



AMTAS Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2020

AMTAS Mission

“The mission of the Student Affairs Advisory Board and AMTAS is to provide guidance, support, and knowledge to the American Music Therapy Association Students and regional boards, be the communication liaison between students and their faculty, acts as an educational resource concerning members learning and administration of bylaws and uphold rules and regulations, implementation of charges, ethical guidelines, and standards of practice.”

Inside This Issue

PG. 1

Our AMTAS Mission

PG, 2-4

Regional Updates

PG. 5

AMTAS Updates/Contact
Information

Regional Updates

During the Spring many of the regions conducted their regional conferences either in person or on the internet! Many music therapy students spent this time finishing very successful terms with past boards and spending time navigating a changed world with the new boards. Here are some updates on what our regional boards have been up to!!

Great Lakes Region



The annual GLR Conference took place back in March in Schaumburg, Illinois. This year, we decided to hold Passages from 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. and it was a huge success. Over 100 students signed up online and more than 80 attended. During Passages, we had 3 student presenters, an intern panel consisting of 5 current interns from the GLR region, a professional “intervention swap” with Dynamic Lynks, and a keynote speaker, Ami Kunimara, MA, MT-BC, who spoke on the importance of self-care. Students who attended Passages and our business meetings were given a free raffle ticket to be used towards any raffle item located at our booth in the exhibit hall. These raffle items included: 1 student scholarship, 1 intern scholarship, and 3 different raffle baskets. Speaking of our booth, we successfully raised over \$400 by selling raffle tickets, merchandise, and “Appreciation Grams.” Finally, per tradition, we “crashed” the professional business meeting with a music therapy rendition of Lizzo’s “Truth Hurts.” Check out the video on our Facebook page!

Before we forget, we’d like to give a big shout-out to this year’s scholarship recipients: Laura Hanson, Kara Schifano, and Alayna Prisby. Congrats future MT-BCs! -Anna Barker, GLR President



Western Region

2020-2021 WRAMTAS Elections: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, WRAMTAS held their election for 2020-2021 Executive Board positions online. Nominations opened March 1 11:59PM- April 18th 11:59PM. Bios were requested by Wednesday, April 22nd 11:59PM. Voting was available from April 24th 11:59PM- April 29th 11:59PM. In addition, to increase awareness, the WRAMTAS Executive Board held an information session in which they briefly spoke about their positions and were available to answer questions. Winners will be announced on the WRAMTAS social media pages (i.e. Facebook and Instagram) and website. -Livia Umeda, Outgoing WRAMTAS President



Liaison Committee Meetings

The WRAMTAS President, President-Elect, and Secretary conjunctly meet with the University Representatives (i.e. one designated individual from each university with a music therapy program in the Western Region) for bimonthly (i.e. every two months) meetings via Google Hangout. At these meetings, the WRAMTAS Executive Board members share information regarding current projects and receive feedback from the University Representatives. The University Representatives also share events and achievements at their respective universities and express how WRAMTAS can better serve them.

COVID-19 Student Support

To support students through the COVID-19 pandemic, WRAMTAS held an event titled, “Coping as a Community” (Monday, March 30 at 7:00PM), via Zoom that was open to all students. This online live discussion provided an open forum for music therapy students (undergraduate and graduate) and interns to voice their view of the problems and frustrations of the current environment. It finished by focusing on problem solving as a community and finding health ways to cope.

Check out all the things WRAMTAS worked on through the 2019-2020 term by going to www.wramtas.org to find all the past newsletters, monthly masterclass videos, internship spotlights and scholarship information!

Midwestern Region

"Our regional conference occurred in an online platform that consisted of Crowd Cast and Zoom. It took place on April 18 and 19th. Students from all over the country attended. There were approximately 300 students present and about 1/3 of those students attended our Passages portion on April 19th.

This year we took on a project of fundraising, creating and establishing a Board of Representatives for our schools in region, and planning and implementing an online Passages. Through our fundraising efforts we raised nearly \$400 to go towards next year's scholarships. Our BOR hit the floor running and allowed us to expand our reach to students at each school. The online Passages was the highest attended Passages that the Midwest Region has ever recorded. In some of our sessions we had almost 60-70 participants (both students and professionals) present.

This year we held multiple events including a social media competition/event for World Music Therapy Day, A Hill Day Advocacy event in Missouri, a "Quarantine Karaoke" on Facebook and our annual Midwest Volunteer Day competition.

We gave away a total of 4 scholarships this year.

A new scholarship we implemented was the "President's Scholarship" (\$100) awarded to Naomi David. Student Scholarships were awarded based on an infographic competition about what music therapy is

First Place- Claire Ferguson

Second Place- Karah Chappell

Third Place- Sydney Winders"

-Sydney Winders, MWRAMTAS President





Goals moving forward....

AMTAS is working to continue upholding our mission statement and providing music therapy students with resources and opportunities as we are all learning how to do things differently. We are working towards offering students more support as MT students across the country continue to their education.

Our Contact Information

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What AMTAS has been up to....

Since beginning our term in November, so much in the world has changed, but our ability to connect with students has not. The AMTAS has been conducting virtual cafes for students across our nation to give them a space for learning and a support system for students who were experiencing loss during this time.



American Music
Therapy Student
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What we have to look forward to!

We are so eager to continue getting to see students this fall and finding new ways to connect! Make sure to follow us on all of our social media accounts for our updates on new cafes and resources.

Also make sure to sign up for the 2020 American Music Therapy Association Conference happening November 19th-22nd, 2020. This year our national conference will be all virtual! Make sure to sign up by going to <https://www.musictherapy.org>