Winter 2021



Volume 59, No. 2

Arizona State Music Teachers Association Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association

Kassandra Weleck, NCTM **ASMTA President** 



Dear ASMTA Members,

Welcome to 2021! While it's starting off looking much like 2020 did, there is a light at the end of the tunnel. As I write, there are three (3!) vaccines available in this country for Covid-19. Some of us are fully vaccinated, while others are awaiting their turn. We're starting to get to a point where we can consider returning to modified "normal" activities, and that makes so many of us happy. Please continue to be safe for you, your family, your friends, and your students – the more we all do this, the sooner we can get back to doing all the things we love within this organization. If you need more information about Covid-19 vaccinations in your area, please click here.

Most every activity for the local associations and ASMTA are online at this point. If you're ever unsure of how to connect, reach out by phone, email, or snail mail we'll help you find out how to connect. The ASMTA <u>Conference</u> is going to be a one-day online event on Friday, May  $28^{th}$  – read more about it at the asmta.org web site. The ASMTA Honors Recital is also going to be online – registration is open, and there's more prize monies this year! Arizona Study Program and RCM Evaluations are done from home this year too, allowing students and teachers easier access to keeping student progress on track. I'm grateful for everyone's work in making these things happen to ensure all our members and their students can still flourish in these strange times.

Springtime also means webinar time. MTNA continues to do webinars on a regular basis – you can access past recordings of these on their web site. RCM has done several webinars so far on the piano program they offer, and will continue to do so through March and April – look for more information in the ASMTA MusiEmail and direct messages. RCM will also be doing a string webinar for members in April, giving ASMTA string teachers another program to use with their students.

# **ASMTA Board of Directors**

# Officers 2020-2021

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**EVMTA (East Valley)** Sherin Moustafa NCTM

> **NAMTA** Rebecca Cathen

(Northern Arizona)

Dr. Stuart Foster PMTA (Phoenix)

TMTA (Tucson) Marie Sierra

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Advertising Mary Beth Shaffer, NCTM Shalvi D'Archangelo Archivist

**Arts Awareness TBD** 

Competitions -Devin Gardner Composition

Competitions -Performance

**Honors Recital** 

Dr. Yali Lao

**College Faculty Forum** Hannah Creviston, NCTM

Tanya Eldridge;

Christopher Oill **Independent Music Teach-**Mandarin G Cheung-Yueh,

ers Forum **NCTM** 

Membership Dr. Michelle Wachter

**TBD MTNA Foundation** 

**Publications Editor** Susan Traylor, Pro Tem **Student Chapters** Hannah Creviston, NCTM

> **Technology TBD**

> > Website Susan Traylor

Mandarin Cheung-Yueh, our IMTF Chair, is also offering a series of webinars this spring on various topics marked as important by *you*, our members. Finally, don't miss out on various webinars being offered by publishers, including Alfred and Kjos – sign up for their emails to learn more, or connect with their Facebook/Twitter pages to register for attendance. Don't forget to check the <u>ASMTA Facebook</u> page for updates on webinars too!

Thank you again for your continued support and membership in ASMTA. This organization is for you, by you, and dedicated to you. I look forward to "seeing" many of you online in the coming months at various webinars, the ASMTA Conference, and local association meetings/workshops!

Sincerely,

Kassandra Weleck, NCTM ASMTA President asmtapresident@gmail.com

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ASMTA 1st VP Debbie Dinkel

Dear ASMTA Members,

The new year has begun with exciting and new opportunities to inspire and encourage our students and each other. The investment of time and effort will be well rewarded in the eyes and attitudes of the students. Perhaps that is the greatest reward we can receive as teachers - to see our students grow and expand their perspectives and experiences. I want to thank each teacher for your devoted time and efforts in these life changing events.

We have new challenges at our doors with the virus still lingering. But in the process of refiguring how to accomplish our goals, we are learning new techniques and especially new technologies that will benefit all of us now and later. Hang in there and continue to pursue your goals and ambitions.

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When the opportunity presents itself, consider inviting a new teacher in your area to your local activities so they see what is offered and potentially available to their students as they become a member.

