

MINUTES

March 5-6, 2022 – Century House, Latham, NY (Albany)

NYSSMA[®] Executive Council Meeting

NYSSMA[®] Executive Council Meeting OFFICIAL MINUTES - March 5-6, 2022 – Century House, Latham, NY (Albany)

Welcome – Call to Order

The 2022 March NYSSMA[®] Executive Council meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. on Saturday, March 5, 2022, by President Russ Faunce. Not in attendance: Zone 4, Zone 8, Zone 15 and Jeanne Gray, Advisory Council.

President Russ Faunce welcomed everyone to the meeting. He went around the table and had members of council introduce themselves. President Faunce asked members of council to observe a moment of silence in memory of Elizabeth Howell, a Crane School of Music senior, cellist and music education student who was tragically killed.

Adviser Michael Brownell remarked that for the first time in history there are a majority of female Zone Representatives seated at council.

Minutes

Approval of minutes from the December 2021 Executive Council meeting. The minutes from the December 2021 Executive Council meeting at Rochester were previously approved by an e-mail vote.

Nominations

President Faunce announced the opening of nominations for the following NYSSMA[®] offices beginning January 1, 2023, with the following results:

NYSSMA[®] 2nd Vice President – Daryle Redmond – nominated by Ruth Breidenbach.

NYSSMA[®] 3rd Vice President – Lynda Keech nominated Kathy Perconti.

Zone 1 Representative – Paige Hardison nominated herself.

Zone 3 Representative - none at this time.

Zone 7 Representative – Gregory Verheyn nominated himself.

Zone 11 Representative – none at this time.

Zone 15 Representative - none at this time.

Nominations will be open again at the June 2022 Executive Council meeting, August 2022 Executive Council meeting, and the August 2022 NYSSMA[®] General Business meeting to be held at the NYS Summer Music Conference in Albany.

Officer Reports

President: Russ Faunce

Call for RSA Performing Groups – President Faunce asked for council's assistance in identifying an instrumental or vocal performing group of no more than 20-25 students to perform at 6:30 p.m. at the Rural Schools Association Summer Conference at Cooperstown July 10, 2022.

Call for NYSSBA Performing Groups –

A similar request was made to council to encourage small school music groups interested in performing at the NYSSBA Fall 2022 Convention to be held in Syracuse in October 27 and 28, 2022.

NYSSSA update - The Summer School of the Arts will be doing a

"virtual summer" program. NYSED announced that the NYS Summer School of the Arts (NYSSSA) will offer a total of \$150,000 in scholarship opportunities for high school students to attend regional summer arts programs for summer 2022. Students can apply for a scholarship through May 1, 2022, via an online application.

IAAP pilot

- Pilot Schools have been notified of their acceptance into the pilot as of January 6, 2022.
- IAAP Development Committee members will assist in providing technical support throughout the IAAA application and implementation process.
- Monthly regional and statewide coordinator meetings will tentatively begin in early February 2022.
- Applications will open to all interested districts in winter 2023.

NAFME/NFHS/CDC - The definition of

"Extracurricular" - Ed Chiarello gave a brief overview of the NFHS meeting to discuss current CDC guidance regarding aerosol studies, social distancing and recommendations that will impact the field.

Other discussion centered on removal of the use of the word "extracurricular" when categorizing music instruction in a general way. A statement was made endorsing the importance and continuance of music education.

Both NAFME and NFHS are working to clarify the updated guidance regarding the delivery of school music programs in times of Covid. Immediate Past President Brown clarified the current mandate as it applies

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to Covid and isolation/masking and playing a wind instrument/singing during days 6-10 following the Covid diagnosis. There are no other requirements regarding distancing/mandating bell covers for wind instruments, etc.

Diverse curriculum workshop - President Faunce announced that there would be an online event on April 5, 2022, "Incorporating Diversity, Equity, Representation, and Belonging into Your Music Curriculum," sponsored by the Curriculum Committee that will offer CTLE credit (1 hr.). There is a link to this workshop on the NYSSMA® web page.

President-Elect: Ed Chiarello

Winter Conference 2022, Rochester - NYSSMA® will be returning to Rochester December 1-4, 2022, for the NYSSMA® Winter Conference. The 2021 conference proved to be a bit smaller, however, none the less successful:

Winter conference attendance by year:
2021 = 1,354 registered attendees
2020 (Cyber-Summit) = 1,193
2019 = 1,570
2018 = 1,591

Looking ahead with the experience of running an in-person winter conference this past year and observing and maintaining all health protocols, we are encouraged that we can continue to navigate the circumstances and proceed with planning as usual. Similar to last year, NYSSMA® will monitor guidelines and abide by all protocols that potentially emerge. We cannot predict potential obstacles that could materialize in the fall; however, it is hoped that this year's 2022 conference will be without masking and minus the social distancing protocol.

Please note the following important dates:

February 1 — Submittable forms open (sessions, showcases and performing groups)

First week of February

Call for Sessions sent via Submittable to all 2020 clinicians.

Call for Sessions/Groups appears on the NYSSMA® website and published in the January/February Issue of the *School Music NEWS*: <https://nyssma.submittable.com/submit>.

April 29 — Session form closes.

May 2 — Session form links sent to reviewers.

May 13 — Performing group session form closes.

May 16 — Session reviews completed.

June 1 — Conference schedule created.

June 3 — Performing groups selected.

June 7 - Submitters notified of session status.

