

## MINUTES

# NYSSMA® Executive Council Meeting - Virtual Online Meeting

**Saturday, June 20, 2020 - 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

**NYSSMA® Executive Council Meeting  
Official Minutes - Virtual Online Meeting  
Saturday, June 20, 2020 - 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

### Welcome – Call to Order

President David Brown welcomed all and called the very first NYSSMA® Virtual Executive Council meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. on Saturday June 20, 2020. President Brown made a special introduction of Daria Barteldt, the incoming NAFME/NYSSMA® Collegiate President. Ms. Barteldt expressed her excitement and honor to be a new member of the NYSSMA® Executive Council.

**Minutes:** Approval of minutes of the March 2020 Executive Council meeting:

The following motion was brought to council:

**Motion:** Jonathan Hunkins (Zone 5), seconded by Adam Shatraw (Zone 3), to approve the minutes of the March 2020 Executive Council meeting for printing in the next *School Music NEWS* magazine. **Motion carried.**

### Nominations

**2nd Vice President** – For a two-year term starting January 2021 - Ed Chiarello nominated by Jonathan Hunkins.

**3rd Vice President** – For a two-year term starting January 2021 – Kathy Perconti (nominated by Robin DeSantis}, David Cerullo (nominated by William McCoy),

Dr. Anthony Ambosio (nominated by Ruth Breidenbach June 20 2020).

**Zone 2 Representative** – For a three-year term starting January 2021 – Scott Cannan nominated by Scott Cannan.

**Zone 4 Representative** - No one nominated at March council meeting.

**Zone 8 Representative** – Julie Smith was nominated by Douglas Ernst.

**Zone 12 Representative** – No one nominated at March council meeting, Leonore Nelson (nominated by Maria Schwab June 20 2020).

**Zone 14 Representative** – Dr. John Gallagher and James Uzzi were nominated by David Cerullo.

Nominations will remain open until the close of the NYSSMA® General Membership meeting scheduled for August 2020. This will be an online meeting. Details to follow.

### Officer Reports

**President: Dr. David M. Brown**

#### Update on the organization

The organization is healthy and busy with many details for music education. We were working hard trying to provide as much assistance as possible for virtual learning, advocacy, and day-to-day operations.

We have returned fees to all of our schools that paid their festival registrations. We believe, because we could, that we needed to make our members and the student members whole. We also gave stipends to festival hosts who had already done a lot of the prep work.

Dr. Gaines may share later, but we are fiscally healthy and continue to see fiscal health in the near future. We have started to get school participation fees coming in so there is money coming in for the first time in a while.

NYSSMA® worked with NYSATA, NYSTEA, and NYSDEA to put out a message of Solidarity as an Arts Collective. I want to thank Adam Shatraw, Zone 3 Rep, for his immense help in that endeavor. If you did not receive it, please reach out to me.

### NYSCEA

Truncated meeting. We had an update from Assistant Commissioner Marybeth Casey on the state of the State education. This was May 8, 2020, so a lot was still happening in regard to high numbers of cases, whether school would remain closed, and how everyone was managing online learning.

Assistant Commissioner Casey talked about curriculum and alignment of standards in or out of person-to-person instruction. She then handed it over to Shannon Logan, Coordinator of Technology for New York State, who talked

about remote learning resources on the NYSED website.

We then went into smaller groups to talk about COVID-19 and to brainstorm ideas for reentry, virtual learning, etc. The plan is to have an in-person meeting in October, a virtual meeting in February and an in-person meeting in May.

### All-National

There were 217 applications from New York State for all-national traditional ensembles and two applications for all-national modern band from New York State. Students are recommended based on their position on our state-ranked proficiency lists.

As of today, I have not heard which students have been selected for all-nationals. At that point, I will forward the names to Ed Chiarello, 2nd Vice President, to take those students off the eligibility list for all-state. Mr. Chiarello will update us on the all-state process later in the meeting during his report.

### COVID-19 Ad Hoc Committees

I am beyond excited to update council on three amazing “think tanks” that have been working for several weeks at my behest. They are each overseen by an officer and have two or three co-chairs.

It was important to me that each group have one council member and one member at large. I knew we wanted to have the voice of the people and from all the reports I am receiving, the groups are synergetic and moving at breakneck speed. Each of the officers will update you during his or her report. The three ad hoc groups are:

1. “Advocacy” being overseen by President-Elect Russ Faunce.
2. “Best Practices” overseen by 3rd Vice President Robin DeSantis.
3. “The Future of Ensembles” overseen by Immediate Past President Michael Salzman.

The specific officers overseeing the ad hoc groups will explain and give an update on the progress of each group. I can't thank all of these individuals enough for the hours invested and the amazing work that I have seen and heard. We will have so much important information to provide to our membership.

All of the data and help is on the home page of our website in the left-hand corner. Thank you to Terry Nigrelli for all of his work getting the data on the web page.