I will be your new President come July and look forward to getting to know each of you better.

I want to encourage each teacher in your endeavors and look forward to getting to know each of you better.

Your Friend in Music,

Debbie Dinkel 1st Vice President dinkel2@cox.net (520) 220-5704



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# **ASMTA 2nd VP—Competitions**

Dr. Yali Luo, Chair

The 2020-2021 MTNA AZ State Competition was held virtually on YouTube from November 5-10. The event went smoothly and successfully without any issues. The guidelines for this year's competition, held via YouTube, were created and compiled from the MTNA's guidelines for virtually held competitions.

Here are the results of the Arizona state competitions:

#### **PERFORMANCE**

# Junior Piano (10 entries) -

Winner: Daniel Kang, student of Jessica Yam Alternate: Bryan Zhang, student of Kyungsun Choi Honorable Mention: Justin Kang, student of Jessica Yam

Judges: Robert Hamilton, Arizona State University; Laura Melton, Bowling Green State University; Joseph

Rackers, Eastman School of Music

### Senior Piano (18 entries) -

Winner: Miles Fawson, student of Baruch Meir

Alternate: Sharon Hui, student of Manderin Cheung-Yueh Honorable Mention: Tanner Dodt, student of Fei Xu

Judges: Laura Melton, Bowling Green State University; Joseph Rackers, Eastman School of Music; Gregory

Allen, University of Texas at Austin

#### Young Artist Piano (5 entries) -

Winner: John Solari, student of Baruch Meir

Alternate: Daniel Mangiaracino, student of Kevin Fitz-Gerald

Judge: Robert Hamilton, Arizona State University

# Senior Piano Duet (2 entries) -

Winner: Nathan Lam/Rachel Dai, student of Yali Luo

Alternate: Michael Chen/Annie Qin, student of Natalya Thran

Judge: Laura Melton, Bowling Green State University

# Junior Woodwind (1 state representative)

Elizabeth Ovelil (Flute), student of Brian Gordon

### Senior woodwind (3 entries) -

Winner: Daniel Walker (Flute), student of Brian Gordon Alternate: Darryl Leung (Saxophone), student of Jeff Siegfried

Honorable Mention: Taylor Simpson (Saxophone), student of Christopher Creviston

Judge: Joseph Lulloff (Saxophone), Michigan State University

# Young Artist Woodwind (2 entries) -

Winner: Matthew Fox (Saxophone), student of Christopher Creviston Alternate: Catelyn Hawkins (Saxophone), student of Christopher Creviston

Judge: Joseph Lulloff, Michigan State University

#### Junior String (6 entries) -

Winner: Rachel Gardner (Violin), student of Simon James

Alternate: Jacqueline Rodenbeck (Violin), student of Timothy Kantor Honorable Mention: Sophia Kim (Cello), student of Tom Landschoot

Judge: Claire Bryant (Cello), University of South Carolina

results continued...

results continued...

# PERFORMANCE

#### Senior String (11 entries) -

Winner: Leo Kubota (Cello), student of Tom Landschoot Alternate: Alicia Yang (Viola), student of Susanne Rothaar

Honorable Mention: Ethan Yang (Violin), student of Jing Zeng; Audrey Wang (Violin), student of Wendy

Sharp; Seungchan Min (Violin), student of Min Park

Judges: Simin Ganatra (Violin), Indiana University at Bloomington; Susan Dubois (Viola), University of

North Texas; Claire Bryant (Cello), University of South Carolina

## Young Artist String (2 entries) -

Winner: Weizhu Zhao (Violin), student of Danwen Jiang Alternate: Sicong Chen (Violin), student of Danwen Jiang Judge: Simin Ganatra, Indiana University at Bloomington

## Senior Voice (I state representative) -

Merritt Zhang (Baritone), student of Philip Godfrey Young Artist Brass (1 state representative) Eric Zhunio (Euphonium), student of Matthew Tropman

# COMPOSITION

# **Elementary Composition (1 state representative)**

Saadhvi Jayaram, students of Rosa LoGiudice

### Junior Composition (3 entries) -

Winner: Brayden Wagner, student of Natalya Thran

#### Senior Composition (2 entries) -

Winner: Paul Castleton, student of Barbara Russell Judge: Vincent Oppido, East Parkwood Music Inc.