June 10 - Performing groups notified of status.

The homepage of the NYSSMA® website includes a new subcategory titled: Winter Conference / Student Showcases: <https://www.nyssma.org>

Additionally, there is a Call for Creators:

Student Piano Showcase Submissions for the 2022 Winter Conference: <https://nyssma.submittable.com/submit/214096/2022-nyssma-student-piano-showcase-application>

Young Composers Honors Concert application for 2022 Winter Conference:

<https://nyssma.submittable.com/submit/216670/2022-nyssma-young-composers-honors-concert-application>

Student Electronic Compositions for the 2022 Winter Conference: <https://nyssma.submittable.com/submit/216689/2022-nyssma-electronic-music-showcase-application>

Student Songwriters for the 2022 Winter Conference:

<https://nyssma.submittable.com/submit/216686/2022-nyssma-songwriters-showcase-application>

- Piano Showcase applications accepted through July 9, 2022.
- Young Composers Honors

Concert applications accepted through June 10, 2022.

- Student Electronic Composition applications accepted through June 10, 2022.
- Student Songwriters applications accepted through June 10, 2022.

All pertinent information/dates can be found in the *SMN* or on the NYSSMA® website.

Immediate Past President:

Dr. David Brown

County President's meeting — Sunday, March 6, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.

2nd Vice President: Daryle Redmond

Festival season 2022 - Daryle Redmond spoke about the upcoming 2022 NYSSMA® Solo and Major Organization Festival season. NYSSMA® is looking forward to a normal, in-person season this year. While there have been a few cancellations and moving of festivals to alternative locations, it appears that all of the festival sites are in place and that we can look forward to a normal season.

2023 Festival Season calendar - Zone representatives are encouraged to develop their 2023 festival zone calendar dates soon. More discussion on the 2023 calendar development will take place at the special meeting with Daryle Redmond and George Smith at this evening's special meeting with zone representatives.

Area All-State Summary 2021-22 - Daryle Redmond gave a brief overview of the 2021-22 area all-state festivals.

All-State 2022 - Discussion centered on all-state for 2022 in specific regard to a new performance venue for the all-state jazz ensembles. The pool of student all-state candidates hopefully will be strong as we transition back to a normal in-person solo festival season.

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3rd Vice President: Kathy Perconti

2022 Summer Conference - Join us! Welcome back to an in-person NYSSMA® Summer Music Conference! We have an outstanding array of music sessions from NYACDA, NYSCAME, NYASTA, and NYSBDA, as well as NYSSMA's Classroom Music, Technology and Collegiate Committees. We will have reading sessions and director's ensembles again!

Don't forget that we have a new manual starting July 31, 2022. The new manual will be there for you to view, and we will have sessions on the new manual. We hope that you will connect with us at this conference because we belong together so that we can create music with our students. Hope to see you at the Albany Hilton August 14-16, 2022.

Executive Director Report:

Dr. David Gaines

Code of Conduct - Dr. Gaines brought a discussion to council regarding a NYSSMA® Code of Ethics for members of the NYSSMA® Executive Council. Dr. Gaines put together a draft of a NYSSMA® Code of Ethics based on a document shared by NAFME. This document was shared with all members of the NYSSMA® Executive Council (officers, zone representatives, the collegiate president, committee chairpersons and advisers).

Discussion ensued in council regarding the intent/need for a Code of Ethics and how it relates to each member of council and his or her participation at council. In addition, the information shared at a NYSSMA® Executive Council meeting can be confidential or for public information. Following discussion at council the following motion was made:

Motion: Russ Faunce (NYSSMA® President), seconded by Jame Uzzi (Zone 14 Representative), "that the NYSSMA® Executive Council accept and adopt the NYSSMA® Code of Ethics as distributed to Executive Council members." **Motion carried unanimously.**

Zone Representative achievements

Zone 1: SUNY Fredonia hosted the high school festival, and while numbers were smaller, the quality was outstanding. Solo / small ensemble festivals are down by one festival in 2022. Majors: One festival site had no registrations but the two other major sites are functioning. Niagara County lost its festival due to weather. Some of the other festivals have been reduced in size.

Zone 2: Several all-county festivals have taken place in the past several weeks. Students were able to perform unmasked. Audiences have also been unmasked. This weekend is the 100th anniversary of Eastman School of Music. Nazareth College has hosted some festivals. The arts are returning slowly.

Zone 3: Hosted an area all-state with reduced numbers but with some modifications, including a string orchestra and split choral ensembles into a treble chorus and tenor-bass chorus. There has been a wonderful response to folks stepping up to help in hosting festivals (Trumansburg).

Zone 5: There were some cancellations of festivals but there are opportunities for professional development opportunities for teachers. There will be a county festival happening in several weeks. The local Army band is hosting music opportunities for students. Solo festival registration is ongoing.

Zone 6: Things look pretty good in the various counties in Zone 6. Essex County and Clinton County festivals were curtailed/shortened due to weather. Some music staff has been lost. Students were very enthusiastic to return to performing.

Zone 7: Everything looks good for festivals. Festival size is down about 30% in the zone.

Zone 8: NYSSMA® festivals are moving forward.

Zone 9: Will be hosting an adjudicator orientation site. There has been a reshuffling of audition sites but every-

thing seems to be moving forward. Some capping of festivals has been undertaken.

Zone 11: Westchester numbers are down slightly this year and there has been some shifting of sites.

