

MASTA Past President Winter 2020 Report

Updates of job descriptions are still trickling in. I will replace the old documents and compile a current addendum to the by-laws before May 1, 2020. The new document will be shared with the board and will be supplied to our webmaster.

Student Chapters exist in the same universities as last year and there are some new HS chapters. Current chapters/advisors include:

Central Michigan University/Jamie Fiste
Grand Valley State University/Henry Duitman
University of Michigan/Michael Hopkins
Western Michigan University/Bruce Uchimura

High School groups: (High School Chapters are recognized at the state level only – National ASTA encourages university level groups.)

Escanaba HS "String Buddies"/Joe Harmsen
Lowell/NorthPoint Christian Schools/Aaron and Wendy Tenney
Marquette HS "Fine Tuners"/Eric Marta
W. Ottawa HS North/Chris Meyer

Some of the activities of HS chapters (thank you, Joe Harmsen and Aaron Tenney) include:

- After-school private less/practice program: Older high school students are paired up with a String Buddy to work at the school once a week for half an hour
- HS students concurrently register for their orchestra class, as well as a Middle School class to assist with sectionals, in-class private lessons, and more
- Help with fundraisers
- Volunteering in the orchestra library and making photocopies
- Holding mock auditions
- Refilling the instrument room humidifiers with water daily
- Helping Middle School students tune before concerts and assisting with attendance
- "Giving Bach", Holiday Strings, and other community performances at nursing homes, local stores, elementary schools, and more
- Ushering at school concerts and community events
- Organizing trips to see orchestral events
- Chamber Music Parties
- Meetings with educational topics (audition prep, teacher info, making a living, etc.)
- Composing/arranging workshop
- ASTA asks that student chapters register by Nov. 15. Most Michigan chapters needed reminders this year!

During the MMC, an award will be presented to Aaron and Wendy Tenney (and students) for their accomplishments with their new Western Michigan ASTA chapter. They set a first-class example of the fine and rewarding work that can be done with a student group.

Respectfully submitted,
Janis Shier Peterson