There is an amazing document that just came out

from NAFME and NFHS (National Federation of State High School Associations of which NYSSMA® is a member). The document was shared this morning. I have had little time to review but I think our ad hoc committees will have great data and research from this think tank to use.

In addition, we have financially and by name supported a research study being led by NFHS that will examine aerosol rates produced by wind instrumentalists, vocalists, and even actors, and how quickly those aerosol rates accumulate in a space.

Beyond the three ad hoc committees I have also asked AFC (Adjudication Festival Committee) to investigate an online platform for our 2021 festival season. Please understand that it is my hope and intention to have a normal NYSSMA® festival season; however, I would not be doing my job if I didn't plan for the unfortunate reality that we may be in a position where we can't congregate thousands of students and adults.

If that were to happen again, I do not want to cancel next year's festival season so I have asked George Smith, Chair of AFC, and Ed Chiarello, 2nd Vice President, to look at the possibility of a digital process for solo and small ensembles for next year. This is only to be used if the regular process is not possible, AND if we were to do this, we would go back to our incredible way of adjudication that has served us so well for so many years.

Finally, I am honored and humbled to say I have been to two out of the four task force meetings set by the Commissioner of Education and the Board of Regents. Participants have been asked to sit in on one of the four, depending on the district they represent in the state. I have been asked to sit in on all four. Each time I am put into a different break out room.

This is a think tank to figure out what needs to happen to open the schools. A sequential, well-rounded state mandated music education following the New York State Standards is shared over and over again in each room. People have been very curious on how band, orchestra and choir will look. I have shared our task forces and then also promised to share our findings. The Board of Regents is very curious to read our findings.

Finally, because we did not have a festival season in 2020, we have decided to extend the NYSSMA® Manual for one additional year. This edition of the Manual (32) will be in effect until after Festival Season 2022 (July of 2022 will be the start of NYSSMA® Manual 33).

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## President Elect: Russ Faunce

### Winter Conference 2020

- a. 308 winter conference session proposals were submitted.
- b. 12 showcase applications for exhibitors were submitted.
- c. 7 applications for performing groups were submitted.

At the time of this report all plans include moving forward with the winter conference. Notification of accepted sessions and performing groups is on hold until matters can be coordinated with all aspects of the conference, including the all-state ensembles. If the lasting effects of COVID-19 do not allow us to have a winter conference, there have been discussions about an online conference forum.

### Advocacy Ad Hoc Committee

The Ad Hoc Committee for Advocacy was launched in May 2020 by NYSSMA® President Dr. David Brown. Lori Orestano-James and Michael Mastrangelo were appointed co-chairs, with Russ Faunce serving as the NYSSMA® officer representative. Michael Brownell and Marc Greene were recruited to join the committee as advisors from both NYSSMA® and NAFME. The following zone advocates were selected to represent their individual zones as a regional representative.

Zone 1	Claudia Andres
Zone 2	Jeff Smith
Zone 3	Jen Rafferty and Jackie Kovacs
Zone 4	Mark Bunce
Zone 5	Marvin Zehr
Zone 6	Jennifer Moore
Zone 7	Brian Carucci
Zone 8	Rebecca Maeder-Chien
Zone 9	Lynda Keech and Harvey Boyer
Zone 10	Ryan Wade
Zone 11	Nancy Torrente
Zone 12	Robert Rams
Zone 13	Joe Owens
Zone 14	Michael Caravello
Zone 15	Chris van Leeuwen

**Work to date includes:** Direction on “how to advocate;” developing advocacy resources that will be available to the general membership; producing material, with links, that will be readily available on the NYSSMA® website; generating a simple membership survey to educate the committee on staff reductions and program cuts.

## Immediate Past President: Michael Salzman

### Ad Hoc Committee Report

Michael Salzman shared his screen with members of council to show some of the progress that his Future of Ensembles Committee is making in looking at performance practice during COVID-19.

Committee members:

Band - Jonathan Hunkins (Co-Chair), Michael Struzik, Michael Cordaro.

Chorus - Monique Campbell-Retzlaff (Co-Chair), Norman Zogaib, Carrie Zugelder.

Orchestra - David Beck (Co-Chair), Catherine Birke, Hana Walton.

Michael Salzman, NYSSMA® Immediate Past President.

Culling through volumes of reports and research studies. Preparing a Q&A document addressing many aspects of ensemble rehearsals and performances, including sanitizing and disinfecting instruments, sharing instruments, social distancing, scheduling, and use of masks.

Report due out by July 1.

### NYSSMA® 2nd Vice President: Ed Chiarello

#### NYSSMA® Festival Calendar 2021

Attached, please find the 2021 Spring Festival calendar. The calendar includes weekends only, as typically the weekend dates need to be coordinated on a state level. Thank you to everyone for your compliance and your assistance as we collectively worked to schedule a May 2021 event that we can staff appropriately with judges.

