I. Call to Order. President Ruthann McTyre called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m.

II. Approval of 2009 meeting minutes. The minutes of the meeting of 20 February 2009 were approved with corrections.

III. Treasurer/Executive Secretary’s Report.
   A. Budget
   MLA finished fiscal year 2008/2009 with a reported operating budget deficit of $35,680.56, which was considerably less than the operating deficit which was planned for of $55,708.00. Approval to allocate up to $30,543.00 into the operating budget from the MLA Fund made by the Board of Directors when it adopted the budget in June 2008 makes the actual FY09 budget deficit a total of $5,137.56 or less than 1% of the total MLA budget of $540,773.00.

   Actual total operating income reached $435,103.26, and total operating expenditures were $470,783.82. The overage in the operating budget was able to be covered by existing Cash Reserves in MLA’s checking and savings accounts.

   Before I speak about MLA Investments, let me remind the membership that a full copy of MLA’s financial statements as audited by Suby, Von Hayden, and Associates, will be found in the forthcoming June 2010 issue of Notes, and the summary Statement of Financial Position for FY09 will appear in the 2009 Annual Reports on the MLA website.

   MLA’s investment accounts at the end of the Fiscal Year on June 30, 2009 totaled $689,998.34, with $152,478.89 invested in Socially Responsible accounts at Calvert, and $537,519.45 at Fidelity. MLA received contributions to our endowment and unrestricted funds totaling $10,659.00. These figures represent a slight increase from the low point of lost value due to the Great Recession, which was experienced in the first Quarter of 2009. In March of 2009 our investments stood at only $652,613.27.

   Since I don’t like delivering just bad news, you should know that our investment accounts by the end of the calendar year, that is, as of December 31st, 2009, were at a total value of $807,936.19. This represents a gain of 24% over our nadir in March, which is a total only 8% below the highest value our investments reached in January 2008. This gain has been due to both asset recovery and deposits made from membership donations. I am personally and professionally impressed with the fact that donations continue to be made selflessly by members despite the difficult economic environment: $4,885.00 were donated to our Awards Funds, $2,594.00 were donated to our publication Endowments (for Notes and RILM), and $7,864.00 were donated unrestricted to the MLA Fund. In addition to these donations, we received a final gift of $25,000.00 from the estate of Suki Sommer, whose love for MLA and all its members was so generously acknowledged by the Thiemann family.

   B. Membership
   At the start of the new calendar year 2010, MLA has 1,356 members and subscribers. This represents a decline of 18% over the last 4 years. I am concerned over this decline and will be working to investigate further and report to the MLA Board at a future meeting.

   C. Election
   777 ballots were sent out for the Fall 2008 election. 362 ballots were returned; one return was invalid, for a return rate of 46.6%. This was the lowest return rate in the past six years for which I have records. (Since – as I said – I don’t like delivering bad news, the membership did much better during the Fall 2009 election, in which 381 ballot were returned out of 685 that were mailed, and no ballots were invalid. This produced a 55.6% return rate, which is actually the highest for the years for which I have records.) You all recovered as nicely as our investment accounts!

   I would like to acknowledge the Anonymous Donor, an MLA member who pledged a cash contribution to MLA for every valid vote cast – your incentive plan worked! This Association really does operate best when we are all invested in its governance and its future.

   D. Publications
   In calendar year 2009, Scarecrow has reported to MLA that they have sold 469 individual titles from our monographic series yielding total sales of $15,814.48. This contributes to a lifetime total of 9,345 units sold by Scarecrow since we initiated our contract with them, for a sales total of $326,871.53. Our contract with Scarecrow ended on December 31st of 2009. However, despite repeated efforts to develop a transition process for any remaining inventory and electronic files between Scarecrow and A-R, our current publisher, all the important players could not come to a final arrangement, and so the existing contract was extended by 6 months by verbally agreement, so that the Publications Committee could discuss a preferred course of action at this San Diego meeting.