The results for the Arizona contestants in the division competitions:

# Winners (1 composer, 7 performers)

Saadhvi Jayaram, student of Rosa LoGiudice, Elementary Composition Rachel Gardner, student of Simon James, Junior String Leo Kubota, student of Tom Landschoot, Senior String Rachel Dai and Nathan Lam, students of Yali Luo, Senior Piano Duet John Solari, student of Baruch Meir, Young Artist Piano Weichao Zhu, student of Danwen Jiang, Young Artist String Matthew Fox, student of Christopher Creviston, Young Artist Woodwind

#### Alternate

Miles Fawson, student of Baruch Meir, Senior Piano

#### **Honorable Mention**

Brayden Wagner, student of Natalya Thran, Junior Composition

Results continued...

results continued...

Winners from Arizona in the national round:

#### **First Place Winners**

Elementary Composition: Saadhvi Jayaram, student of Rosa LoGiudice Senior Piano Duet: Nathan Lam and Rachel Dai, students of Yali Luo

#### **Second Place Winner**

Young Artist Piano: John Solari, student of Baruch Meir

#### Third Place Winner —

Young artist woodwind: Matthew Fox, student of Christopher Creviston

The national competitions will be held virtually next year, in Minnesota, March 22-30, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Yali Luo, 2nd Vice President State Performance Competition Chair



# 3rd VP—Conference Hannah Creviston, NCTM Lynnette Barney Co-Chairs

We are excited to announce the re-formatted version of the 2021 ASMTA Conference. This virtual event will be held on Friday, May 28, 2021 and the theme is "Music from Around the World".

#### Sessions include:

- -Pedagogical Repertoire by Female Composers
- —Pedagogical Repertoire by Black Composers
- —Pedagogical Repertoire by Mexican and Latin American Composers
- —Pedagogical Repertoire by Asian Composers
- —Vendor Spotlights
- —Music Examination Spotlights
- —Awards, MTNA Guest Speaker, and Potpourri Concert of Pedagogical Repertoire from Around the World at a Bring Your Own Meal banquet (local in-person "watch parties" if safe)

Registration opens April 1, 2021 and closes on May 26, 2021. More information to be posted soon on the ASMTA Conference website.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynnette Barney, Conference Co-Chair Hannah Creviston, NCTM, Conference Co-Chair

# 11111111

# Certification Melodie L. Acker, NCTM

ASMTA is fortunate have so many dedicated and talented teachers! Why not become certified with a credential from one of the nation's oldest and most respected music teachers organizations? As a music teacher, isn't it an excellent idea to have as many credentials as possible?

There are many resources available on the MTNA website for any teacher who wants to pursue national certification. MTNA has many resources available to assist you. Please visit the website soon and consider becoming an NCTM through MTNA. You will be so glad you did!

Contact me today to begin the process. I'm here to help!

Melodie

Melodie L. Acker, NCTM ASMTA Certification Chair melodieacker@cox.net 480-246-2192



# 4th VP Pro Tem Website & Publications Susan 'Suszy" Traylor

One of my personal, professional, goals has been to obtain my NCTM. As such, at the end of AS-MTA's 2021 fiscal year, I must finally step down as 4<sup>th</sup> VP Pro Tem. I am able to stay on as ASMTA web-master, and will continue to serve as the ASP Technology Coordinator and PMTA Piano Ensemble Co-Chair. My belief is that an ASMTA member reading this will say, "Hey, I would like to get more involved with AS-MTA. I think I can do that."

If you or someone you know is interested in a very interesting position as 4<sup>th</sup> VP on the ASMTA board, please contact me or Kassandra Weleck, President.

If you have any questions about the website, member login, and Membership Directory or Find-A-Teacher listings, let me know at <a href="mailto:suszy@aol.com">suszy@aol.com</a>.

Wishing you all a well!