#### All-State 2020 Update

The planning of all-state is moving forward at this time. There were 1,329 possible candidates in the archived database from 2019 who were eligible for application to modified all-state 2020. The database represents all 10th graders from the 2019 festival season that were on an All-State Proficiency Sheet. May 1 – June 1 was the period for all-state application and 1,354 all-state applications were filed.

How is it possible that 25 more applications were filed then there are candidates in the system? Some teachers filed more than one application for the same student / same group. Some teachers filed applications for students who earned lower scores than 98, 99, 100. Scores lower than 98 were not in our database and, therefore, not acceptable.

At this time the all-state chairs and I are working with the data and considering the needs of each of the ensembles. Additionally, I'm in the process of adding to each of

the student applications the additional data necessary for selection.

By the end of the month we expect the NAFME nationals selections to be released and the students who are accepted to nationals will be removed from our all-state lists. At that time, we will be in a position to decide which groups can be included in the 2021 all-state ensembles and to select the students.

Students, teachers, schools, and administrators will be notified at the end of August / beginning of September, as always, regarding all-state honors.

### **JALC – Jazz at Lincoln Center**

At this point, we are planning on JALC proceeding as planned. We have an agreement with Lincoln Center; however, the facility currently remains closed.

### **3rd Vice President: Robin DeSantis**

#### **NYSSMA® 2020 June Report**

Thank you to the affiliates for all their hard work. They have been wonderful to work with. Bravo to all of you! Unfortunately, we are unable to have our summer conference this summer due to the COVID-19 virus. The affiliates are going to re-create the summer conference for next year.

#### **2020-2021 Best Practices in Music Education Ad Hoc Committee Report**

(Co-Chairs: Meghan Cabral and Gina Costanza)

The co-chairs and I have met twice. We have contacted all the zone reps for representation from all 15 zones. Contact has been made with the people recommended to request confirmation of participation. Our first meeting with them is scheduled for Monday, June 22, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. We look forward to working with this wonderful group of music educators to help our members in the future under these unquestionably difficult times.

#### **Executive Director Report: Dr. David Gaines**

Dr. Gaines noted that there has not been a budget report since March. The office will likely switch to a quarterly budget report.

He has reached out to the hotels in Rochester. The Rochester hotels are excited that we are still in flux for our winter conference. The NYS science teachers' conference (a month ahead of our conference) has already been cancelled. NYSSMA® will continue to push forward in the hope that both all-state and a winter conference will happen in December.

Dr. Gaines publicly recognized the NYSSMA® office staff for their work during the past three months. The NYSSMA® office will send information regarding hotel availability for winter conference in late August.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Adjudication Festival Committee Chair: George Smith**

March 6-7 Adjudication Festival Committee Meeting

- The Adjudication Festival Committee met March 6-7, 2020, in Syracuse.
- The meeting focused on issues relevant to the 2020 adjudicator orientation and festival season, both of which were subsequently cancelled due to the pandemic.
- President David Brown and President-Elect Russ Faunce attended portions of the meeting.
- There was a discussion about the procedure used for securing adjudicators, which has been in place since the independent contractor status of adjudicators was instituted in 2015. The present policy has caused some concerns and needs to be examined and possibly altered in the future.
- The Students with Disabilities Form was expanded to include major organizations, as well as solos/ensembles.
- The August 14-15 AFC meeting in Albany has been cancelled. AFC will meet virtually in September to finalize winter conference sessions and discuss the implications that social distancing will have on the 2021 solo/ensemble festival season.
- After the AFC meeting agenda was completed on March 7 at 12:00, the new coordinators met with George Smith and Michael Robertson to review and discuss the adjudicator orientation process. This was the first time such a meeting was held and all felt it was beneficial.

#### **2020 Adjudicator Orientation Seminars**

- The final enrollment for the cancelled 2020 adjudicator orientation seminars was as follows:
  - Jericho (piano only) – 4
  - Kellenberg – 32
  - Voorheesville – 36
  - Arlington -32
  - TOTAL – 104

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- All candidates were notified of the cancellation of the seminars and acknowledged receiving notice of the cancellation to Director of Adjudicators Michael Robertson.
- 2020 candidates have been notified that they will only have to fill out the cover sheet of the orientation application for 2021 adjudicator orientation. Resumes and references from 2020 will be used for 2021.
- 2020 candidates will be emailed the 2021 application as soon as it is finalized.

### 2021 Adjudicator Orientation Seminars

- 2021 adjudicator orientation sites are planned in Zones 7,10 and 13. The following dates and sites are confirmed:
  - March 19-20 Jericho H.S. (piano only) Zone 13
  - April 9-10 Herricks H.S. (no piano) Zone 13
  - April 16-17 Kingston H.S. Zone 9
  - April 30-May 1 Frontier H.S. Zone 1
- Since only 37 new adjudicators have been oriented the past two years, compared to an average over 24 years of 63 a year, we are trying to arrange a fourth orientation site on May 14-15 or May 21-22.
- The application will be on the NYSSMA® website and will appear in the *School Music NEWS* in the September, October, November/December issues.
- The deadline for applications is March 1, 2021. As mentioned earlier, 2020 candidates will have priority over new applicants, if enrollment exceeds capacity at a site.

