



Paulo Steinberg, NCTM
President

Susan Atkins, NCTM
President-elect

Becky Wallenborn
Vice President, Membership

Mun Lee Han, NCTM
Treasurer

Laura Cardin
Secretary

Lisa Moxley, NCTM
Certification

Samantha Luck
IMTF

Donna Halleck
State Chair for Local Associations

Gabriella Ryan
Immediate Past President

Jeanette Winsor, NCTM
NewsNotes Editor

NewsNotes

President's Notes

Paulo Steinberg, NCTM, VMTA President

August, 2015

As this is my last report as VMTA president, I would like to thank the VMTA Board and all members for the great opportunity I had to work with you. I am thankful for so many good experiences, so many places I had a chance to visit and for so many great friendships developed.

I heard this question from some of you, "how do you manage to keep sane, trying to juggle between having a full-time job, performing and teaching, while traveling for business meetings, attending conferences and summits, visiting local chapters, and still having time to send us so many messages and reminders by email?"

The answer is love. I love what I do, I love VMTA, I loved serving and devoting many hours to this Association, knowing that my time spent was for a good cause—to promote music and musicianship.

Speaking about serving, I am happy to announce a few additions to the VMTA Board—Julie Slingerland as our new IMTF Chair; Agnes Wan as our new Yearbook and *NewsNotes* Advertising Chair; and Sarah Strom as our new Yearbook Chair. And last but not least, Elizabeth Caluda will start her two-year term as our new President-Elect on December 1st, 2015. Please help me welcome all of them!

At the MTNA Summit for leaders in Cincinnati in September 2014, I had the opportunity to meet MTNA officers and MTA State presidents, and make new friends. I'm so glad one of them came to the 2015 VMTA conference—Marc Hebda, Southern Division Director, came especially from Florida to be with us at Wintergreen Resort. He delivered an inspiring speech, and congratulated us on a job well done. Dr. Hebda mentioned that, "As much as a conference can provide us with a shot in the arm, so to speak, for another year, nothing means as much as seeing the performances and successes of our young people, such as the winners of the VMTA concerto competitions. What a wonderful opportunity for some of them to perform with the Wintergreen Summer Music Festival Orchestra! The commitment, the pride, and the abundant joy in their faces and in their music is both the goal

and the essence of our profession. Teaching, and teaching music in particular, is more important now than at any other time in history. I challenge each of you to be diligent in your service to young people and to your art, and remember that you touch lives every day."

In 2015, I attended both the Southern Division Competitions in Knoxville, TN, and the MTNA National Conference in Las Vegas, NV. We placed really well at the Southern Division competitions with 6 winners and 4 honorable mentions! And we had a 2nd place winner at the MTNA competitions final round (national!). Congratulations to Min Ji Lee and to her teacher John O'Connor. Congratulations to all the students and teachers who participated in the MTNA competitions. You made me proud!

Having the MTNA summit for leaders as inspiration, our immediate VMTA Past President, Gabriella Ryan, implemented our own summit for VMTA leadership in 2013. Following her wise steps as President, I organized our 2nd summit during our conference at Wintergreen on July 16, 2015, with 20 attendees, including VMTA officers and local chapter presidents, who gathered together for a very productive day of events, and to discuss the future of VMTA. We have done a lot, but we can do much more!

We still have a few more months before Susan Atkins takes over as President on December 1st, but I already want to thank you for giving me this opportunity to grow. Thank you, Susan, for your hard work and for a very successful conference! Thank you, VMTA Board, for your support, and for volunteering your talent and precious time selflessly for the success and growth of our Association. Keep up the great work! I loved being your president! ■

PLAN TO ATTEND

**VMTA STATE AUDITIONS
MTNA COMPETITIONS**

**October 29-31, 2015
Virginia Commonwealth University
Richmond, Virginia**

Visit www.virginiamta.org for more information



SHENANDOAH™
UNIVERSITY
Shenandoah Conservatory



Announcing the appointment of
Ieva Jokubaviciute
Assistant Professor of Piano



SHENANDOAH CONSERVATORY

- Study at Shenandoah University’s renowned **Shenandoah Conservatory**
- Learn from internationally accomplished faculty in a creative and supportive artistic community
- Prepare for a meaningful and satisfying career
- Experience a vibrant performance culture with more than 400 concerts and recitals per year including The World of the Piano concert series
- Participate in masterclasses with visiting artists