Zone 12: NYC's new mayor is loosening up on mandates and there is a move back to some degree of normalcy. President Faunce stated that he is enthusiastic about a resurgence of NYSSMA's presence in New York City. Alvin Atkinson, Jr., was named the recipient of the NFHS Award.

Zone 13: NYSSMA® numbers are somewhat down in Nassau County. There is concern over the available adjudicator pool and piano adjudications. Major organization numbers are OK.

Zone 14: Concerns were expressed about the cost of piano rentals. The county lost its western Suffolk piano adjudication site. Some of the individual sites are way down. Major organization numbers are OK.

Committee Reports

Adjudication Festival Committee

Chair: George Smith

The NYSSMA® Adjudication Festival Committee met December 2, 2021, at the Winter Conference. This report contains a summary of relevant agenda items discussed at the December meeting.

2022 Adjudicator Orientation Seminars - Enrollment for 2022 Adjudicator Orientation Seminars as of February 14:

Jericho HS (piano only)	March 11-12	Total - 3
Johnson City HS	April 1-2	Total - 13
Smithtown West HS	April 8-9	Total - 27
Kingston HS	April 22-23	Total - 26
Frontier HS	April 29-30	Total - 20

Grand total: 96 (42 reg, 10 all-state, 3 major organization, 8 second area)

Deadline for applications: March 1, 2022.

Zoom adjudicator refreshers - Adjudicator refreshers for all specialty areas were provided through eight Zoom sessions. They were organized as follows:

Voice and Piano – February 6 and 9
Instrumental (Br, Perc, Str, WW) - February 10 and 12

Instrumental and Vocal Jazz – February 17 and 20

Major Organization – February 16 & 19

These refreshers take the place of previous in-person refreshers held at the summer and winter conferences. Many adjudicators who had not attended previous in-person refreshers took advantage of the Zoom refreshers. The AFC will evaluate and discuss the Zoom refreshers at the March 18-19 AFC meeting.

2021 Winter Conference sessions -The following AFC sessions were held at the winter conference with attendance indicated:

Instrumental and Vocal Jazz Roundtable - 8

Instrumental (Br, Perc, Str, WW) Roundtable - 13

Voice and Piano Roundtable - 5

All-State Roundtable - 18

Major Organization Roundtable - 6

NYSSMA Adjudicator Drop-in (Assignor and Dir. Of Adj.) - 18

How to Chair a Successful Major Organization Festival - 3

Maximizing Success – How to Prepare for NYSSMA® Solo Eval. - 12

Preparing for NYSSMA® Major Organization Festival - 24

2022 coordinator letters - Letters were sent electronically in January. Principles of Solo and Ensemble Adjudication were sent with coordinator letter.

2022 Topics for Solo Adjudicators (regular and all-state) - Advise adjudicator to carefully **read and follow** NYSSMA® Principles of Solo and Ensemble Adjudication.

- Scale scoring: Score first attempt. Piano scales are scored differently.
- Refer to R-11 in the NYSSMA® Manual for sight-reading scoring. A zero may not be given unless no attempt is made.
- Please review the solo evaluation descriptors on the back of the evaluation sheet and incorporate that terminology in the narrative portion of the evaluation sheet. This is especially important in 2022 since the descriptors were not available in the 2021 virtual platform.
- Voice sight-reading: Clef is by student choice.
- Must use pen for scoring and print and /or legibly sign evaluation sheet.
- Comments about NYSSMA® adjudication should never be made on social media.
- Adjudicators should dress professionally when adjudicating.
- Avoid cutting solos unless necessary. Time allocation for solo: Level 1 to 4 – 6 minutes, Level 5 and 6 – 11 minutes.
- Please note the information concerning repeats and da capos on page R-9 of the NYSSMA® Manual.
- Percussion: Student is allowed to "air drum" or play on leg during sight-reading study time.
- Check your schedule to ensure that you are not adjudicating your own students (school or private).
- Instrumental and vocal jazz adjudicators need to be familiar with the requirements listed in section 9 of the Manual.
- All-state proficiency sheets must be printed and legible. Adjudicators will be asked to redo them if they are not legible. School district names must be fully listed.

- All-state auditions are evaluated with a consistent standard across the state.
- The use of pluses and minuses for Comments Only is encouraged/acceptable.

2022 topics for major organization adjudicators

- Major organization assignments are sent before solo assignments; adjudicators need to keep committed solo dates available.

- Adjudicators should check and replace batteries as needed. **This is especially important in 2022 since the recorder may not have been used since 2019.** Bring extra batteries to each adjudication assignment.
- Adjudicators need to be familiar with recording device and practice with it prior to adjudication assignment. **This is especially important in 2022 since major organization evaluation has not taken place since 2019.**
- Remind adjudicators that adults may not perform in or accompany instrumental ensembles. This is especially important for instrumental adjudicators who often hear elementary orchestras with a piano accompaniment.
- Adjudicators should make final recorded comments after the ensemble has left the performance area. These final comments should be generic and not address specific performance issues or strengths.
- Adjudicators need to be familiar with the march requirements as stated on page R-24 of edition 32 of the NYSSMA® Manual.
- The use of pluses and minuses for Comments Only evaluations is acceptable and encouraged.

2022 Reminders for Adjudicators revised - The Reminders for Adjudicators for both solo and major organization were revised for 2022.

The 2022 Reminders for Adjudicators have been sent to festival chairs and included in the adjudicator

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folder at festivals.