### AFC Subcommittee

President Brown has requested that a subcommittee made up of AFC members be convened to investigate and formulate possible procedures for virtual solo/ensemble evaluation in the event that in-person evaluations are not possible in 2021. The subcommittee comprises: Ed Chiarello, Steve Fayette, Lori Hershenhart, Alan Jones, Mike Robertson, and George Smith. The subcommittee will meet virtually in the next month and plans to have a potential plan formulated by November.

### Advocacy Chair: Lori Orestano-James

#### S7550 & A9660 Bill

Sadly, due to COVID-19, this bill will most likely not be addressed in this session. Senator Metzger will continue the mission in the next session if she is reelected. We will

have to start from scratch but will continue to advocate for this issue.

### District/Budget Updates

Since the start of COVID-19, I have worked with 72 schools/districts regarding concerns of scheduling, program cuts, budget cuts and staffing concerns. In addition, there is dialogue around the “how-to” of curriculum delivery especially with online learning. Concerns about what the fall 2020 opening will look like and options are also of great concern.

To that end, I would like to thank President Dr. David Brown for realizing the need to expand the work I have been doing and forming the Ad-Hoc Advocacy During COVID-19 Committee.

Briefly, the committee has been structured into two tiers. The first tier consists of me, along with Michael Mastrangelo as Co-Chairs, Russ Faunce as NYSSMA® Executive Board Officer, Michael Brownell as NYSSMA® Advisor, and Marc Greene as NAFME Eastern Division Past President.

The second tier consists of Advocacy Leaders from each NYSSMA® Zone across NYS. Let me take this opportunity to say how honored I am to work with these NYSSMA® leaders and volunteers to do this critical work. The names and contact information are available on the NYSSMA® website.

### Bullet Points of Work Accomplished to Date

- NYSSMA® website now has a “Hot Topic COVID-19” button for members to go to for information and ideas. This will be updated regularly, so keep an eye out for new information.
- The committee has met virtually and designed a survey for members to help coordinate needs throughout the state. Please make sure members are notified and fill it out.
- Each Zone Advocacy Leader has partaken in training in Best Practices of Advocacy, enabling them to guide anyone who contacts them concerning advocacy issues. The process of the committee is as follows: anyone needing assistance will start with their Zone Advocacy Leader who will assist with all information. The Zone Advocacy Leaders will reach out to the state level of this committee, should they require additional assistance with concerns.
- Survey link, update notifications and such will be sent

via the NYSSMA® Facebook pages and Twitter. Please make sure you are telling members to join those pages. In addition, Cybernotes will be sent as needed with additional information from Dr. Brown.

- A Zoom interview on “How to Advocate” is in the process of being made and the link will be posted shortly.

The state level and full Ad Hoc Committee are continuing to meet virtually to handle critical issues as they arise.

#### **Classroom Music Committee Chair: Kerry Mero Summer Conference 2021**

We are happy to report that most, if not all, of our scheduled 2020 Summer Conference clinicians are available and willing to present at Summer Conference 2021. Our headliner will still be Matthew Stensrud, who will present three sessions: Infusion of Responsive Classroom in Orff Schulwerk; Teaching Without Words, and How to Hook ‘Em: Enhancing Movement in Upper Elementary.

#### **Winter Conference 2020**

Our committee recently selected an outstanding slate of sessions for winter 2020, and we look forward to sharing them with you once finalized. Our headliner will be Music Learning Theory specialist Dr. Heather Shouldice. She will present four sessions for us:

- Fostering Vocal Creativity and Improvisation in Elementary Music.
- Teaching Harmony Step-by-Step: A Sequential Approach to Developing Harmonic Audiation.
- Individual Musicking: Developing Elementary Students’ Musical Independence.
- Research to “Real Life”: Applications of Recent Research for Elementary General Music.

#### **Current Committee Projects**

- Classroom Committee Handbook: One of the benefits of working from home is that I had some unexpected time to work on some extensive CMC projects. I was able to update and digitize our existing committee handbook, which was very outdated and originally only in paper format. We are still tweaking it as a committee, but the bulk of the work is done, and it will be an extremely helpful resource to both current and future committee members.
- Music Education Survey: Another project I was able to

begin was our music education survey project. I was able to digitize and share our 2006 survey questions with the committee so that we can work remotely to create a new one. We do not have a timeline in mind yet, but we welcome your feedback and suggestions in terms of what data could be collected in the light of all that is currently happening. Our 2006-07 data analysis (prepared by Dr. Ed Marschilok) entitled “A Report on PreK-12 Music Education in New York State with a Special Focus on The Middle Level” is available on our webpage

- NY Sings! Song List Update: This summer, I hope to continue the work on our song list revision (our updated list will address, educate and inform about problematic songs, and will include new songs to expand the cultures and diversity).