PURSUE YOUR PASSION FOR ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE



Contact Admissions



Apply Now



Visit Shenandoah

800-432-2266 | admit@su.edu
www.su.edu/VMTA

Reports

CERTIFICATION

Diane Beyer Perett, Ph.D., NCTM
(dbperett@gmail.com)

Congratulations to the following VMTA members who have achieved national certification from MTNA between October 2014 and the present: Hye-Yun Chung Bennett, Marilyn Forman, Jiyon Agnes Han, Lisa Wold, Aphrodite Mitsopoulou, and Lee Ann Dransfield. Several other Virginia teachers are midway in the process.

The letters NCTM show the world outside VMTA that we music teachers are professionals—life long learners who aspire to and maintain high standards for ourselves in our teaching. Completing the process of national certification leads even the best of teachers to a higher level of excellence. We owe our students that excellence!

If you are an independent music teacher not already nationally certified, seriously consider starting the process now, as school is starting and you are organizing your studio and setting teaching goals for the coming year.

Read the certification information on the MTNA website, as well as the articles about certification in each issue of the AMT. Start work on one of the required teacher profile projects now—All but one of the five projects can be completed before you ever officially submit your application for certification to MTNA, and that can buy busy teachers a little extra time.

There are no tests to take!

Your local certification chair and I are happy to answer your questions, find mentors, and form study groups to help you earn your national certification.

Please let one of us know if you are interested. ■



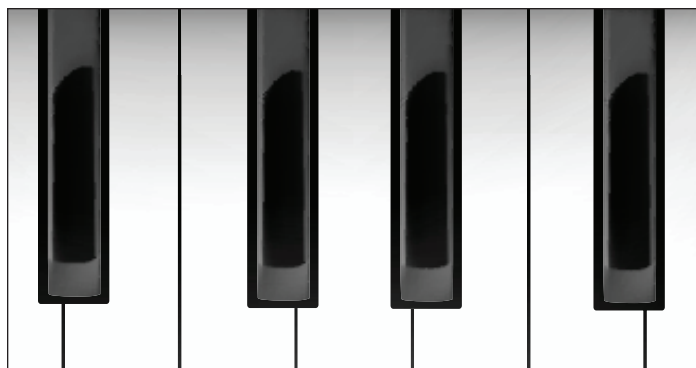
**Come study music
in a liberal arts setting**

Featuring:
Bachelor of Arts in Music
Music Education Licensure
Bachelor of Arts in Arts Management
Outstanding Faculty

Consider one of our specialized programs:
Program for the Exceptionally Gifted
Early College Academy
Adult Degree Program
Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Licensure Program

Mary Baldwin College is also home to
the Heifetz International Music Institute.

For further information
or audition materials, contact:
Dr. Lise Keiter
Department of Music
Mary Baldwin College
Staunton, VA 24401
(540) 887-7193
lkeiter@mbc.edu
www.mbc.edu



22nd Annual GALBRAITH TEACHER WORKSHOP, Recital, and Master Classes

THURSDAY, APRIL 21

- 10 am** Master class for Hollins University piano students
- 6:30 pm** Master class for Hollins University Academy of Music piano students

FRIDAY, APRIL 22

- 8:30 am** Coffee social, Bradley Conference Room
- 9 am** Workshop for Roanoke Valley piano teachers
- 7 pm** Recital: "Alexander performs Alexander"
During this "lecture-recital," Alexander will perform many of his more advanced works from various collections including all of the "24 Character Preludes," in addition to other late intermediate-early advanced solos.



Teacher Workshop by David Alexander Developing Artistry through Color, Choreography, and Characterization

This stimulating presentation will cover techniques to help beginning through late-intermediate level students play more artistically and stylistically. Artistic concepts, many music examples, and use of body gestures will be incorporated to give teachers concrete ideas to share with their students.



HOLLINS
UNIVERSITY

For more information: 540-362-6511 or www.hollins.edu

Certification Profile: Elizabeth Blakeslee

by Anne James, NCTM



A practice trophy competition in the month of May is Elizabeth Blakeslee's solution to the conundrum of needing students to be prepared for year-end recitals and auditions. While this activity could take place any month of the year, Ms. Blakeslee chooses May because it's such a busy time.

