



TABLE OF CONTENTS
Section 1: Meeting Minutes pages 1 - 3
Section 2: Agenda pages 3 - 4
Section 3: Reports pages 5 - 9

Calgary Branch Board Meeting

MINUTES of MEETING

Date: May 13, 2024 at 9:30 am
Place: Zoom

CHAired BY: Sandra Joy Friesen
RECORDED BY: Maryellen Pankratz

NAMES OF ATTENDEES AND ABSENTEES

Members Present: Sandra Joy Friesen, Mandy Loban-Jordan, Barb Robertson, Carolyn Steeves, Beth Olver, Erika Gomez, Nathene Arthur

Regrets: Alexandra Andrievsky, Lorna Sewell, Angela Frankowski

Guests: none

Late Arrivals: Erika around 9:43, Nathene at 10:02

Early Departures: Barb around 9:42, Mandy at 10:31

OPEN ARMTA CALGARY MEETING

ARMTA CALGARY meeting called to order at 9:39 am.

SECTION 1: MEETING MINUTES pages 1-3

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Beth moved to accept the agenda as presented. Carolyn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes from April 15, 2024

MOTION: Carolyn moved to approve the April meeting minutes. Beth seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. Approval of Consent Agenda (reports for information, no discussion required)

MOTION: Beth moved to accept the report. Carolyn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7.2 Selection of Officers to the Board

Vacancy of vice chair
Tabled to next meeting.

7.3 Set dates for 2024-25 Branch Board Meetings

June 17, 2024

September 16, 2024

October 21, 2024

November 18, 2024

January 13, 2025

February 10, 2025

March 3 and 10 Budget Meetings (attendance encouraged but not required)

March 17, 2025

April 14 or 21, 2025

AGM May 12, 2025

New Board: May 26, 2025

7.4 Vacancies: workshop/event convener, ARMTA Prov reps

Tabled to next meeting

7.5 Surplus Funds suggestions

Tabled to next meeting

7.6 Results from the AGM Questionnaire

Tabled to next meeting

Branch Board meeting adjourned at 10:27 am

Endowment Society Meeting called to order at 10:27 am

Endowment Society meeting adjourned at 10:33 am

SECTION 2: AGENDA



Calgary Branch Board Agenda

May 13, 2024

Via: Zoom

Chair - Sandra Joy Friesen

Past Chair - Beth Olver

Administrator - Maryellen Pankratz

Vice Chair -

Members at Large - Beth Olver, Lorna Sewell, Barbara Robertson, Carolyn Steeves, Angela Frankowski, Sandra Joy Friesen, Erika Gomez, Mandy Loban-Jordan, Alexandra Andrievsky

Treasurer - Lorna Sewell

Bookkeeper - Maryellen Pankratz

ARMTA Provincial Board Rep - Carolyn Steeves

Endowment Society - Nathene Arthur, Carolyn Steeves

1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgment, Call to Order

1.1 Introductions for new members-at-large: Alexandra, Erika, Mandy

2. Approval of Agenda

3. Approval of Minutes from April 2024 (see April Minutes attachment)

4. Approval of Consent Agenda

Catering Report, Nadia (see "Reports" Section below)

5. Reports for Discussion (no reports this meeting)

6. Business Arising and Action Items from April Minutes

6.1 Results of the Special Meeting motion and vote (May 13, 9:15am) re: Surplus Funds

6.2 Reminder of Archive "acceptance policy" to be completed by June (Beth, Angela, Sandra Joy, and perhaps Sara)

6.3 Confirmation of Affiliate Membership for university students: students apply to Provincial and Provincial determines admittance

7. New Business

7.1 Orientation for new members

7.2 Selection of Officers to the Board (default for the Endowment Society): vice chair

7.3 Set dates for 2024-25 Branch Board meetings (see "Reports" Section below)

If time permits:

- 7.4 Vacancies: workshop/event convener, ARMTA Prov reps
- 7.5 Surplus Funds suggestions
- 7.6 Results from the AGM Questionnaire (see “Reports” Section below)

8. Announcements

- Year-End Potluck and Presentation for Teachers: June 1, 11:00am-1:00pm.
- Rotary C3 Winners Concert with the Calgary Civic Symphony: June 2, 2:30.
- Masterclass with Gloria Chu: June 8, 9:00-11:00am.
- Branching Out at Quinterra Park: June 8, 1:00-3:00pm.