CMC Birthday Celebration: The Classroom Music Committee turns 30 this year, and we have a lofty goal of publishing several articles in the SMN, highlighting PEAK festivals, our updated song list, middle school general music, and possibly a brief history of the committee.

#### **COME A Chair: Kathy Perconti**

#### **NYSBDA**

The New York State Band Directors Association has voted to contribute \$5,000 in support of a research study being led by scientists at the University of Colorado- Boulder for the purpose of gathering scientific data and facts relevant to COVID-19 and arts education. The study is entitled “Reducing Bioaerosol Emissions and Exposures in the Performing Arts: A Scientific Roadmap for a Safe Return from COVID-19.”

The results of the study should allow us to:

- 1) Have a better understanding of what is actually permissible, safe, and possible in terms of in-person arts education.
- 2) Share information with administrators and communities as to what is actually permissible, safe, and possible in terms of in-person arts education.
- 3) Formulate guidelines, parameters, and mitigation strategies in order to create plans for in-person arts education in the coming year.
- 4) Create and share curricular options based on those parameters and strategies.

Initial findings should be available in approximately seven weeks with additional data to be shared in fourteen weeks.

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A replication study will also take place at the University of Maryland. NYSBDA is proud to participate in this study.

For more information, contact NYSBDA Executive Director Michael Struzik at [executive@nysbda.org](mailto:executive@nysbda.org)

### **NY- ACDA**

An international coalition led by performing arts organizations commissioned a COVID-19 study that will examine aerosol rates produced by wind instrumentalists, vocalists, and even actors, and how quickly those aerosol rates accumulate in a space.

### **Video - Guidance and Support for Choral Singing Options During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

[https://youtu.be/Cgx6NA25\\_U4](https://youtu.be/Cgx6NA25_U4)

The COVID-19 Response Committee Report was developed by a team of choral professionals from across the country with expertise and experience in choral education and conducting in a variety of choral settings, including K-12 schools, colleges and universities, community choirs, and places of worship. <https://acda.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/ACDA-COVID-19-Committee-Report.pdf>

Conducted questionnaire for Reimagine Education Council. Had more than 60,000 responses from across the state.

Hosted several live webinars, Resources for Music Educators series, sponsored by ACDA, NATS, Chorus America, Barbershop Harmony Society, and the Performing Arts Medicine Association, hosted by Brian Newhouse of Minnesota Public Radio.

### **NYSCAME**

Focusing on area meetings since the COVID-19 closure of schools.

The Executive Board has been formulating a vision on diversity and equity. They are hoping to have a state-wide roundtable to discuss issues.

### **RACAME (Rochester Area)**

Kathy and Scott have attended these meetings. Meets every other week to discuss area concerns since closure.

Some topics have been:

Recruitment and retention.

Video/virtual ensembles.

Advocacy.

Social distancing in music classes and ensembles.

Comprehensive COVID aerosol study of COVID-19.

### **Curriculum Committee Chairperson: Frederic Weingarten**

#### **Winter Conference 2020**

We are currently on hold until we hear status of proposed sessions for the winter conference.

New on the Curriculum Committee web page: Sequencing The Standards - a resource that bridges the NYSSMA® Sequential Guide To Music Instruction (SGMI) with the NYS P12 Learning Standards for the Arts Identification of Quarter and Paired Eighth notes; a music exemplar for primary classroom music; The Arts Standards Roadmap and Implementation Timeline; SED's planning and implementation guide that supports the Standards. Please review these new documents and inform your constituents.

#### **NYS P12 Learning Standards for the Arts (music):**

Curriculum Committee is seeking lessons for input into Innovative Instruction for Standards-Based Learning, an exciting new document that will contain instructional ideas reflecting the 2017 New York State Learning Standards for the Arts. Please use this link [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfwX6nqEq8FjGKm5GuLvXg4cttes-GXX\\_hBpaxJIUe0\\_h2V26Q/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfwX6nqEq8FjGKm5GuLvXg4cttes-GXX_hBpaxJIUe0_h2V26Q/viewform) for your contributions. All of NYSSMA's committees and chairs have already been contacted and invited to participate to help make this a truly collaborative effort.

#### **State Education Department**

The Curriculum Committee web page has a link to the Roadmap & Implementation Timeline.

Many of the initiatives that SED has been working on have been completed. You may see them on the same page as the Standards, only go to the second tab down on the left side that's entitled "Arts Professional Development."

Go to the "Music" section to find " SED Professional Development documents " – ( <http://www.nysed.gov/curriculum-instruction/arts-professional-development> ).

THINK Document - designed to support updating/aligning curriculum and instruction.

Toolkit - provides EQs and discussion points to help navigate the self-training materials.

Self-Training – a do-it-yourself guide to the Part I introduction to the Standards.

Work continues in the Arts Content Advisory Panel (CAP), and the Individual Arts.

