

**MASTA President-Elect – Winter Report**  
January 2015

First: I MUST state my immense JOY at being a part of the board of THE BEST organization. Although a bit scary (!) it's also very exciting. Serving the Michigan American String Teachers Association will be the most important work of my career and I am honored to have this opportunity.

Second: One of my first duties was to arrange the fun part of the MMC reception. What a blast! Several cases of beverage and a large order of chocolate happiness are ready to go. I hope we have a good turn-out as this will be an opportunity to recruit new members AND acknowledge our Lifetime Achievement and Administrator Award winners and our esteemed Teacher of the Year nominees.

Third: Special thanks are due to Dan Scott for taking care of the MMC meetings for me. Due to travel time and expense, it was nearly impossible for me to fulfill that part of my position. Dan has provided first-class input as our representative.

Fourth: Yay...Yay...Yay...I get to represent MASTA at the National ASTA Convention in Salt Lake City. I'm hoping to come back with some inspiring and innovative ideas shared by other state chapters and presenters.

Fifth: We have started a new string teacher club – The Fine Tuners – in my school district. They are inspiring! They remind me that “children will listen” (Into the Woods) and just how important our work is. These students help with After-School Elementary Strings classes, usher at symphony concerts and serve as practice buddies for younger string players. If you need a little boost, I challenge you to start a student chapter. We meet during lunch – once a week.

Last: We are experiencing another time of change in our organization. This is a great opportunity to make changes that are POSITIVE in order to keep our membership happy and effective. Our new website is looking GREAT and new events are in the planning stages. We have awesome new board members to continue the great work of the dedicated leadership in the past and a solid membership of respected educators. The sky's the limit of what we can accomplish as we work together for the good of the cause. I look forward to working with President Tim Staudacher and the MASTA board and hope to hear from members about how we can better serve in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

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