in April, but NOT at the monthly meeting. Contact Deanna if you would like to be on the panel. At least 3 volunteers needed. Details and requirements for application on page 24 of yearbook.

Scholarship Committee Chair – Deanna Dent

This was Deanna Dent's 3<sup>rd</sup> year so it is time for a new volunteer to be on the Scholarship Chair. (Or at least co-chair for a year to train)

Committee Openings – Kevin Peterson

Openings: Vice President, Newsletter, Scholarship Chair, MAP Chair, Treasurer.

CHC Report – Julie Swienty

Over 200 students participated. We might consider a later date in February for scheduling to avoid snow.

MAP Recital Report – Samantha Yeung

Yearbook Editing – L. Aleksandrova

Please contact if any information needs to be updated.

Music Literacy Program – Steve Nehrenberg

May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Cost \$7.50 per student. Written portion only. Sign up by March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Discussions:

One more Volunteer Needed to help host May meeting.

10:15 Meeting Adjourned

**Organist/Pianist part time position at Zion Lutheran, Kent WA**

25105 – 132<sup>nd</sup> Ave. S.E.

Kent, WA 98042-5601

Telephone: 253-631-0100

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

- \* Select and provide music for the weekly 8:30 a.m. Sunday services and other seasonal church services such as Thanksgiving Eve, Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter - as well as for funerals and weddings held in the church, when available.
- \* Work cooperatively with the Pastor, the other church musicians and the Worship and Music committee in planning for worship services.

**Skills and Qualifications:**

- \* Ability to work well with others.
- \* Knowledge of organ and piano keyboard skills, and the ability to play hymns, liturgy and accompaniments at sight.
- \* Knowledge of basic music theory. Education preference for at least a B.A. in Music.
- \* Ability to play with accuracy and expression.
- \* Knowledge of the Lutheran church, matching appropriate keyboard music with themes of the church year.

**Additional information on our website: [www.zionkent.org](http://www.zionkent.org)**

**Interested candidates for this position should submit resumes to  
[office@zionkent.org](mailto:office@zionkent.org)**

**Interviews will begin in March 2019.**