Assessment Pathways (IAAP). New materials are anticipated to be completed, approved and online in weeks.

I also participate in the NYS Arts Coalition, which is a

committee that originated from the NYS standards writing days and includes educators from music, art, dance, and theater.

Two advocacy pieces have been generated regarding the place and value of arts education during COVID-19, one from the Coalition itself, and one presented to us from David Seligman from SEADAE (State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education). I have shared both with Advocacy Committee for distribution.

### **Government Relations Chair: Alan Orloff**

During these extraordinary times, the Government Relations Committee has still been meeting. We've communicated via email and telephone and had a Zoom meeting as well. The single most important word that came to me out of those meetings was "remind."

We felt that we should remind the council that the Standing Committee on Government Relations is a group mandated in the NYSSMA® Constitution. The function of the committee as stated in the constitution is: "providing information to legislators regarding legislation which affects education; inviting opportunities to consult with public officials on matters affecting education; fostering the establishment and functioning of Local Action Groups' providing information and assistance to the NYSSMA® members and supporters, as needed or required."

These responsibilities were discussed at length at our March 1-2, 2020, Executive Council meetings in Latham, and then put into action on March 3, 2020, at the 47th Annual Joseph R. Sugar NYSSMA® Day in Albany.

We had an amazing day. We had one of our largest groups of member/participants in years. We saw many Zones already organized into Legislative Action Groups. They were prepared and ready for the challenges of the day, and the response was amazingly positive. One purpose of the day was to let our state senators and Assembly members know what NYSSMA® and its members had accomplished over the year and invite them to year-end events.

These meetings provided members the chance to create and establish personal relationships with legislators and staff in every office. However, our most important function that day was to introduce and ask for support from our legislators for groundbreaking legislation, supported by NYSSMA®: Senate Bill S5770 and Assembly Bill A9650.

I know you will all remember that these bills were developed from a federal bill introduced in Washington by Representative Nydia Velasquez called the GAAME Act, Guaranteed Access to Music Education. While passed in the House, the GAAME Act languished on the desk of the

Senate majority leader and went nowhere.

We had already seen great success in Washington with the bi-partisan passing of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which replaced the No Child Left Behind Act that guided Federal education policy for more than 10 years.

Under ESSA, music education was included and mandated for the first time as a free-standing subject in a student's "well rounded education." Even more important was GAAME's provision that music education be moved from being a regulatory subject to a statutory subject, one that HAD to be included in the school day of our students.

An idea created by NAFME Eastern Division President Marc Greene, our former NYSSMA® President, was formed in conjunction with NAFME's incredible political office and lobbyist Tooshar Swain. This was to support the writing of legislation, similar to the GAAME Act, which would make New York State the first state in the Union to move music education from a regulatory subject, controlled through the State Education Department (where it was subject to the whims and budgets of every school district's leadership) to a statutory subject protected and mandated by the Senate and the Assembly.

Our Advocacy Chair, Lori Orestano-James, was able to get Senator Jen Metzger to support the bill in the State Senate, and I was able to get bi-partisan support in the Assembly from Assembly members Kimberly Jean-Pierre(D) and Ed Ra(R).

The response we got on March 3 was overwhelmingly positive for these "Same As" bills, so named since the language was the same in the Senate and Assembly version. We had the support of the Assembly and Senate Education Committee Chairs, and virtually all our members reported back to me that every office they visited thought the bills were excellent and would be passed.

Then, as you all know, our state government ground to a halt just a week later as our nation responded to the dangerously growing Corona virus pandemic, with our State as one of the earliest epicenters of the COVID-19 outbreak.

The preceding goes hand in hand with the GRC's concept, "remind." We wanted to remind you of all we had accomplished up until March 3, 2020. Once the pandemic hit, I feel there was a reaction by many members that while we were SO close to getting these bills passed, now the last thing on legislators' minds would be bills regarding music education.

The GRC frankly discussed with pride that music educators all over the state adapted to an entirely new way of teaching in a matter of days. We think legislators need

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to be reminded of this! The GRC felt that we should find ways to encourage “think tanks” around the State to mine the techniques teachers found worked best for teaching in the COVID era. We felt strongly that in an era where we all saw lack of planning lead to terrible COVID death rates, NYSSMA® had to be at the forefront of planning for all post-COVID contingencies.

It was wonderful to get President Brown's letter last week describing the new ad hoc committees that will essentially become these think tanks. The amazing group of educators already involved as committee members is an incredible group of the finest minds in our field.

The GRC feels strongly that legislators need to be reminded of our bills. Protecting music education with S5770/A9650 is a vital concept. Yes, it's a long shot, but one worth taking. Also, when we discussed Legislative Action Groups at our last meeting, I was pleasantly surprised at how many zone reps came up to me and said, “Alan, what makes you think we don't have this kind of group in place already?” Quickly linking the GRC to existing groups and creating new ones where they don't exist would allow us to have a strong government communication system.

