

STXSA SW/Sugarland Region Teacher Meeting

Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2015, 10:00 a.m.

[Hosted by Mary Bell]

Welcome

The meeting was convened at 10:20 a.m. by Claire Eary.

Attendance

Mary Bell, Shao-Chin Chien, Claire Eary, Fiona Lofthouse, Rosemary Jodeit, Dana LaMothe, Aimee Petersen, Diana Quam, Danette Schuh. [Members not able to attend: Linda Branch, Amy Mathis, Larissa Thomas]

Activities

We discussed possible activities for the fall. We will host them and invite any other members who want to attend. We hope this will be what other regions will do, as some of us have students who live in other regions.

Group class? Not this year

We discussed group class; because numbers of students that may attend were small (8?) we discussed, doing monthly Play-ins instead, to “test the waters”, see how many students may attend activities. We will charge a minimal amount (\$5.00), so students get used to paying; this will help pay for accompanist (\$50 for event) [though we may have volunteers] and facility. We decided to make a flyer for each event.

Other teachers do teach their own group classes, and some may be willing to open theirs up to other students; Danette volunteered hers. Possibly our students can go to another region’s group classes if they need one to attend.

Facilities

We discussed possible facilities for our events. Some are already planned at Mary’s church, Heritage Baptist. Other suggestions were: Diana’s Mormon church; Ft. Bend Music store (has a recital hall); Linda’s school: St. Theresa Catholic school; Brookdale retirement home (near 1st Colony mall); Tallowood Church [not in Sugarland but Aimee has connections and we also know Padua there].

STXSA SW/Sugarland Region activities

We decided on events for the fall in our region.

- September: We will have a “Pajama Play-in: Jammin’ in our Jammies” on Friday night, Sept. 25, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. Claire will chair it (with help from any teachers available); Diana may get her church as a location; Danette will help with form and ideas (although she cannot attend).
- October: Spooky Suzuki is already being planned by Mary and Dennis Bell, so we will offer this as our October event. It will be on Friday October 23 at Heritage Baptist Church, at 7 p.m. We will include violin, viola, cello, and will try to include piano (Shao-Chin may help with this). We hope to have a parent class (although Danette cannot commit to do this so we need another volunteer).
- November: After looking at spring dates, we decided to run our Ribbon Festival in November. It will be on Saturday Nov. 14, 2015. We are looking for a location; maybe Ft. Bend Music, Diana’s church, Linda’s school, or Tallowood Church. Finances need to be decided (Mary will talk to Darbi). Rosemary and Claire will chair this. We may have up to 50 participants, or more if other regions join.
- December: Mary Bell has already planned a play-in, and has agreed to open it to include our region. The “Christmas/Holiday Play-in” will be on Saturday December 12, 2015, at 1:00 p.m., at Heritage Baptist

Church. We will try to include all instruments, and will include some selections from Christmas Kaleidoscope. Danette and Shao-Chin will help facilitate this.

Other News

- Danette has the STXSA set of Music Mind Games materials; they can be used by other members, or even sold to a member who wants their own
- Teachers (or advanced students) playing on play-ins could use accompaniment materials; Suzuki duets or string quartet materials; or duets from the “Fun for Two Violins” series (Marianne Rygner).
- Danette, Meredith and Elisabeth are starting an Advanced Tour group, with students bk. 4 and above. They hope to perform locally as well as go other places. Any STXSA student at this level is invited to join; they will accept teacher recommendations and hold auditions.
- STXSA Workshop will be Saturday Feb. 6 2016, for all members of the association. Mary offered to share her experience.
- STXSA Graduation is Sat. April 30, 2016 – also for all members.
- Some members may decide to change to another Region, if their students prefer to go to that part of town. Fiona may change to Central, and possibly Larissa.

Next Meeting

We planned to have our next region meeting in October. Shao-Chin offered the use of her studio space. It will be on Friday morning, October 9, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. The studio is at 12802 Murphy Road suite B, Stafford TX 77477, behind the Modern Optical shop.

- We will finalize Spooky Suzuki and Ribbon Festival.
- Any other details to be discussed will be placed on agenda; contact Claire Eary to request this.
- We will also have a teacher activity: a “violin teaching trinket/idea exchange” (similar to a cookie exchange). Each teacher will bring an idea and a write out their idea of a game, and bring several (10) copies (on a small strip of paper) as well as 10 “trinkets” used in the game/technique; all teachers will leave with 10 ideas with trinkets! (e. g. marble bowling – write directions, bring 10 marbles).

Meeting was adjourned at 12:45.