

# NVMTA News

February 1, 2014

## By-Laws Revision 2014

*Unfortunately, due to the weather, the General Membership Meeting scheduled for January 29, 2014 was cancelled.*

*The principal agenda item for the meeting was the introduction of the proposed By-Laws Revision 2014.*

*The biggest proposed change is in the organizational structure of the organization. The seven elected officials (President, Vice President for Student Activities, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and three Members-At-Large) will form an Executive Committee whose primary functions will be to implement policy and provide financial oversight. The Executive Board, consisting of about 60 event chairs and co-chairs*

*and committee chairs will continue to meet three times a year.*

*Documents on the website:*

- [By-Laws Committee Report and Overview of the Proposed By-Laws Revision](#)
- [By-Laws Organizational Chart](#)
- [Call for Special Meeting](#)
- [NVMTA Proposed Revised By-Laws Comparison Table](#)
- [Proposed By-Laws Revision 2014](#)
- [Proviso to the Proposed By-Laws](#) : This document explains the transition, since all current officers were elected until 2015.

*I urge each and every member of NVMTA to:*

- *Read the Proposed By-Laws Revision and supporting documents.*
- *Feel free to ask questions of any By-Laws Committee member.*

- *Attend the Special Meeting on April 2, 2014, which will be devoted to a discussion of the Proposed By-Laws Revision*

*We will vote on the By-Laws at the General Meeting on April 30, 2014.*

## Highlights from the December 4, 2013 General Membership Meeting

- Standing Rules Amendments approved
- Lori Santos named NVMTA Most Valuable Member December 2013



*Lori Santos*

## NVMTA IT Connection:

### Technology in concert with music teachers!

As [www.mtfest.com](http://www.mtfest.com) premiered this fall, teachers experienced first-hand the advantages to the streamlined process of registration. NVMTA has hired Dorian Business Systems, Inc. (aka Charms) to create and implement our online scheduling website, [mtfest.com](http://mtfest.com).

- Teachers can begin registration, stop, and continue at a later time.
- Forget what piece or level a student was registered for? Go back and check anytime!
- As a chair person, you can see registrations happening in real time to keep track of event planning.
- Charms works closely with the IT committee in building the scheduling programs as well as trouble shooting and providing solutions to unforeseen issues as they arise.

**The technology is making it easier for teachers to focus on students, not forms!**

#### *Congratulations to:*

- Douglas Harrington, who managed the 2013 Raffle and raised \$2729
- Marilynne Jost, who managed the pecan sales which raised \$926

## WANTED!!!

*A volunteer to edit this newsletter — please contact Elizabeth Blakeslee at [elizabethblakeslee@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethblakeslee@gmail.com)*

## Upcoming Registration Deadlines

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Tuesday, February 4  
*Registration Deadline for Piano  
Concerto Festival, March 7-9,  
2014*

[www.mtfest.com](http://www.mtfest.com)

Thursday, February 6  
*Registration Deadline for General  
Recitals, February 16, 2014*  
[\*Application General Recitals\*](#)

Thursday, February 20  
*Registration Deadline for Judged  
Recitals, March 2, 2014*  
[\*Application Judged Recitals\*](#)

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## Upcoming Events

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Saturday, February 8  
Theory Mastery Day  
Cooper Middle School

Sunday, February 9  
Judged Recital 2:00  
Woman's Club of Arlington

Saturday, February 15  
Bach-Baroque Festival and  
Competition, Bethlehem  
Lutheran Church

Saturday, February 15  
Woodwinds Concerto  
Competition, First Christian  
Church of Falls Church

## ***Lori Santos, Most Valuable Member December 2013***

I came from a musical household, and everyone in my home played at least two instruments. When I was about four years old, I began asking my parents for a piano, but I didn't get my first piano until I was twelve, so I got a late start in life with piano lessons. While piano was my first instrument of choice, when I was old enough for the instrumental music program in elementary school, I chose the flute, and I continued playing the flute throughout high school and college. When I was twelve my aunt gave me her old piano, and I've been playing ever since.

It wasn't my original intention to get a degree in music. I went to Frostburg State University as a business and foreign language major, but actively participated in music ensembles, and continued with private lessons. About three years into the business program, and realizing that I needed to follow my passion, I switched my major to music. After college, I continued my piano studies with instructors at Southern Methodist University, the University of North Texas and later at Peabody Conservatory. I eventually earned my M.M. in piano pedagogy at Catholic University.

Unfortunately, I was a non-participating member of NVMTA for many years, and only occasionally attended meetings. Jim Litzelman was my piano instructor while at Catholic University, and he often suggested that I get more involved with NVMTA. Then one day Julie Slingerland called me and asked if I would be chairman of the District Auditions, and the rest is history.

I was reluctant to get involved with running an event, because I didn't think I had the time. While the time commitment can sometimes be exhausting, I've enjoyed every minute of it. Chairing events gave me the opportunity to experience another aspect of music and teaching in Northern Virginia. I've also made many wonderful new friends throughout the process. Having been chairman of both the District Auditions and the Fall Festival, I've come to realize that NVMTA events aren't just for the area's finest young students, the organization offers something for everyone at every skill level. It's a great source of motivation for both teachers and students. I've also offered to help with technical support for our new registration website, because I want to support Elizabeth Blakeslee's efforts in moving NVMTA into the 21st Century. I think that if we become a part of the digital age, we might also attract the participation of some of our younger members.

I knew when I was a child that I was going to be an artist or a musician when I grew up. Piano has become my life's work, but when I'm not teaching, I spend a lot of time working on fused glass projects in my friend Kristi's home studio or in the glass studio at Glen Echo Park. I've always had a fascination with hot glass and how it can be manipulated into different shapes. I love that element of surprise when a finished project comes out of the kiln.

I also have a passion for lace knitting and cooking. I love to cook for my friends. Also, preparing a side dish or two to share at District Auditions or the Fall Festival provides me with a few moments of relaxation time before the events. Cooking is also how I relax before a recital. I usually end my day with a few rows of knitting, and with one or both of my cats sitting on or beside me.

The one thing that few people know about me, is that when I was young, I liked spending a lot of my after school time up in the sky. Literally! My dad and his friend Jerry had a plane which they owned together, and I would often spend time flying either as a student pilot or as a passenger with Jerry on a nice sunny afternoon. It was a great practice break!