The GRC's role in all this is to keep in constant communication with our legislators. It is our plan to write a series of letters to all legislators, not only by email but especially by using snail mail to build the folders that truly command the attention of legislators.

The first mailing would be to remind them of our March visits, thank them for welcoming us and then bring up the bills again. After that, we thought to keep up a regular schedule of legislative communications that, after Presidential approval, would inform them of preliminary planning results and then keep communicating as the NYSSMA® plans for all areas of music education are completed. This would be exactly what our constitutional mandate dictates.

We want to let government know that NYSSMA® is the leader in this field and is hard at work creating plans they must know about and have available to help guide the school administrators in their districts.

With plans and ideas changing every day and every week, broadcasting NYSSMA's position as THE source for planning information covering all contingencies would be a primary goal of the GRC.

#### **NAfME Collegiate Advisor: Dr. Keith Koster**

##### **April 2020**

Completed 2020-2021 State Collegiate Executive

Board elections. Please welcome the new e-board. These newly elected officers will be a great group of student leaders to work with:

President-Elect (two-year term): Christopher McAfee (Crane School of Music).

Secretary: Emma Clive (Nazareth College).

Web Editor: Morgan Beaton (Nazareth College).

Province Representatives: Joseph Benedict (Crane School of Music), Kieran DeMaria (Hofstra University), Julia Stowell (Crane School of Music), Julia Turner (SUNY Fredonia), Maddy Yung (Nazareth College).

These students will work closely with State Collegiate President, Daria Barteldt (CUNY Queens College) this year.

##### **May 2020**

Dr. Koster completed and posted a handbook about hosting a state collegiate conference. The handbook is located in the collegiate link at [nyssma.org](http://nyssma.org)

Dr. Koster and some student officers are working on a State Collegiate Handbook. The purpose of this handbook is to serve as a guide for chapter engagement, strategies for successful growth and participation, etc. We hope to finish the handbook by August 1. Once completed, it will be posted in the collegiate link at [nyssma.org](http://nyssma.org) and attached to the fall Collegiate Newsletter sent to all chapter advisors and student leaders.

The State Collegiate e-board met and did the following: revisited and are editing the State Collegiate Constitution (still in progress); revamped the collegiate website (Thanks to Terry Nigrelli for all of his assistance!!).

Check out the collegiate link on the [nyssma.org](http://nyssma.org) homepage.

Selected collegiate sessions for the 2020 Winter Conference.

##### **June 2020**

Province Representatives have reached out to collegiate chapter members and advisors to update our state collegiate chapter roster.

Promoted the 2020 NAfME Collegiate Advocacy Summit and expect New York collegiate members to attend the online event (June 23 – 24, 2020).

In late July and early August, the officers will assist me with the fall C-NYSSMA® Newsletter. I am really excited about the new direction our state collegiate officers are planning to go with some new and exciting ideas about how to expand membership, participation and engagement in NYSSMA® and NAfME.

The officers are creating some new ways to increase cross-chapter collaboration as well. They are helping to

define what NY Collegiate NYSSMA® culture is and what it is all about. I look forward to their leadership during the upcoming academic year.

### **COVID-19 Update**

We are beginning to get more information about when colleges and universities will be starting classes this fall and whether or not students will meet on campus or virtually or a combination of both.

Some institutions are beginning the fall semester two or more weeks before Labor Day and ending the semester at Thanksgiving. For colleges and universities ending the fall semester at Thanksgiving, this may impact collegiate attendance at the 2020 Winter Conference. As we get more information, we will certainly share the news.

We value and appreciate NYSSMA's commitment to our collegiate members and, in spite of the unprecedented circumstances surrounding COVID-19, remain optimistic about the future.

We encourage NYSSMA® members to follow collegiate chapters on social media. To access social media links, visit the Collegiate NYSSMA® page ([nyssma.org](http://nyssma.org)) and review chapter information.

### **NAfME Collegiate President: Daria Barteldt**

The activity during first few months of the 2020-2021 C-NYSSMA/NAfME Collegiate e-board has been as follows:

#### **April 2020**

Completed 2020-2021 State Collegiate Executive Board Elections. Please welcome the new e-board. These newly elected officers will be a great group of student leaders to work with:

President-Elect (two-year term): Christopher McAfee (Crane School of Music).

Secretary: Emma Clive (Nazareth College).

Web Editor: Morgan Beaton (Nazareth College).

Province Representatives: Joseph Benedict (Crane School of Music), Kieran DeMaria (Hofstra University), Julia Stowell (Crane School of Music), Julia Turner (SUNY Fredonia), Maddy Yung (Nazareth College).

I have begun expressing my goals for this upcoming year with the new e-board.

#### **May 2020**

The C-NYSSMA tab on the NYSSMA® website has been updated by Morgan Beaton to ensure a clear directory for our new and returning members (Thank you to Mr.

Nigreli for your help!).

Dr. Koster was kind enough to compose a handbook for our Collegiate Biennial Conference.