Zone representatives **will not** go over the Reminders during the zone representative meeting.

Zone representatives **will go** over NYSSMA® Principles of Solo and Ensemble Adjudication during the zone representative meeting.

Belonging, Equity, Diversity and Representation (BEDR) Committee: Adele Bovard

The committee has focused on the following actions since approval of the BEDR statement in December:

- Communicating and explaining the BEDR statement and goals to the membership.
- Finalizing a survey to solicit stakeholder input on the work. The target groups are members, nonmembers, students, and administrators.
- Establishing collaboration with NAFME Equity work.
- Partnering with Curriculum Committee to jointly plan a roundtable discussion for music teachers.
- Establishing a rotation for each NYSSMA® committee to do a review of its work in light of the approve statement.
- Working with New York State School Boards to align the call for performing groups with the BEDR goals.
- Working with the all-state chairs to ensure a diverse selection of conductors for all state ensembles.
- We are in the process of planning a systematic review process for all NYSSMA® committee work to align with the elements of our BEDR statement.

The committee will meet on Sunday and focus on expansion of voices at the table. We realize that representation on the committee needs to be diverse to capture the varying needs of all music programs in our state.

NAFME Eastern Division: Michael Brownell

April 2023 update - Michael Brownell, Division President-Elect, gave a brief update of action by NAFME Eastern Division. There is a new incoming NAFME President with New York roots. The 2023 Eastern Division Conference will take place April 13-16, 2023, at Rochester, NY hosted by NYSSMA®. The theme is Create, Connect. Call for 2023 Eastern Division session proposals and performing groups will be available starting on March 15, 2022.

NAFME Collegiate Advisor: Dr. Keith Koster

There were many highlights from the 2021 Winter Conference: collegiate sessions were well attended, the presentations were excellent, and there was good capture through social media in real time during the event.

The Collegiate Executive Board appreciated members of the NYSSMA® Executive Council attending the session after the Collegiate Business meeting. This was a wonderful opportunity for collegiate students to meet with council members and learn more about leadership, reconciling issues and contemplating the future of collegiate engagement in New York.

The State Executive Board has met twice, and the spring newsletter was circulated (see attached). The board is preparing for activities associated with Music in Our Schools Month, upcoming state officer elections, and the Collegiate Advocacy Summit in Washington, DC.

We hope that chapters also will submit applications to the national recognition program that NAFME offers. One way that we have made this information more accessible is to include hyperlinks to the application, as well as information about the award programs. In addition, the application for state office candidacy is also on line and hyperlinks were included in the newsletter. We hope for a robust pool of collegiate st

dents inspired to serve NYSSMA® at the state officer level this year.

The 2022 Collegiate Conference slated for March 25 and 26 at Syracuse University was cancelled this year due to Covid-19 policies on the campus. The State e-board is determining next steps, and we anticipate that the Syracuse chapter will host a state collegiate event in the fall. What will need to be determined will be the host institution for the 2024 return of the state collegiate event.

We appreciate the financial commitment to collegiates who assisted and traveled to the annual winter conference! Thank you to NYSSMA® members across the state who continue to mentor and inspire the next generation of music educators here in New York.

In closing, we are deeply saddened by the death of Elizabeth "Beth" Howell, a senior music education major at the Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam. We anticipate a statewide collegiate response to this senseless tragedy. Our hearts are with all of the Crane School of Music community and Elizabeth's family.

NYSSMA-NAFME Collegiate President: Chris McAfee

What a wonderful time it was for collegiate members at the winter conference this year! This was bolstered by opportunities to connect with each other and you, the Executive Council, and I hope to see these new opportunities, such as the Collegiate Interaction Hour continue and grow. There are many ways in which my colleagues were able to grow from your advice, and I am sure the voices of these collegiate members will continue to help NYSSMA® grow as a whole.

While we were all very excited to build this momentum toward a collegiate conference in March, Covid has bested us in this case. This does not mean we are without opportunity. In place of the conference, the Collegiate Executive Board will be

hosting a Virtual Leadership Summit on March 26 in which campus NAFME leaders from across the state will be invited to meet and discuss the state of NYSSMA® Collegiate.

At the summit, we hope to provide an open forum for discussion, an opportunity to connect with NYSSMA® executives, and to determine the location of our next in-person Collegiate Summit. If you are interested in joining us, there will be a planned hour for conversation with executives, whether that be a Q+A, networking event, or presentation of NYSSMA's current work.

I will provide an e-mail with more information on joining us as the event approaches. This would be a first-of-its-kind event, and, along with the Collegiate Interaction Hour, would be a capstone of my platform on building connections between collegiate leaders, their peers, and the NYSSMA® Executive Council.

Finally, as we get deep into another conference season, I encourage you all to take note of conferences being held by your local NAFME Collegiate and Tri-M chapters. Many schools have students working hard to provide a wonderful experience for their peers and local professionals, and I am certain that your presence would be beneficial to all.

GRC Chair: Alan Orloff

After 46 years of consecutive NYSSMA® legislative visitations in Albany to kick off Music in Our Schools Day/Week/Month, we now face our second virtual year making visits. It is disappointing, but the fact that we make this effort is definitely recognized by our legislators. We are a small organization compared to some that seek meetings with legislators, and, as a non-profit organization, we can't contribute anything to political campaigns like many of the groups who visit.