   E. Other activities
   The annual audit was completed, taxes were filed and the 1099 forms were mailed out.
   Sales tax exempt status for California for this meeting in San Diego was denied.

   F. Management services and the establishment of a T/Ex Succession Plan
   Many of you no doubt have seen the advertisement for the new position of Assistant Treasurer/Executive Secretary, although clearly most of you chose not to apply. I have had much discussion with the Board on models and processes we could adopt to make the role of Treasurer/Executive Secretary more manageable for any regular MLA member with a standard full-time day
job… yet our goal was to insure that the position would remain capable of providing a broad scope of oversight and be able to provide the critical analysis of the association’s financial assets and member activity that is the necessary safeguard for all the Association’s resources. Consequently we are adopting the Vice President/President/Past President model; the Association will have two members addressing the many components of the T/Ex roles at any one time, while also providing a succession model, insuring that adequate training and support are guaranteed.

In conclusion, I want to thank the members of the Board, and especially Past President Phil Vandermeer and current President Ruthann McTyre for their encouragement, their leadership, their creativity, and assistance. And last but certainly not least, for the good work of all of our partners in the MLA Business Office at A-R under the direction of Pat Wall, but particularly for Jim Zychowicz – whose collaboration and contributions have been essential to the successful performance of my duties – I express my sincere and profound appreciation and affection.

IV. President’s Report.

This has been the year of task forces and search committees. Since the June board meeting in Middleton, six task forces have been put to work:
- Administrative Documents Task Force, co-chaired by Michael Rogan and Jon Haupt
- Annual Meeting Survey Task Force, chaired by Beth Christensen
- Board Self-Study Task Force, chaired by Matthew Wise
- Digital Audio Collections Task Force, chaired by Dan Boomhower
- Greening MLA Annual Meetings Task Force, co-chaired by Sara Manus and Linda Dempf
- Also the Taiga Response Task Force, ably handled by Phil Ponella, Ned Quist, and Dan Zager

A new task force chaired by current program chair Diane Steinhaus will be examining the Program committee structure and will bring a report and recommendations for restructuring to the board by our Fall 2010 Board meeting.

Five search committees worked diligently to fill positions for the following vacancies: Assistant Convention Manager, Assistant Web Editor, Newsletter Editor, NOTES Editor, and Assistant Treasurer/Executive Secretary, which is a new position added to the administrative structure this year.

The board met earlier today with the search committee chairs to receive their committees’ recommendations.

At the Chicago meeting last year, the MLA and IAML-US boards began talking about a possible affiliation of the two organizations. This topic has been addressed at least twice in past years. Both IAML-US President Judy Tsou and I agreed that opening up discussion to our memberships would be a good idea and many of you participated in our Open Forum this morning. Our two boards met over lunch today for further discussion and now the next step will be to have the membership vote next year in Philadelphia. According to our Constitution, section II.A.6, Procedures for Relations/Affiliations with Other Organizations, “The Association may establish relationships with other organizations and may provide representation at meetings of organizations in the fields related to music librarianship. For formal affiliation, the board submits the terms of affiliation in writing to members present at a regular meeting. Approval is by a majority of ballots cast on the proposal at the meeting.”

We will proceed with finalizing the terms of affiliation in anticipation of the 2011 meeting and will hold the vote then. In the meantime, questions and comments are always welcome.

The following Round Tables have been renewed through 2014:
- Contemporary Music Round Table
- Jazz and Popular Music Round Table
- Musical Theater Round Table
- Social Responsibilities Round Table
- Women in Music Round Table
- World Music Round Table

In all, since the Chicago meeting, I’ve written 112 new appointment letters for MLA service, including Gordon Theil as MLA’s representative to the Historical Recording Coalition for Access and Preservation (HRCAP) and Dan Zager as our representative to the Grove Advisory Panel.

I have signed three book contracts and the contract with the Fairmont Hotel in Dallas for the 2012 meeting. (For those who care, we will be within easy walking distance of THE Nieman-Marcus. Luncheon in the tearoom is something to put on your to-do list.)