During our first meeting we discussed:

Addressing and visiting the new website.

Revising the State Collegiate Constitution.

Sessions for winter conference.

#### **June 2020**

Province Representatives have reached out to collegiate chapter members and advisors to update our state collegiate chapter roster.

Promoted the 2020 NAFME Collegiate Advocacy Summit and expect New York collegiate members to attend the online event (June 23 – 24, 2020).

Our next meeting will be scheduled for August in order to plan the fall newsletter and upcoming winter conference.

I would like to incorporate a faster connection between the State e-board and chapter presidents throughout the state. I have also begun discussing different platforms for online teaching. Some chapters have voiced their opinions on the Black Lives Matter movement and have been providing materials and resources to their members via social media.

I am very excited about working with the Executive Council and the new State e-board this year. I also hope that my contributions as a student, cellist, and future music educator will aid NYSSMA's 2020-2021 year.

We value and appreciate NYSSMA's commitment to our collegiate members and, in spite of the unprecedented circumstances surrounding COVID-19, remain optimistic about the future.

### **Public Relations: Dr. John Gallagher**

1. I've updated the "Published Stories" section of the Press Room to showcase news stories featuring the following stories:

Members of the Class of 2020 - Twelve (12) stories posted as of today.

Students attending conference all-state - Thirty-seven (37) stories. In line with stories from 2018.

Students attending area all state festivals - Six (6) stories. In line with stories from 2018.

2. As you know, we've had some folks on social media question NYSSMA's decision on All-State 2020, as well as the diversity statement that was released.

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Some took to Twitter expressing dismay that we haven't shown too much diversity. One gentleman posted that he didn't expect much more discussion from NYSSMA®. Another suggested we begin looking at the Manual to see the amount of diversity in the composers that are listed in it.

3. Our presence on Twitter saw a few tweets with high numbers of "Impressions." These show the number of times a tweet appears to users in either their timeline or search results. "Engagements" tell us about the total number of times a user interacted with the tweets we sent during a selected date range.

#### **Web Editor: Terry Nigrelli**

The NYSSMA® website is running well.

I've been working with the officers to create a COVID Resources section on the site.

If you are new to editing your page on the site, please e-mail me at [webeditor@nyssma.org](mailto:webeditor@nyssma.org) I will send you the instructions. Alternatively, you can send me the information and I will post it for you. The link to log in to edit your page is: <https://www.nyssma.org/wp-login.php?wle>.

The job posting page as always is the most active page. Here is the link to the online job posting form: <http://www.nyssma.org/post-a-job/>.

I have been answering or forwarding the e-mail messages that get sent to [info@nyssma.org](mailto:info@nyssma.org).

I'd like to ask committee chairs and zone reps to review your pages to make sure the information is accurate and up to date.

If you need help with your NYSSMA® e-mail, please can call the office. They will be able to help you.

#### **School Music NEWS Editor: Tom Gellert**

##### **Final 2019-20 School Music NEWS coming later this month**

The last issue of the 2019-20 school year will be sent out in late June so that we may include any late-breaking information that is important to convey to association membership as the next issue after this month is the September 2020 *School Music NEWS*.

##### **Call for future School Music NEWS articles**

If you know folks who have been extremely successful in designing unique and cutting-edge lesson plans during the pandemic, please encourage them to submit an article for inclusion in a future fall issue of the *School Music NEWS*.

Likewise, I am also planning to include any/all guid-

ance from our three specially formed ad hoc committees looking at advocacy, curriculum, and performing group strategies in these difficult times. Article submission criteria may be found here:

<https://www.nyssma.org/information/school-music-news/learn-how-to-write-for-and-submit-articles-to-the-school-music-news/>

#### **Correcting NAFME/NYSSMA® mailing address information**

Please encourage members in your zones to visit their online membership information accessible through the membership portal of the NAFME website. In compiling the 2020 directory of NYSSMA® membership, it was readily apparent that there were a significant number of incomplete and inaccurate member listings, including wrong or missing home/school addresses, incorrect e-mails, etc.

Any correction of online member information is critical to making certain that NAFME and NYSSMA® mailings are being sent to the correct address in a timely fashion. All NYSSMA® members are also requested to renew their membership in a timely fashion, especially in light of the fact that future issues of the *School Music NEWS* will include very important information as the new school year begins in September.

#### **County President changes**

If there are any county president changes beginning July 1 or September 1, please contact Debby Super in the NYSSMA® Business Office with this information ASAP. The information will be updated in the NYSSMA® computer so it appears correctly in the *School Music NEWS* masthead beginning in September.

#### **Area all-state calendar changes/additions**

Any/all additions, changes should be sent to Stuart Rauch in the NYSSMA® Business Office.

Next Meeting: August, 2020. Most likely will be via GoToMeeting.

#### **Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn:** Michael Salzman (Past-President), seconded by Scott Cannan (Zone 2), "that the meeting be adjourned." **Motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas N. Gellert, Recorder