Susan 'Suszy" Traylor ASMTA 4th VP Pro Tem - Website & Publications

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# 2021 James R. Anthony Honors Recital Tanya Eldridge and Christopher Oill, Co-Chairs

The Honors Recital guidelines are now updated and posted on the ASMTA website. This year, the event will be held online. Applications are due by April 24, and videos must be submitted by May 8. The results and recital will occur on May 29.

The guidelines are very thorough and concise, so thanks in advance for reading them all carefully. We are looking forward to receiving your entries!

Specific application procedure and online rules are available, at <a href="mailto:asmta.org/events/state-honors-recital/">asmta.org/events/state-honors-recital/</a>

Christopher Oill and Tatyana Eldridge ASMTA Honors Recital Co-Chairs



Advertising Mary Beth Shaffer, NCTM, Chair

Advertise in the ASMTA conference booklet and/or present an educational exhibitor showcase at the 2021 Arizona State Music Teachers Association Virtual Conference!

Color or black and white conference booklet ads accepted!

A special thanks to the following businesses who are currently partnering with ASMTA as advertisers and/or conference showcase exhibitors:

Faber Piano Adventures
Stilwell Pianos
My First Piano
Chapin Piano Service LLC
Classics Unlimited Music
RCN Certificate Program
Az Piano
PianoFonics
Southwest Pianos
FJH Music Company
Piano Marvel
Practice Space

Please make sure to support these businesses throughout this year!

For further information about conference booklet advertising and educational exhibitor showcases, please contact Mary Beth Schaffer at <a href="mailto:mbs723@shafferstudio.net">mbs723@shafferstudio.net</a>.

Submitted by,

Mary Beth Shaffer, NCTM, Advertising Chair

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Membership Chair Michelle Wachter, DMA

Welcome to 2021! As of February 26, ASMTA has 426 registered members. Please join me in giving a warm welcome to our newest members:

Catherine Alonzo Daniel Linder
Nancy Chase Harold Moses
Mikayla Dulaney Houston Nelson
Mandy Ellis Dante Palau
Amy Fan Cherise Sant
Jim Hill Ivan Yang
Yukyung Hwang David Zych

If know someone who would benefit from the resources and opportunities available through membership in MTNA, please let them know about the sixmonth/trial membership, which is available to individuals who have never been MTNA members. This membership runs from January 1 through June 30, and national dues are discounted by 50%. Please encourage those who are eligible to join MTNA at this low rate.

If I can be of any help with membership renewals or questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch! My email is <a href="mailto:michelle.wachter@nau.edu">michelle.wachter@nau.edu</a>.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wachter, DMA ASMTA Membership Chair

# **Independent Music Teachers Forum** (IMTF)

Mandarin G Cheung-Yueh, NCTM, Chair



Dear ASMTA members,

I hope everyone has enjoyed a restful winter break and that 2021 has been good to you thus far.

Since my report in the Fall issue of MusiGram, I have connected with the Collegiate Chapters at ASU and NAU and pre-

sented to the NAU's Student Chapter and NAMTA at their joint virtual meeting on Saturday, February 6 with an overview on five different assessment programs. A follow-up session with a closer look on select assessment programs is scheduled for Saturday, April 3. I shall also continue this liaison effort with UofA and the community colleges throughout the state.

Several virtual workshops reflecting the topics of interest and concerns gathered from the November survey results:

# Saturday, February 27 10:00am Fun Music Games to Engage Students

Guest presenter Jodie Carter from Henderson, Nevada, a fellow piano teacher and co-owner of Piano Box Games at <a href="www.PianoGames.net">www.PianoGames.net</a>, spent an informative hour showcasing a range of games she has designed, based on her mother's creations, which teachers can use to engage students, for both in-person and virtual lessons. Jodie also shared briefly her experience in student recruitment during the pandemic.

Monday, March 8 10:00am Engaging Young Beginning-Level Students in Online Lessons ASMTA member Mary Beth Shaffer (EVMTA) worked with three beginning level students in three respective 20-minute mini lessons followed by a Q&A session.