At the June Board meeting, I had the honor to sign the contract, along with A-R President Patrick Wall for another 3 year commitment with A-R Editions as our Business Office. This year marks the 9th that we have had A-R as our business office. The relationship continues to improve and strengthen every year, thanks to the high level of service that Pat, and Jim Zychowicz and their staff share with us. Believe me when I tell you that the level of dedication, creativity and hard work is beyond compare. I’d like to express my personal thanks to Jim Z who, in case you didn’t know by now, is one of MLA’s biggest fans. He is always there to answer questions, help with solutions, humor, pat on the head, share news of great wine discoveries, and definitely has the ability to know what we need, in many cases, before we do. I am grateful for the opportunity to work alongside Jim and the A-R team. Please join me in thanking Jim, Pat, and everyone at A-R for all that they have done and will continue to do for our Association.

Changes in the required dues will be decided at the Spring Board meeting in conjunction with the annual budget process.
The Board has decided that it is time to get another round of strategic planning for the association underway. $50,000 from the MLA Fund has been earmarked for this process and soon a task force will be formed to help move the process forward.

In closing I’d like to extend thanks to all of the vendors who have come to San Diego to exhibit and those who advertise in NOTES. We are lucky in MLA to have such long-lasting and strong partnerships with our vendors. I would also like to thank those vendors who provide additional support to the association through our corporate sponsorships.

V. Other reports.

Jim Cassaro, as Notes editor, thanked A-R and the Notes staff for their hard work and noted staff changes. Jim Cassaro, as Development Director, spoke of the generosity of the membership, the establishment of two new giving circles, and the IMLS grant that was being prepared. Paula Hickner, Convention Manager, reported on attendance and thanked all in attendance. Beth Christensen discussed the Annual Meeting Survey that will be sent to the membership in April and encouraged all to take the time to complete it. Laurie Sampsel invited proposals for the conference program in Philadelphia.

VI. Remembrances.

Carol June Bradley was remembered by Ruthann McTyre. Martin Silver was remembered by Marsha Berman. Gary Mayhood was remembered by Suzanne Moultig Gehrig. Marcia Reed was remembered by Cindy Richardson and Sue Stancu and friends remembered Ralph Papakhian.

VII. Awards.

A. Publications


B. Dena Epstein Award

The award goes to Ph.D. candidate Ursula Crosslin in support of her dissertation “The Institutionalization of Sacred Vocal music in Cincinnati, 1810-1860.”

C. Kevin Freeman Travel Grant

The Kevin Freeman Travel Grant was awarded to five individuals this year: Dyann Bishop, Matthew Ertz, Bracken Klar, Yi Hong Sim, and Jennifer Ward.

D. Walter Gerboth Award

The Gerboth Award was presented to William McDaniel Nelson, Jr. for an oral history project designed to fill significant gaps in the knowledge of the art, life, and career of the renowned cellist Laszlo Varga.

E. Carol June Bradley Award

The Carol June Bradley Award was not awarded this year.

VIII. Searches and Election results

Six searches were conducted over the past few months with the following appointments approved by the Board: Development Officer, Jim Cassaro; Newsletter editor, Misti Shaw; Assistant convention manager, Laura Gayle Green; Notes editor, Jane Gottlieb; Assistant Web Editor, Michelle Oswell; Assistant Treasurer/Executive Secretary, Linda Blair.

President McTyre introduced the newly elected Vice-President/President-Elect Jerry McBride as well as new Board members-at-large: Susannah Cleveland, Cheryl Taranto, and Liza Vick. Newly elected Recording Secretary Pamela Bristah was also introduced. Board members-at-large ending their terms of service, Paul Cary, Lois Kuper-Rushing, and Nancy Lorimer, were thanked as were Past President Phil Vandermeer and Recording Secretary Karen Little.

IX. Announcements.

The Local Arrangements Committee for the 2011 meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania was introduced.

X. New Business.

None.

XI. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:53pm.