Adjourn Branch Board meeting

9. Endowment Society Meeting, Call to Order

- 9.1 Approval of minutes from April 2024 meeting
- 9.2 Approval of Consent Agenda n/a
- 9.3 Endowment projects: Nathene

Adjourn Endowment Society meeting

Reports

4 Catering Report, Nadia

Food expenses for the GM on May 6th, 2024, amounted to \$104.23. The number of attendees is 29.

7.6 Results from the AGM Questionnaire

SECTION 3: REPORTS

ARMTA MANDATE

- a) promote the love, knowledge, availability of music instruction*
- b) support members' studios and their continuing education*
- c) provide performance opportunities for students*
- d) give back to the community through philanthropy*

Considering focus on the above statement, please use the following questions to guide your discussion and responses with respect to the future steps for our Calgary Branch (CB)

What are your good **ideas on how to promote the CB** throughout the city and surrounding communities?

Are you familiar with **what the CB offers** you: professional development workshops, masterclasses for students, recitals and performance opportunities, varieties of competitions, scholarships, grants, discounts on tickets for students?

In addition to the above, **what other events should the CB offer** throughout the year?

Should we **encourage more networking/social conversation time** in our events of board meetings, workshops, and classes?

Are you **in favour of returning to in-person meetings**?

Considering feedback over the past 2 years that many teachers are not submitting their students into the Calgary Performing Arts Festival and perhaps looking for other festival opportunities, **should the CB take steps to establish our own Music Festival**, ensuring that it does not compete with APTA festival, Calgary Vocal Festival and other smaller center festivals like Strathmore, High River.

Do you visit the **ARMTA-Calgary website**? If so, do you have **suggestions** for the website? Do you read the **Impromptu newsletter**? If so, do you have **suggestions** for content or **articles** to submit?

Should the CB make **volunteering compulsory** for events in which teachers want to participate, or want their students to participate?

Along the same topic, if the CB made it compulsory to either volunteer a certain number of hours per year or to pay a volunteer fee, would you still join the CB?

Do you know of music teachers who are not ARMTA members? **Do you (or would you) encourage these teachers to consider membership?**

QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES MAY 2024

(transcribed directly from members' conversations, no edits or corrections have been made)

Re: Music Festival

Human resources for something so time consuming may not be realistic.

Support Alexandra and Fiona on New Music Calgary Vocal Festival. They would prefer a separate festival: there is room for ARMTA support.

Prefer non-competitive so as not the same as CPAF.

One more thing – as to compete with all the others.

\$ for another person to do the clerical work, to help them.

U of C is expensive venue - \$ to help with this.

\$ for scholarships for piano and violin new festivals.

Calgary teachers need to fill this void, rather than outsiders (like Ontario person running at Steinway).

Excited about this!

We feel that organizing a music festival will need strong ongoing volunteers. Not sure our Branch has enough volunteers.

Support fledgling festivals: Alexandra – piano; Fiona – Amici Festival.

Priority – make festival part of Provincial Association.

Re: Surplus Funds

- Spend the surplus on seed money for a new festival

Re: Volunteering

- No compulsory volunteering. We already dealt with this an organization over 10 years ago.
- Don't agree with compulsory volunteering for members.
- Would not be happy if this applied broadly to CB but would do it for specific programs.

Re: New Members

The fee is high for those young teachers who may have only a handful of students.

There is a lot to learn about Calgary Branch and what is offered.

New members unsure of how to access Provincial, VRS and Calgary Branch websites.

Clarinet teacher encourages other wind teachers to join; few of them do.

Re: Suggestions

Luncheon with AGM or other meetings.

Workshops with luncheon.

Board training or DEI training.

Offer teacher recitals.

Calgary-wide Event Calendar!

Calgary-wide event calendar – for student events.

Re: In-person meetings

- Would like them offered.
- Yes to encourage more networking/social conversation time during events. Consensus that face to face is great but with young children, zoom is practical.

From Michalis Andronikou via email.

I would be very happy to work on creative projects like the one that ARMTA initiated in 2016.

