

## Suzuki Association of Indiana

### First Annual State Meeting

July 28, 2012

9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Benton House in Historic Irvington of Indianapolis  
312 S. Downey St. 46219

9:30 a.m.- registration and light breakfast.

10:00 a.m. introductions were made. Those present were

Emilie Grondin of Mishawaka, cello

Kim Fanning of New Albany, music school director

Emily Thompson of Marion – violin, independent studio

Paula Popenfoose of Warsaw – piano, private instructor

Paul Young of Indianapolis, cello instructor with Indianapolis Academy of Music

Liz E. Brooks of Indianapolis, cellist and co-director of Indianapolis Academy of Music

Dawn Evans of Bloomington, piano instructor

Karen Walls of Carmel, violin instructor

Diana Hummel of Bloomington, piano instructor

Danna Kostroun of Indianapolis, Suzuki parent and violinist raised as Suzuki

Jillian Chrisman of Indianapolis, violin, independent studio

Rachel Gries of Indianapolis/Greenwood? Violin, Indianapolis Academy of Music

Blaise Poth of Indianapolis, co-director of the Indianapolis Academy of Music

10:30 – 12:45 Discussion and approval of by-laws. Officers and board members are voted in.

By-laws discussion:

The by-laws, written and read by Dawn Evans and later read by Emily Thompson, led to a lively discussion as we persevered to define ourselves and the association. Much discussion took place regarding Article 2. Section 2.2. (classes of membership). We strove to define active membership and ultimately agreed that it is the Suzuki Philosophy that sets us apart and defines who we are.

Article 3. Membership Meetings – we debated and could not decide whether to rotate the annual meeting evenly between northern Indiana, Indianapolis (central), and southern Indiana (a three year rotation) or to hold the annual meeting every other year in Indianapolis and rotating the other years to north or south (a 4 year rotation: central, north, central, south). We agreed to pose this question to all the Suzuki teachers to see what the general opinion is.

Also, there was some question as to the voting rights of officers as board members or as active members. Liz agreed to research this topic so that it may be clarified.

By 12:45 we had completed our arduous work on the by-laws. We proceeded to take a quick vote on the officers and board members, then broke for lunch.

Officers for a two year term are:

Elizabeth (Liz) Efroymsen-Brooks – President

Dawn Evans – Vice-President

Jillian Chrisman – Secretary

Diana Hummel – Treasurer

Board Members voted in to an open ended term are:

Paul Young

Maria Mastrapaolo

Joyce Davis

Emilie Grondin

Danniella (Danna) Kostroun

Ann Sloan

Sarah Pierce

It was suggested as an advisory board:

Carol Dallinger – (teacher trainer)and she has informally agreed

Glen Kwok – (president of International Violin Competition of Indianapolis and teacher trainer, also ‘raised’ Suzuki) has shown interest but has not been confirmed

Dianna Schroeder – (former chair on SAA) needs to be approached

John Meed – (lawyer) needs to be approached

Guest Speaker was Linda Steig, violinist from Columbus, OH

Ann Sloan provided transportation for Linda and attended the meeting during this time.

She spoke of her training in Japan and emphasized the saying “Success Breeds Success”

Emily Thompson took notes of this talk and will send them along to me to complete the minutes.

Afterwards, we broke into two groups. A board meeting was held in one group and in the other, a 2 year plan for the association was formed.

Board Meeting – those present were;

Emilie Grondin

Paul Young

Danna (Daniella) Kostroun

Liz (Elizabeth) E. Brooks

Jillian Chrisman

Diana Hummel

Emilie mentioned we would need a Form 990 to list Board Members officially (for tax purposes?).

We agreed financial reports shall be given quarterly and sent to board members via e-mail. It was advised to put the report (excel document) into a pdf file so that it may be easily opened.

Jillian agreed to compile e-mail address list of Board Members and Advisory Board Members and also call Sarah Pierce regarding membership

We agreed that membership renewal deadline shall be July 1<sup>st</sup>.

It was suggested that each board member write a visionary statement to be sent to other board members. Jillian will facilitate this.

For now, because we are starting, it was suggested and agreed that we meet quarterly and use skype to meet with those who are long distance while those gathered in Indianapolis meet at one location. It was also suggested that we work at keeping these meetings to one hour.

Liz will coordinate the next meeting. She will collect ideas for the next meeting and will send them to us in advance.

It was also suggested that we vote on the membership fee for active and associate membership next year.

Notices/reminder of annual meeting should be sent in June with notice to renew membership.

A projected budget should be developed.

Next Meeting Ideas/Agenda

Projects and related fees

Fees

Financial Report

Projected Budget

Membership Fees

Prioritize two-year plan

The other group of members met to devise a two-year plan. Emily Thompson has agreed to send this information from this group to be added to the minutes. Here is what she sent on Aug 3, 2012.

2-Year Plan brainstorming session

SAI Annual Meeting

July 28, 2012

Liz's suggestions:

comprehensive directory of members

e-newsletter

graduation tapes reviewed by SAI members

Emilie Grandin's ideas:

website

Dawn Evans ideas: 2 pages of notes, separate document

Brainstorm session ideas:

**Annual events:** Board Meeting/Membership Meeting

**Regular events:**

Play-ins (in each region)

Piano play-ins need a collection of instruments, either an inexpensive location with pianos or students and teachers bring in electric keyboards. (Book 1 students can double up.)

SAI Weekend Event (annually in an alternating location different from that year's annual meeting)

- parent education seminar
- guest teacher masterclass
- play-in
- composition performance (submissions adjudicated by SAI committee and winners selected for a recital)
- fundraiser dinner (in addition to registration fees for participants)

Piano weekends may have to be planned separately from string weekends to cover the different needs for instruments and a different masterclass teacher.

More notes on the composition contest idea: Suzuki teachers need ways to reinforce compositional skills by our students. We could use the SAI to give students an outlet for compositions and to encourage our students to create compositions.

**Things to create for the SAI:**

A logo (logo contest?)

Blog/website/what does the SAA offer for affiliate chapters' web presence?

Facebook page

Newsletter

In depth directory (available on website?)

**Quarterly Newsletter (4x/year)**

To announce events

Achievements

Recitals

Contact update for members and new members

Emily Thompson will edit and send newsletter via email.

emilythompsonviolin@gmail.com

We gathered on the steps of the Benton House for a group photo. Liz, can you please send these to Emily Thompson for the facebook page she JUST made? Thanks!

Lastly, we ended our time together with a short play-in on the lawn. It was a beautiful sunny day and local Irvingtonians applauded from their front porch. Student, Kenny Goldfinger and his mother, Danna, helped lead the songs while Kenny's grandparents and younger brothers watched from the steps of the Benton House. Photos, babysitting, and clean up assistance was provided by Natalie Burris, former Suzuki violin student of Jillian Chrisman.