Still, when you consider that we represent close to 2 million school music students, our importance in the eyes of Albany skyrockets! Former

Senator Kemp told us that if it weren't for our hard work and visible presence in Albany for so many years, music would have lost support years ago.

We can only hope that in 2023 our 50th Joseph R. Sugar NYSSMA® Day in Albany celebration will be in person and a true gala celebration. We should never forget that Joe Sugar started Music in Our Schools Day, which turned into Music in Our Schools Week, which turned into Music in Our Schools Month 49 years ago, and that this unique New York creation is now celebrated in all 50 states and in all the Army base schools of Europe. We should never forget the leadership NYSSMA® has always provided, and that we are always on the forefront of Music Education innovation. We should be proud of our MIOSM creation.

This year, the "ask" messages we will explain in Albany center on the word "relations." More important than any bill or rule or number is using our visits to our legislators to create personal relationships. It allows us to present a truly human view of what we have gone through during the Covid 19 pandemic to keep music education in the lives of our students.

The asks, simplified, are:

1. Tell our legislators just what we individually had to do to keep our music programs alive during the pandemic, again establishing a true personal relationship with the legislators and their offices.
2. We want to make sure that all Covid Relief Fund revenues earmarked for music education were distributed properly. We especially hope that districts didn't use the money for stopgap extra salaries for general music positions that replaced performing groups in their music programs.
3. Support renewing Foundation Aid. After years of fighting and having the governor's office never release the proper funds to education, Gov. Hochul has settled the lawsuit and is distributing half the remaining funds in each of the next two

years. The Foundation Funding bill will be up for renewal before we get back to Albany next year, so we must ask for our legislators' support when the bill comes back to the floor for renewal.

4. The State Ed Curriculum Associate Conundrum: Close to 14 years ago state budget cuts caused the arts curriculum office in NYSED to go from six positions to one. There is no specific music curriculum associate for anyone in the state to call with problems or questions about music curriculum (and, indeed, all the arts). Year after year we ask, and we are always given a cockamamie answer as to why the jobs can't be reinstated, with the Governor's office blaming NYSED and vice versa. We must get these jobs reinstated. It is vital to the growth of music education in our state.
5. Senate Bill S4525 / Assembly Bill A1788 are still in play. These "same as" bills would move music from a regulatory status in NYSED to a statutory status protected by both the Senate and the Assembly. The protections these bills provide are incredible and unheard of throughout the country. We would be the second state to establish this status, and music would never be subject to the budgetary whims of school boards and administrators.
6. The NFHS (National Federation of State High School Associations) aerosol study has gained support from the CDC. This can help performing groups immensely to change the mask, bell cover, and spacing requirements, as well as reinstate whole programs that were simply canceled because of Covid.
7. The License Plate Bill is also still in play. I have been told point blank by members of both houses that this will never pass because it would open a floodgate of license plate bills from hundreds of groups and they just don't want so much time being devoted to bills like these. [Lhttps://nyassembly.gov/leg/?b-n=A04381&term=2021](https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?b-n=A04381&term=2021)

Wishing you all successful efforts with your legislative and MIOSM efforts.

Advocacy Chair: Lori Orestano-James Bills S4525 & A1788 (former bills S7550 & A9660)

- We are excited to have and continue to receive support letters from professional agencies and organizations. We still need to advocate locally to get State Assembly members and State legislators to sign on to the respective bills. The advocacy zone reps will continue to reach out to those in their areas to get additional support as well.

Our "fat file" is growing, but we still must push harder. Please use the "Swiss cheese letter" in the link shared by President Faunce through CyberNotes. The link along with all materials from the NYSAAE Advocacy Summit can be found here as well: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Vv6DMg78SUxXGVn-hDeOk3Qnkmp1LQtqo?usp=sharing> (There is additional information from the summit available in this link for your use. Please give credit where appropriate should you use any of this information.)

Continue to circulate this letter to those you know who will support this legislation. Remember that the letter is a changeable template and those sending the letter should make it their own. Directions on how to "grass root" advocate are also included.

We will be sharing shortly a link that can also be shared with supporters, community partners/supporters, parents and others. The link will be an electronic form letter of support. President Faunce will share the link once it becomes active. Look for it within a week or so.

NYSED music associate - We have been working hard with Regent Tilles and Regent Wills who have brought to the forefront the need to ensure a music associate is funded and hired at NYSED. This item is an ask from NYSED as one of the 168 positions being asked to restore. The Gover-

nor's NYS Budget does not include this ask; however, there have been good discussions between NYSED and the Governor's Office regarding the dire need to have this included. Please use the "Swiss cheese letter" in the link above specific to this issue to contact your local officials to help support this initiative.

As a reminder, this is just the start of this work as Regent Tilles and Regent Wills are ultimately seeking full reinstatement to prior department staffing.

Still advocating for New Standards Electronic Workbook funding. Sadly, not a lot of money. Believe it is more about the marketing and not the concept.

NYS Alliance for Arts Education Arts Education Advocacy Summit - President Faunce has been attending the NYSAAE Executive Board meetings (I attend as NYSAAE President, Michael Brownell attends as NYSAAE Treasurer, Marc Greene attends as NYSCEA Past President and Adam Shatraw attends as NYSTEPA President).

The executive board has adopted its new by-laws and will be meeting in a few weeks regarding its membership structure. Work has been done to open lines of communication on a regular basis with NYSED and Board of Regents representation. The organization has garnered support for the advocacy items above from the NYS Board of Regents, NYS PTA, NYSUT, SANNYS, NYSCOSS, and individual school boards from throughout the state. In addition, they have worked hard with Arts Partners to gain support on these issues in a collaborative manner.