[tps://armta.ca/upcoming-events/#!event/2018/3/1/perform-canada-150-armta-85-commissioned-pieces-50-prize-for-each-piece](https://armta.ca/upcoming-events/#!event/2018/3/1/perform-canada-150-armta-85-commissioned-pieces-50-prize-for-each-piece)

From Looi Tan via zoom during the AGM.

I would like to see some sort of mentorship program / student teacher program for new teachers set up. I heard that Speech Arts have the same idea. I have an online program called that is a 10-unit course that students can access. [TeachPiano.Academy](#) But one of the units is to observe experienced teachers for minimum of 5 hours. If I can pair them up with the experienced teachers here, that'll be great. Or work something out for the Student teacher program.

From Donna Holstine Vander Valk via email.

1) Ideas on promoting the CB through the city and surrounding communities: I have been in talks with the 'reformed' Calgary Performing Arts Festival, and I believe there is opportunity to advance a relationship that sees excellence and inclusivity - not to mention accountability and organizational stability - return to the Festival environment. I would love to have the President of the Board for CPAF sit with ARMTA to hear perspectives. Outside of the city, I would like to see extensions of offers of PD to school teachers and community speech teachers (or those at all interested in the discipline) under the auspices of ARMTA, a well-established and -known provincial entity.

2) What CB offers: Right now, I see the primary offer as collegiality and a community of practice in the arts (though not specific to my discipline - though I am a trained musician, just as a fun fact), and I can't deny that the insurance coverage is a boon, too! I know that you brought in an Alexander Technique practitioner this year, and I would have very much enjoyed that work - however, my faculty responsibilities got in the way!

3) Event throughout the year: I love the mixed recital format, and I would love to have more opportunities to have students MC those events - I have been teaching and mentoring MCing skills to students (and adults!) for many years, and I work as an MC myself. This would be a wonderful way to combine skill sets, if it hasn't already taken place.

4) Networking / Conversation time at events: yes! And I would love some of it to be facilitated or designed, such as musical tables, table topics, and mixed-discipline 'seating'.

5) In-person: 10000% yes. My complication is always my availability due to teaching constraints.

6) As I mentioned in 1), above, I think there is a real opportunity for ARMTA to be a powerful influence on the reconstitution of a vibrant Calgary Performing Arts Festival (and no, I'm not on the payroll!!). I've had very frank discussions with the new leadership, and we're on the same page - as former festival kids ourselves, neither of us wants to see the demise of what was once a fantastic institution - but we realize that it was broken before COVID, and it almost collapsed entirely. Right now we have a chance to rebuild with a new, more wholistic and inclusive vision, but that means everyone needs to be at the table, not just vested interested from limited community members. ARMTA represents a much broader set of voices, and this is why I am passionate about these conversations happening. If there is no way to move forwards together after these kinds of explorations, I fully support the creation of a mixed Speech Arts & Music Festival for Calgary that is independent of current structures and models. But first, conversations.

7) I *have* visited the site! It's quite well done, esp. the registration pages. And I would LOVE to start contributing Speech Arts content to the *Impromptu* newsletter. I don't know how much you've already had submitted / published in the past, but I am a writer, and I frequently contribute to a number of publications primarily (if you can believe it!) in NYC. I have *soooo* many ideas...but I don't want to duplicate recent content. And I can absolutely

frame submissions so that they're useful and enjoyable across your entire membership, not to worry ;-)

8) Compulsory Volunteerism: what a contradiction in terms! But yes, I realize that there are those that want to take advantage of the opportunities, but don't want to step up for the events themselves. Perhaps a model where you have to volunteer for X number of events / roles at events during your membership year to keep your membership in good standing? But I would also suggest that maybe it makes sense to offer those volunteering roles at events you *don't* have students at - sometimes teachers are a 'one-track mind', and need to focus on the students for the event they're in, but can be more present and useful at events they don't have performers in. Food for thought. Also, I would support the volunteer or pay-the-fee-if-you-don't model - it's no different across sports.

9) Know teachers - why yes, I do know a number of other teachers that are independent. Right now, we don't have a strong network, and I am establishing one (this work predates ARMTA). I can see a future where we partner with larger organizations such as ARMTA. I am waiting to see how my experience with ARMTA evolves, and how Speech Arts can be more fully a part of it - and *if* it can be more fully a part of it - before I start seriously pitching anything - I'm too new!!