Students report their practice in increments of 500 minutes. For 500 minutes they receive a medal, and for 1,000 a small trophy. Increasingly larger trophies can be achieved for each additional 500 minutes. Each trophy is engraved with the actual number of minutes practiced.

Falls Church harpist Elizabeth Blakeslee taught at Shenandoah University for twelve years and had built up to ten students there when she left. She currently teaches three students at George Mason University in addition to the twenty-five preparatory students she has in her home studio. Second harpist in the National Symphony, Ms. Blakeslee previously held principal harp positions in the Richmond Symphony Orchestra and the Orquesta Sinfonica de Columbia in Bogota, and was guest principal harpist in the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra.

"Harp is a little esoteric, so I can't put my students in all the events that piano students are in. I have a whole technique curriculum with graded requirements—scales, arpeggios, chords,

trills, etc.—and I award belts in a series of nine colors culminating in black." In addition to the karate-style belts, students receive ribbons which they can tie to their harps. Ms. Blakeslee hires other harp teachers to evaluate her students.

"I mix things up. I have three recitals a year, in November, March and June. During the first trimester we have a focus on sight-reading. In the second trimester we focus on the belts and on chamber music. During the third trimester we work towards the recitals and competitions. As to competitions, I blow hot and cold on them. It's a great idea as long as the students don't take themselves too seriously."

At Auburn University Elizabeth Blakeslee studied with retired Metropolitan Opera harpist Marjorie Tyre. She did graduate work at Virginia Commonwealth University, studying harp with Philadelphia Orchestra harpist Marilyn Costello. In addition to her orchestral work she is busy with chamber music and recording. She has served on the boards of the American Harp Society and the Virginia String Teachers Association (VASTA) and was named VASTA Outstanding Studio Teachers of the Year in 2011. She served as President of NVMTA 2013–2014 and is on the MTNA Committee to name a local chapter of the year.

"I think certification is a wonderful program. I became certified to support the organization." ■

VMTA FALL FESTIVALS

Debbie Sacra, Fall Festival Coordinator



It's time again for the Fall Festival! Encouraging your students to participate is a great way to get them off to a fast start this fall. In

Northern Virginia, the festival will take place **Saturday, November 7, 2015.**

At Lynchburg and Richmond, the date of the festival is set as **Saturday, November 14, 2015.** In Roanoke, the festival will take place **Saturday, November 21, 2015.** The Winchester (Shenandoah) Fall Festival is still to be arranged. See below for the registration

postmark deadline and chairman for each location in addition to exact festival location. No late applications will be accepted.

You may enter students in piano, piano duet, organ, strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, classical guitar, accordion, or voice. Students must play one piece from the Contemporary Period containing at least one contemporary idiom. The second piece must be chosen from any historical period other than the Contemporary Period. In certain localities, pieces which are traditionally composed (perhaps from a method book) are accepted for the non-Contemporary piece, but only for beginning students. Please check with your local Fall Festival Chairman concerning this. Both pieces must be memorized. There are only two exceptions to this rule: 1) students in Levels III or IV who

play an avant garde piece may use their music if this has been cleared by the local chairman prior to the registration deadline or 2) entries in piano duet or organ. No photocopied music is allowed. Only originally composed music is accepted, no simplifications or popular music.

Check the VMTA Yearbook under "General Regulations for All VMTA Events" and

"VMTA Fall Festivals," for further information and regulations. Also check page 3 of the VMTA Yearbook for the contact information of each chairman.

Festivals will be held in the following locations with these **registration postmark deadlines** and local chairmen:

Lynchburg (CVMTA): November 1; F. Johnson Scott, President; held at West-Lynchburg Baptist Church (tentative location).

Northern Virginia: October 6; Lori Santos and Virginia Moore, Chairmen; held at Cherrydale United Methodist Church, 3701 Lorcom Lane, Arlington, VA 22207.

Richmond: October 13; Lois Broadwater and Savannah Hatcher, Chairmen; held at the University of Richmond.

Roanoke: October 9; Bittsy Hall and Adele Carliss, Chairmen; held at Hollins University, Roanoke.