The Arts Education Associations (NYSTEPA, NYSATA, NYSSMA®, NYSDA, and NYSMATA), have agreed to share online PD sessions through NYSAAE to broaden learning opportunities for all arts educators. Those on the current e-mail listserv will receive a direct e-mail of upcoming events. Others may access the information through President Faunce via CyberNotes or through information

via the NYSAAE Facebook page (NYS Alliance for Arts Education). Please "like" the Facebook page to get up-to-date information.

District/budget updates - The Advocacy Committee is working with more than 683 teachers/schools/districts regarding concerns of scheduling, program cuts, budget cuts, Covid Gap Recovery, and staffing concerns.

In addition, we are working with districts regarding utilization of the ARP and ESSR funds. How to do live concert/performance within Covid restrictions is also a key "ask" from throughout the state now and long term. We are awaiting updated Covid guidance at this time as we continue our work to assist.

We need to continue to focus on efforts in NYC. Many to almost all schools have suffered, with the bulk of those schools having no music or arts education of any kind at all. We will continue to work with Robert Rams to build support for music education in this post-pandemic world.

A reminder to all that it is important to be involved in committee work in your district around the continuation of Covid planning (as we continue to move forward,) as well as any budget committees. Your voice is important to be heard at the table in order to be proactive and not reactive. Budget planning is well on its way — Don't wait. Stay informed. Ask questions. Help find solutions.

Advocacy Leadership Force (ALF — NAFME) - I continue to attend the virtual ALF meetings providing updates and remaining current on issues regarding legislative actions/discussions at the national level, as well as Covid-19. NAFME's web page continues to provide more information and updates to help you talk to superintendents, parents, community members, faculty and other stakeholders regarding the regulatory federal legislation.

Watch soon for a podcast with Jazzmone Sutton.

Link from NAFME for advocacy Issues noted above. When received, please share with all music education stakeholders (teachers, administrators, school board members, parents, arts affiliates, arts organizations, neighbors – you get the idea- EVERYONE!) and follow up to be sure folks have filled out the automated response.

Advocacy must be in the forefront of what we do on a daily basis. With concern at the federal, state and local levels, as well as our continued concerns on our goal to achieve a Pre-K-12 high-quality, sequential music education delivered by certified music teacher for ALL students, we need to remain vigilant to ensure our students get what they deserve and are entitled to. Please continue to reach out, as we are here to assist you.

Public Relations: Dr. John Gallagher
<https://www.nyssma.org/information/press-room/press-releases-published/>
<https://www.nyssma.org/information/press-room/press-releases-swiss-cheese/>
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1XMoB_hvij1Nk3MOhxxk-KSNs-Cfd5L3g/edit#gid=1358916576

Obtain Twitter or Instagram account log in from predecessor.

E-mail bio and headshot for local PR efforts.

School Music NEWS Editor:
Thomas N. Gellert

Masthead additions / corrections / changes - Please check over the masthead information as it appears in the January/February *School Music NEWS* and please let the NYSSMA® office know if there are any changes that should be made (names, addresses, phone numbers, e-mail contacts, etc.). Thank you for your assistance.

A reminder about the *School Music NEWS* (electronic online version) -

The *School Music NEWS* falls into the mailing category of SECOND CLASS EDUCATIONAL PERIODICALS and, as such, is mailed at a REDUCED RATE cost to NYSSMA®. We are well aware that not all New York State local post offices prioritize the *timely* delivery of the NYSSMA® magazine each month. In fact, there are some months that I receive my mailed copy of the magazine the day after it is mailed out from the local post office on Long Island (only 15 miles from my home) and then some days when it arrives a full week to 10 days after mailing! This is precisely why we have an online presence on the NYSSMA® website.

I routinely upload an electronic, slightly truncated versions of the *NEW* magazine on the first day of each month corresponding to the date on the cover with these exceptions: the Jan/Feb double issue is uploaded February 1 and the May/June issue is uploaded June 1. Time-sensitive material (downloadable applications, etc.) are *always* made available on line first. NYSSMA® members receiving their mailed copy of the *School Music NEWS* weeks after it is mailed should discuss the matter with their local USPS.

Membership directory coming in April! - The 2022 NYSSMA® membership directory is coming as a part of the April *School Music NEWS*. As a reminder, only those "active" members as of March 1, 2022, will have their information printed in the membership directory.

Openings for SMN review editors (2) -I am looking for two review editors to write for the *School Music NEWS* – someone for vocal jazz and someone for technology in music education. Prerequisites for the positions include proven expertise in the specific area, strong writing skills and a willingness to volunteer to submit articles for publication several times a year. Interested NYSSMA® members should contact me at: schoolmusicnews@nyssma.org

Web Editor: Terry Nigrelli

The NYSSMA® website is running well. Working with David, Stuart and Marc we reorganized some of the items on the home page. There is a new "Festival Information" section in the left column. This section will have the festival calendar, all-state registration and major organization links. It will always be available.

Below that there is a new "Winter Conference/Student Showcases" section. This section contains links for the "Calls for Compositions" and the "Session Proposals." The "Upcoming Events" has been moved to the right column below the "Jobs" section.