# Saturday, March 27 10:00am Recording for Auditions/Competitions/Assessments

Guest presenter Jared Immerman will share his knowledge of recording equipment and helpful tips in preparing videos for various virtual events. Registration is also required for this free session. Upon registration, you will receive confirmation email(s) with corresponding information about joining the session(s). Watch for details for two more sessions in the works in upcoming monthly

MusiEmails and local newsletters.

As always, feel free to contact me at <a href="mailto:cmk467op53@cox.net">cmk467op53@cox.net</a> if you have any questions or concerns.

Musically always,

Mandarin G Cheung-Yueh, NCTM DMA MM BM FTCL LTCL ASMTA IMTF Chair

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MTNA: <u>www.mtna.org</u>
ASMTA: <u>www.asmta.org</u>

CMTA: None

EVMTA: www.evmta.org

PMTA: <a href="https://www.phoenixmusicteachers.org">www.phoenixmusicteachers.org</a> <a href="https://www.tucsonmusicteachers.org">www.tucsonmusicteachers.org</a> <a href="h



Collegiate Chapter Hannah Creviston, NCTM, Chair

The ASU/ASMTA Virtual Piano Pedagogy Day with Dr. Scott Price took place on Saturday,October 3, 2020. We had several area teachers in attendance, as well as collegiate members from ASU and MCC (many of whom also presented).

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Creviston, NCTM Collegiate Chapters Chair



# **Arizona Study Program**

Barbara Russell, NCTM, Chairman



The past year has been one of numbers. It seems every time we turn on the news there are new "numbers" to consider. New data, new statistics, new percentages, new cases, new vaccines given, new numbers to introduce into the mix of our daily lives. I have a number to include in the deluge of information as well.

#### 1,418

This is the number of students enrolled for the online Arizona Study Program evaluations for 2021. So, what is the significance of this number? It shows that annual ASP enrollments are lower this year, as expected. But to me, it means much more.

It means that 1,418 students across the state continued music study despite a worldwide pandemic. Their lives were disrupted, but music remains a constant force.

It means that over one thousand parents recognize the value of music education in the lives of their children.

It means that music teachers across the state have preserved an income.

It means that piano tuners and technicians have **hundreds** of pianos across the state to maintain and service. It keeps them in business.

It means that we can hire adjudicators to evaluate our students, benefitting both students and our professional adjudicators. This is how we contribute to the economy.

It means that teachers in Arizona are maintaining their membership in the Arizona State Music Teachers Association in order to participate. We are sustaining a nonprofit organization for our future.

It means that we are supporting the Music Teachers National Association with our membership dues.

It means that, despite the obstacles in the educational system over the past year, parents still made attending piano lessons a part of their weekly schedule. That means it is important.

Continued...

It means 1,418 students are studying music theory, music history, and repertoire. We know this because every student enrolled must purchase a workbook and take a test. We are part of their educational curriculum.

It means that over **one thousand** households in the state of Arizona hear live music at the piano on a regular basis.

Sure, enrollment numbers are traditionally higher, but this number brings me great consolation. It means that we are doing our part to invest in **1,418** musical lives despite a worldwide pandemic.

This pandemic will pass, but what we instill in our students as "important" will last generations. It's just a number, but it represents tenacity and endurance in uncertain times and so much more.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Russell, NCTM ASP State Chairman





# Keep Your Student's Skills and Performance Goals On Track

RCM Remote Exams can help your student's development plan stay on schedule. With RCM Remote Exams, students can achieve the success you are preparing them for by completing their practical exams when they're ready, in their own space, and on their own instrument.

Administered by expert examiners, you can be certain your students will experience the RCM testing process you know and trust.

Learn More: rcmusic.ca/remoteexams

From the very start of the remote exam, I experienced the presence of the examiner as if in-person. The quality of the call was clear and was maintained without any interruptions throughout the exam. The part I liked best was that I was able to musically enhance my recital pieces with the stress-level being low.

There is nothing better than playing on your own piano for a certifying exam from the comfort zone of your own home!

- RCM Student, Maya Krishnan



# **Local Associations**



Cochise Music Teachers Association Hope Struse, CMTA President

No Submission from CMTA

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# Eastern Arizona Music Teachers Association Trisha Simmons, NCTM EAMTA President

Greetings from Eastern Arizona!