Winchester (Shenandoah): TBA; Lee Ann Dransfield, President. ■

WINTERGREEN RESORT AN INSPIRING BACKDROP FOR SUMMER CONFERENCE

Susan Atkins, NCTM, President-elect

The VMTA Summer Conference took place at Wintergreen Resort in July with beautiful weather to match. In coordination with Wintergreen Performing Arts, both groups shared amazing performances and inspiring clinicians. One of the highlights was a concert featuring the winners of the VMTA Concerto Competition and the Wintergreen Festival Orchestra. The four students who played exceeded all expectations and elicited standing ovations from the appreciative audience. Here's a description of the musicians and their performances:

Roman Kasparian, 16 years old, has been taking piano lessons for about 10 years. His teacher is Ms. Margarita Gramaticova. Since 2007, he has been a frequent winner of piano competitions and participant in honors recitals in the Metro Washington area. Roman played the Grieg Piano Concerto in A Minor, Op. 16 with the Festival Orchestra.

Violinist Leyla Feyzulayeva was born in Uzbekistan, Tashkent, into a musical family. When Leyla was six, piano became her first instrument. She began violin lessons a year later with Irina Chupikova, who now teaches at Gnessin Russian Academy of Music. Leyla studied violin for twelve years at Uspensky Music School for Gifted Children. She then went to Interlochen Arts Academy for one year, studying violin with Yuri Namkung. After graduating from Interlochen Arts Academy, Leyla decided to go to Shenandoah University, as she

understood very soon after, a perfect place for her. Now Leyla is a rising senior at SU in the violin studio of Akemi Takayama. Leyla played the first movement from Nigun from Baal Shem by Ernst Bloch.

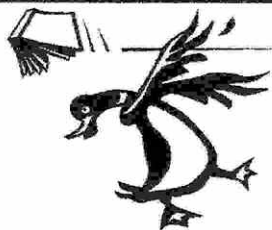
Jean Kim is an honor roll student at the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology and an oboist in the Peabody Youth Orchestra, Johns Hopkins University. Jean's teacher is Yeong Su Kim. Jean played the Oboe Concerto in E flat major by Vincenzo Bellini with the Festival Orchestra.

Carlos Figueroa is a young emerging cellist from city of Barquisimeto, Venezuela. Figueroa has worked with renowned conductor Maestro Gustavo Dudamel and the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra and was a member of the Lara State Symphony Orchestra. Figueroa's primary teacher was the renowned cellist Maestro William Molina. In 2013, he arrived in Virginia to begin studies at the Shenandoah Conservatory of Music with Maestro Tom Shaw, long time cellist of the Audubon Quartet. Carlos played the 4th movement of the Cello Concerto in E minor, Op. 85 by Edward Elgar.

Other highlights of the conference included the headliner speaker, Barry Green, author of *The Inner Game of Music* and Hal Leonard composer and arranger, Phillip Keveren. In spite of the excellent performances, clinicians and the mountain atmosphere, the 2015 conference will be the last to take place in the summer. Attendance decreased to 70 people in 2015 which wasn't enough to support the high cost of the venue. The VMTA Executive Board voted to hold future conferences in the fall in conjunction with the VMTA auditions and competitions.

Stay tuned for next year's conference to take place in the Fall of 2016. ■

THE BARSS **THEORY BOOKS**



Following VMTA Theory Syllabus
For information contact

Fay Barss

804 282 7725

faysmusic@gmail.com

(www.barsstheory.com)

VMTA GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING JULY 18, 2015, WINTERGREEN, VA

Larua Cardin, VMTA Secretary

President Paulo Steinberg called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

Agenda approved as written.

Minutes from July 19, 2014 Conference at Wintergreen Resort, VA were approved as revised.

Officers Reports:

President – Paulo Steinberg:

- This is a bitter-sweet report, as this is my last report as President. I am thankful for the experience and many great new friendships.
- Last September, Paulo attended a MTNA summit for leaders and met many great leaders. One of the leaders, Marc Hebda, Southern Division Director, is here with us this weekend.
- We had our second Presidents Summit this weekend where 20 leaders attended. We had an inspiring time together and discussed the future of VMTA.
- Paulo is proud to have been a representative of Virginia at the Southern Division Competitions in Knoxville, TN and the MTNA National Conference. At the Southern Division Competition, Virginia placed well with 6 winners and 4 honorable mentions. At the MTNA Competition we had a second place winner.
- There are a few months left before Susan Atkins takes over as President on December 1st. Thank you all for the opportunity to grow and thank you Susan for all that hard work you have done.