The job-posting page has been very active during the past couple of months. This may be due to retirements and federal and Albany education funding. Here is the link to the online job posting form: <http://www.nyssma.org/post-a-job/>

If you are new to editing your page on the site, please e-mail me at webeditor@nyssma.org. I will send you your log-in credentials and the instructions for editing your page. Alternately, 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>

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

As always, I have been answering or forwarding the many e-mail messages that get sent to info@nyssma.org from parents, teachers and students regarding the virtual solo festivals. I answer as many as I can and forward the rest to zone reps, committee chairs or the NYSSMA® office.

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.

Review of Written Committee Reports

COME: Holly McCoy

Third Quarter: COMEA would like to thank the NYSSMA® Executive

continued on next page

Council for a WONDERFUL luncheon at the 2021 All-State Winter Conference. We truly appreciate your partnership. COMEA will be meeting in April.

Preparations are continuing for our 2022 NYSSMA® Summer Conference. See 3rd VP Kathy Perconti's report.

Updates/Events from the COMEA

KONY- KONY hosted our 2nd annual Equity and Diversity Summit, "Sing for Change," on Saturday, September 25, 2021. We had an incredible day making music together and learning from Abbie Betinis, Arianne Abela, Dr. Maredia Warren, and Francisco J. Núñez.

On Saturday, March 5, we look forward to the return of our annual Tri-Chapter Workshop with New York City's local Orff and Dalcroze chapters. This workshop is hosted by NY-CCAOSA and features Laura Bercaw Petersen presenting "Visual Arts as Inspiration."

Later this spring, on Saturday, April 30, KONY is co-hosting our virtual spring workshop "Sowing the Seeds: Music in Early Childhood" with Kodály of Westchester. Join us for an exciting virtual mini-conference to deepen and broaden your skills to sow the seeds with our youngest students (Pre-K to first grade)! Watch demo lessons, partake in active sessions and hear from a panel of early childhood experts.

ACDA - ACDA members attended the Eastern Division ACDA Conference in Boston this February. That has been our big highlight and activity. We are in the process of working on summer conference and starting back the honors choir. We are also looking into a collegiate activity next fall for NY-ACDA members.

NYSCAME- New Executive Board (two-year terms ending December 2023):
President - Dr. John J. Gallagher, Longwood Schools.

President-Elect - Michael Rodgers, Plainview-Old Bethpage Schools.

Vice-President - Jeffrey Smith, Churchville-Chili Schools.

Secretary - Marc Schneider, New Rochelle Schools (Ret.).

Treasurer - Dr. Katherine Sinsabaugh, Port Chester Schools.

Web Master - Dr. Nichelle Rivers, West Hempstead Schools.

- We have achieved our federal 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status and are pursuing tax-exempt status in NYS.
- Google for Non-Profit status is almost complete and will create direct e-mail addresses, i.e. President@NYSCAME.org; Treasurer@NYSCAME.org, etc.
- Area president vacancies have been filled by Adam Shatraw, Liverpool Schools (Area 2) and Megan Cabral, Carmel Schools (Area 4).
- Plans are in place to recognize Kevin Bayen for his years of service as treasurer. This will occur on Long Island at a combined meeting of Nassau and Suffolk chapters on March 15.

NYSBDA - President Michael Cordaro: NYSBDA Symposium March 4-6, 2022

NYACMP - For NYACMP, nothing to report. Our next (annual) meeting is in September.

Curriculum: Fred Weingarten Winter Conference sessions 2022
- Planning for winter conference is under way.

Initiatives - The Curriculum Committee has revised its Statement of Purpose. Now posted on line on our committee page. The Curriculum Committee is beginning design work for a standards-based unit/lesson planning template. Work continues on Innovative Instruction for Standards-Based Music.

We are in the process of filling

the database of this updated resource guide by accepting and editing instructional ideas. All NYSSMA® members are invited to contribute to this innovative venture by submitting exemplary lessons for inclusion in the document using the link that can be found on the Curriculum Committee web page at nyssma.org.

BEDR online workshop - We are collaborating w/Adele Bovard and the BEDR Committee, creating another opportunity for teachers to collaborate by participating in dialogue: Incorporating Diversity, Equity, Representation, and Belonging into Your Music Curriculum: A Conversation Facilitated by the NYSSMA® Curriculum and BEDR Committees, Tuesday, April 5, 2022, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Join us for a roundtable conversation on how you can address standards through a diverse lens. Members of the committee will share the context of the NYSSMA® Statement of Belonging, Equity, Diversity, and Representation. Collaborate in an informal setting as committee members share their teaching experiences and initiate a robust discussion with participants that will enhance instructional practice through an exchange of ideas and strategies. Please join us by registering at this link: <https://rebrand.ly/NYSSMACurrComm/Conversation>

Participants will be eligible to receive one (1) hour of CTLE Credit from NYSSMA®.

Classroom Music Committee: Kerry Mero

It was wonderful to get back to an in-person conference this past winter, and, overall, our session attendance was both strong and enthusiastic! My committee had put together a wonderful slate of sessions with a variety of topics, and the response from participants was very positive.

Our headliner, Dr. Heather Shouldice, presented four sessions

("Research to "Real Life: Applications for Recent Research for Elementary General Music," "Teaching Harmony Step-By-Step: A Sequential Approach to Developing Harmonic Audiation," "Individual Musicking: Developing Elementary Students' Musical Independence," and "Fostering Vocal Creativity and Improvisation in Elementary Music"), which were both informative and stimulating! Some of our 16 additional sessions included "1-2-3: Improvise with Me," "Centers in the Music Room," "Kplanlogo Drumming," "Don't Fret: UKE Can Do It," "Just Gender: Pathways to Inclusivity," and "The Heart of the Matter: Managing Music Making with Little People."