We haven't had much activity so far this year. We are developing a virtual plan for our spring events while still hoping we can hold them in person.

With the help of the outlying district grant we were able to get all of our membership registered for the MTNA Virtual Conference. We are looking forward to getting together for a viewing party on Pedagogy Saturday.

Trisha Simmons, NCTM, EAMTA President

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East Valley Music Teachers Association Sherin Moustafa NCTM, EVMTA President



EVMTA's In-Person Fall Recital was held on November 7th, and it was a success. Due to COVID-19, we had less people registered, however, it allowed us to have more room for social distancing and made it easier to follow the safety guidelines according to the CDC.

EVMTA also held a members' meeting in November, a virtual masterclass on

Beethoven's keyboard music. The participated students and members learned a lot from the guest teachers and it was a very educational event for all.

Our December student activity was Composers Celebration Concert. We had 57 participants in 4 different concerts to celebrate Beethoven's 250th birthday. The performance was held virtually and had a variety of music, included sonatas, variations, and dances. The event was also successful.

Our long-time EVMTA member, Frances Kaspar, has been **nominated to receive an MTNA Foundation Fellowship Fund** for 2021. Within a month of announcing this honor to the members, we were able to raise over \$1,500.00 for Fran to receive this honor at the MTNA National Conference in the upcoming Spring. This is a very exciting news and deserving for Fran as she has dedicated her entire life to music and serving our community. I am very thankful and proud of our members for working together to make this happen.

Submitted by,

Sherin Moustafa, NCTM EVMTA President



# Northern Arizona Music Teachers Association Rebecca Cauthen, President

NAMTA is preparing for the upcoming ASP evaluations and the NAU piano festival.

We have been very fortunate to have Mandarin Cheung-Yueh give a very informative zoom presentation on various evaluations options available.

We are looking forward to a follow up presentation in a couple of months.

Rebecca Cauthen, NAMTA President

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# **Winter 2021 Publication Deadlines**

MusiGRAM submissions due June 15, 2021

MusiGRAM Published—June 30, 2021



**Tucson Music Teachers Association Marie Sierra, TMTA President** 

No Submission.

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## Phoenix Music Teachers Association Dr. Stuart Foster, PMTA President

2020-2021 has been a challenge for everyone, and I think it's a tribute to PMTA that we've adapted as well as we have - we've held all of our monthly meetings



and most of our events in one form or another. Our President-Elect Nellie Cronin arranged excellent monthly Zoom meeting presentations, and in my own experience the information and memories one is left with from an online presentation are not very different - I'm remembering faces and words being spoken online instead of the real thing, but it's the same information

and there's still a connection. Let's just stay away from all discussion of audio quality.

Many of us continue to teach online at least part of the time, and I think it's true that most of us have started teaching in person, as well, with masks and distancing. It may be the wrong time to relax all restrictions and try to return to normal, but at least there's a light at the end of the tunnel as more and more of us are able to get vaccinated.

Considering the challenges we faced, our main fall events, Fall Festival and Music at the Mall, both went quite well. Fall Festival was online and had a good number of registrants. Music at the Mall (Dec. 12) was in person, at both Arrowhead Towne Center and Paradise Valley Mall, and though registration was down, it went well and was a valuable and enjoyable performing experience for those who took part. With gaps in the schedule at each location, several teachers filled in with solos, which also was fun. This past fall, we also had two successful Student Recitals, done a little differently, with students making individual appointments at Riverton Piano to record their performances, which were then spliced together to form the recitals.

Over these next two or three months, we're looking forward to another Student Recital, planned by Cheryl Langley and Jelena Vladikovic; our March General Meeting; an online Vocal Festival/Masterclass organized by Liz Owens and Charlotte Gordon (at least I haven't heard that this will not take place); an online Piano Ensemble concert, with many thanks to co-chairs Sue Shiner and Suszy Traylor and others; an online Dean & Carolyn Elder Competition, which went quite well last year, considering it was our first online event (and which is being chaired again by world-renowned event chair duo Michele Cohen and Stuart Foster); and of course ASP and the State Conference.

Submitted by Stuart Foster, PMTA President