President Elect – Susan Atkins:

- It has been a very good year. The state competitions were held at Liberty University in this past fall. Liberty was a great place to have the competitions and they have a new performing arts center. This fall, the competitions will be at VCU on October 29-31, 2015. I encourage you to attend as it is a wonderful event and is great to see the students perform.
- Thank you for coming to the VMTA Conference and thank you for the support. Thank you to all who helped out at the event. Thank you to Laura Cardin for helping out with registration and thank you Paulo Steinberg for mentoring me.

VP Membership – Rebecca Wallenborn:

- Our 2014–2015 membership totals were: 675 active members, 153 senior members, 31 student members, which is a total membership of 859. This is a decrease of 11 from last year's total 870.
- VMTA ranks sixth in membership out of fifty states and D.C., and holds the largest state membership in the Southern Division which is represented by nine states.
- Each of us present here and in our respective chapters is an ambassador for VMTA.
- Becky shared with us an inspiration message written by MTNA Vice President and Membership Chair, Karen Thickstun. (Paraphrased below)

MTNA members are like summer music campers; there are three types of campers:

1. *The shy camper—needs time to acclimate. Ask often and gently and let them find their time to come and join.*

2. *The outgoing camper—they can jump right in and do not have to be asked twice, but they need to be stimulated and challenged in order to stay engaged. As an organization we need to change, adapt and keep things fresh by being flexible and stimulation for professional development, education and socialization.*

3. *The follower—They are not obvious that they want to be asked, but they need to be asked. Listen and notice the subtle clues they may give. Do not overlook anyone or assume that they do not want to be a part of the organization.*

Be willing to be a broken record when reaching out to potential members. As musicians and teachers, no one understands the value of repetition as we do. Also, remember your love of music and desire to learn.

Secretary – Laura Cardin: Nothing to report.

Treasurer – Mun Lee Han:

- As of June 30, 2015—Balance in Checking Account: \$17,505.06; Savings Account: \$22,025.56; CD: \$4,259.55.
- The budget was presented. All were in favor of the budget.
- The Executive Board has agreed to increase District Audition application fee from \$20 to \$25.

Certification – Diane Perett:

- We are 34th in the nation for certification and Diane would like to see us double the number of people who are certified for next year.
- This year, so far, we have six newly certified teachers.

Local Associations – Donna Halleck:

- On Thursday, we had our second, bi-annual Presidents Summit with 20 in attendance, 10 of our 12 chapters represented. The summit gives the local presidents a chance to discuss problems and suggestions to each other—the main issue is increasing membership. The summit also provides a great time to share great ideas that can be brought back to the individual chapters and presidents develop new friendships and comradery amongst peers.
- Dr. Erin Freeman

Old Business:

Theory test update – Tonya Menard:

- 942 students participated in the theory test and the ranking results will be posted in *NewsNotes*.
- Year two tests have been created. Sample tests will be available to the Theory Chairmen in about two weeks.
- Grading on the tests will be changed to make easier to grade; totals will be out of 100 points.
- Added to the syllabus for level 9 or 10, identifying a period of an example. Which period uses the characteristic from Baroque, Classical, Romantic or 20th Century?
- The President announced that the VMTA Board agreed to allocate \$250 to Tonya Menard for the revisions.

New Business / Announcements

- VMTA State Auditions – The Board decided to eliminate the requirement for length of study, with the same teacher.
- 2015 Conference – Thank you Susan Atkins for your hard work this year.
- 2016 Conference – The finances for the conference at Wintergreen have been high and the attendance has not been enough to compen-

(continued on page 8)

ADVERTISING INFORMATION FOR VMTA'S *NEWSNOTES* AND YEARBOOK

Please send your electronically* prepared ad, a check made payable to VMTA, and the completed form to: Agnes Wan, 219 River Point Drive, Suffolk, VA 23434, pianoatjubilee@gmail.com.

Ads may also be submitted via e-mail (stuffed or zipped if necessary) to Rose Brown, *NewsNotes* Graphic Artist, at design@rosebrown.com. Call Rose at 571-276-7577 (cell) if you have any questions about preparing your ad or submitting your ad electronically.

