



NYSSMA®

A State Unit of NAFME, National Association for Music Education

Dear County President:

Attached is our schedule for the March 5, 2018 Joseph R. Sugar NYSSMA Day in Albany. The schedule includes the times and locations of all Day in Albany events. We journey to Albany at a unique time in the history of public education. The passage of ESSA in Washington creates music education as a stand-alone subject. This is a clear victory for our profession, members and students. Our Day in Albany is a perfect opportunity to remind legislators that for 8 decades NYSSMA has been the resource for all their questions and needs regarding music in our schools. We must tell Albany of our role in creating the new State Arts Standards and help them understand the ESSA mandate for more robust music programs.

As usual, NYSSMA will provide lunch after the morning concert at 1 PM in Meeting Room 6. If you'd like, you may invite your legislators to lunch. This can be an informal and beneficial meeting, especially if you can't schedule an office meeting. The luncheon invitation you extend is for your legislator(s) only. NYSSMA does not extend this invitation. Legislators along with their entire staffs are invited by NYSSMA to attend our evening reception from 5:00-7:00 PM, which also takes place in meeting Room 6. You should extend this invitation as well. Also, please note the County Presidents Meeting, 3:00 PM in Meeting Room 7 behind the egg and the new 5:00-7:00 pm concert/reception time

If you have not done so, you should make appointments with your representatives now! NYSSMA does not make these appointments. Please let your legislators know if any student constituents are performing and invite them to have a photo taken at the midday concert in the Concourse or during the evening reception. If you know of elected officials from your area that will **not** be visited by NYSSMA members this year, please let me know so that the GRC can make arrangements to contact them.

As a reminder, \$100.00 of your expenses will be reimbursed by NYSSMA when your voucher is submitted to the Executive Director. If you cannot attend, please make sure that a replacement from your county serves in your place. We must have two people from each county at this event to ensure that legislator's constituents are present at the evening reception to greet them and continue the dialog in a social setting. Each county will be reimbursed only if you are present for the entire day including the legislative visitations, 11:30 AM concert and evening reception.

I look forward to seeing you on Monday, March 5th as we work to continue being a potent political force on behalf of music education in New York State.

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