Summer Conference 2022 - The Classroom Music Committee has a slate of 17 exciting sessions planned for the upcoming summer conference! Our headliner will be Matthew Stensrud, an Orff and Responsive Classroom specialist who presented a "teaser" session for us at the 2021 virtual Summer Conference. We are looking forward to having him in person for three sessions: "Infusion of Responsive Classroom in Orff Schulerwerk," "Teaching Without Words" and "How to Hook 'Em: Enhancing Movement in Upper Elementary." Additional sessions will include "Recorder Through the Ages, Grades 3-12," "Ukulele Jam," "Beat the Burnout: Refresh and Renew in 2022," and "Building a Community of Learners in Your Youngest Musicians."

NAFME General Music Leadership Town Hall - On February 8, I attended a virtual meeting on Zoom hosted by the NAFME Council for General Music Education. This was the first time the group had hosted a town hall, so I had a chance to "meet" the general music reps for the various regions. They were very interested in gathering some information from the attendees to get a better idea of what general music looks like throughout the country, how the general music leadership is selected in each state, and what

types of support each state needs from the NAFME Council for General Music Education.

I believe there were about 35 people in attendance, but they are hoping to have additional meetings on a regular basis so we can continue to share and learn. I am looking forward to attending future meetings. It was interesting to hear what the Council's role was in the scope of NAFME, and it was also an eye-opener to hear how fortunate we are in NYS to have the support for classroom music from both the state organization and the state education regulations, when compared with other states. As the Western Division rep typed in the chat after I shared some information, "New York State is AMAZING."

Current committee projects - Our committee is planning an in-person meeting this spring so we can do some group work on our current committee projects. This will be the first time in quite a while that we have been able to devote a weekend to project work. We have been doing some behind-the-scenes work on the updates to the song list, committee history book, and the CMC chairperson handbook over the past year-and-a-half, but we will be able to accomplish more when we are all together. We also plan to continue to use Zoom as a quick-and-easy way to meet for more urgent committee business whenever possible!

Membership: Kate Jarrard

Membership info

October 2021:
2,911 members
Active/Spousal - 2,166
Introductory - 16
Retired/Spousal - 563
Collegiate - 166

February 2021:
2,857 members
Active/Spousal - 1,942
Introductory - 24
Retired/Spousal - 563
Collegiate - 328

November 2020:
2,626 members
Active/Spousal - 1,928
Introductory - 22
Retired/Spousal - 518
Collegiate - 158

March 2020:
3,489 members
Active/Spousal - 2,326
Introductory - 16
Retired/Spousal - 544
Collegiate - 603

General reach-outs - E-mail reminders to renew membership, including "What Does NYSSMA® Do for Me?"

Winter conference - Professional development, support, and advocacy.

Covid and safety resources

NAFME resources

Spring and summer PLC through Greater Capital Region Teacher Center to review, reflect, create, and share content for music education

Maintain Facebook official NYSSMA® (Members Only) page.

- Around 1,200 members.
- Post content to advertise specific NYSSMA® events.
- Approve content that meets our draft guidelines.
- Solo festival and conference seasons are the busiest times on this page.

Biggest challenge and project - Reaching out to non-members. NYSSMA® does not have information about them, so I correspond with and rely on local (county) associations to reach out and encourage their registration.

Fall e-mail to all 54 county/local association presidents, 15 responded, 13 shared teacher personnel lists. E-mail sent to 1,127 teachers identified as non-members, 93 (8%) joined in the three months after the e-mail.

The 58 schools (at least a dozen

private) without any members, reduced to 52 after the e-mail.

Current goals

Acquire information on non-members in other counties/local associations and reach out.

Target schools without any NYSSMA® members. They are possibly missing important NYSSMA® correspondence/information.

County President responses - Most focused on hosting area all-states and all-counties, safely getting back to "normal." Some would like to hear more about what others are doing successfully.

Remember: NAFME has updated its membership join/renew page: <https://nafme.org/join-renew/>

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Electronic Manual - President Faunce announced that NYSSMA® will produce one more printed manual (July 1, 2022) but that the next manual (in digital format) will require input from the NYSSMA® Executive Council regarding content, revenue, delivery/access to the next NYSSMA® manual, etc.

In addition, there are questions regarding the expense of producing a digital manual and policy related to future NYSSMA® manuals. It will, therefore, be incumbent upon the NYSSMA® Executive Council to discuss various concerns that impact the content of the future NYSSMA® manual.

AS selection and management platform - Dr. Gaines initiated a discussion and gave background information on the current all-state selection process and touched upon the paper intensive and long, drawn-out process of creating a master database.

It was further discussed that the current process is fraught with the potential for errors in information. This necessitates that NYSSMA® plan to move to a much more streamlined system by which we can improve the creation and subsequent development of this information. As such, Dr. Gaines stated that NYSSMA® is pursuing the development of this proprietary system with NYSSMA's approval.

Next meeting - June 11-12, 2022, Strathallan Hotel & Spa, Rochester

Adjournment

The following motion was brought to council:

Motion: Adam Shatraw (Zone 3), seconded by James Uzzi (Zone 14), "that the meeting be adjourned." **Motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas N. Gellert
Official Recorder

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