*Any combination of QuarkXPress (preferred), Illustrator, InDesign, PhotoShop, and PDF files are accepted. Do not send Microsoft Word or Publisher files. Include all fonts and imported graphics if you send native files.

ADVERTISING SIZES AND RATES

SIZE (width x height)	<i>NewsNotes</i> One Issue	<i>NewsNotes</i> Two Issues	Yearbook Only	Yearbook & <i>NewsNotes</i> Combo 1‡ or Combo 2‡	
Full page (7.5" x 10")	\$165	\$300	\$200	\$350	\$450
3/4 page (7.5" x 7")	\$125	\$225	\$175	n/a	n/a
1/2 page (7.5" x 4.5")	\$110	\$200	\$140	\$225	\$290
1/2-V page (3.625" x 10")	\$110	\$200	\$140	\$225	\$290
1/2-H page (two @ 7.5" x 2.25")	\$110	\$200	\$140	\$225	\$290
1/4 page (3.625" x 4.5")	\$85	\$150	\$100	\$150	\$200
1/4-H page (7.5" x 2.25")	\$85	\$150	\$100	\$150	\$200
Business Cards (3.625" x 2")	\$25	\$40	\$30	\$50	\$65

‡Combo 1: Yearbook and one issue of *NewsNotes*; Combo 2: Yearbook and two issues of *NewsNotes*.

AD DEADLINES

July 15—Fall Issue *NewsNotes* & Yearbook

January 15—Spring Issue *NewsNotes*

VMTA ADVERTISING REQUEST FORM

Advertiser _____

Contact Person _____

Title or Department _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

e-mail _____ Date _____

Size(s) of Ad(s): Full Page 3/4 Page 1/2 Page 1/2-V Page 1/2-H Page 1/4 Page 1/4-H Page Bus. Card

Advertisement Will Appear In: *NewsNotes*—One Issue *NewsNotes*—Two Issues Yearbook Only Combo 1 Combo 2

Begin with Issue: *NewsNotes* Spring Issue (Year _____) *NewsNotes* Fall Issue (Year _____) Yearbook (Year _____)

Special Instructions _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Please complete the form, make your check payable to VMTA, and mail to: Agnes Wan, 219 River Point Drive, Suffolk, VA 23434.

Virginia Music Teachers Association

Jeanette Winsor, NCTM, *NewsNotes* Editor
6317 Brynmawr Lane
Virginia Beach, VA 23464-3730

Minutes... (continued from page 6)

sate the cost, we would need a minimum of 100 attendees and this year we only have about 70 some attending. We will be having our 2016 conference in the fall and combining the conference with the competitions. The weekend is usually around end of October/beginning of November.

- Lisa Keiter, MTNA Competition Chair, commented that people have not been attending the competitions and hopes that combining the events, there will be better attendance at the competitions.
 - Gabriella Ryan has been nominated for the position of Southern Division, Director-Elect. Please vote in the fall.
 - Chi Nguyen was selected to participate on MTNA Pedagogy Saturday 2016. "Best ideas for RMM" (Recreational Music Making).
 - Susan Atkins, Chair of the Nominating Committee presented the nominated 2015-2017 slate of officers:
 - President – Susan Atkins
 - President-Elect – Elizabeth Caluda
 - VP Membership – Rebecca Wallenborn
 - Secretary – Laura Cardin
 - Treasurer – Mun Lee Han
 - Certification – Diane Perett
 - IMTF – Julie Slingerland
 - State Chair of Local Associations – Donna Halleck
- No other nominations from the members.
All approved the nominated slate of officers for 2015–2017.

- Michelle Carragan needs items for the scrapbook from 2005-present: pictures, newspaper clippings, budget reports, conference papers, MTNA events, chapter events, performances, announcements, etc.
- Jeanette Winsor will be sending out *NewsNotes* and needs entries by August 1st.
- Renew your membership.
- Paulo Steinberg read a thank you letter from Nancy Breth, who was nominated for MTNA Teacher of the Year.
- Mun Lee Han was presented with an award for "Great Appreciation for Valuable Contribution".
- Marc Hebda, President of the Southern Division, shared a few words with us on the benefits we as music teachers gain from each other and our association with MTNA, Southern Division, VMTA and Local Associations.
- Susan Atkins presented Paulo Steinberg with a gift of thanks, on behalf of all the members of VMTA.

Adjournment at 9:41 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Laura Cardin ■