
MINUTES

Hilton Garden Inn – Watertown / Thousand Islands, NY – June 7 and 8, 2025

NYSSMA[®] EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING OFFICIAL MINUTES

Call to Order and Welcome

NYSSMA[®] President Ed Chiarello called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 7th and welcomed those in attendance to Watertown. Not in attendance: Julie Smith (Zone 8), Timothy Hamblin (Zone 9), Adele Bovard (BEDR Chairperson/Advisory Committee), Dr. Bert Nelson (Advisory Committee), Dr. Steven Schopp (Advisory Committee), Terry Nigrelli (Web editor), Fred Weingarten (Curriculum Committee), Jasmine Britt (Urban Schools Committee), Michael Mas-trangelo (GRC/Advocacy Chairperson) and Dr. Keith Koster (Collegiate Advisor).

President Chiarello officially welcomed Dr. David Brown (newly appointed NYSSMA[®] Executive Director), Dan Bilawsky (newly appointed NYSSMA[®] Editor) and Sophie Wood (C-NafME/NYSSMA[®] Collegiate President).

President Chiarello asked NYSSMA[®] Past President Russ Faunce to give members of council a brief introduction to Watertown and Zone 5.

Approval of Minutes: March 2025

The Executive Council minutes from the March 2025 meeting at Latham, NY, were approved by electronic vote and subsequently published in the May/June 2025 *School Music News*.

Nominations

President Chiarello announced the continuation of nominations (opened in March of 2025). The following positions maintained current nominations, saw rescinded nominations and/or received new nominations at this meeting:

President-Elect: Daryle Redmond, nominated by Samantha McShane (March 2025); Jim Uzzi, nominated by Paige Hardison (June 2025).

Zone 1: Patrick Towey, nominated by Paige Hardison (March 2025).

Zone 3: Dr. Jennifer L.R. Greene, nominated by Daryle Redmond (March 2025).

Zone 7: Alyssa Verheyen, nominated by Gregory Verheyen (nomination rescinded June 2025) John Fatuzzo, nominated by Gregory Verheyen (June 2025).

Zone 11: Kimberly Dunkin, nominated herself (March 2025).

Zone 15: Tab Treacy, nominated by Collin Smith (March 2025).

Nominations will remain open at the August 2025 NYSSMA[®] General Business and County Presidents' meeting to be held virtually online. At the conclusion of that meeting they will be finalized and closed.

Appointments

Motion: Edmund Chiarello (President), seconded by Ashley Trudell (Zone 5), "that the NYSSMA[®] Executive Council approve the appointment of the following individuals to serve on the committees as identified for the remainder of President Chiarello's term of office (until December 31, 2025):

Curriculum Committee member – Christina Reisdorf, K-4 Classroom Music Teacher, Zone 1.

Research Committee – Amy Spears, (Christian Bernhard coming off), Fredonia, student research forum.

Retiree Committee Chair – Paige Hardison, (Charlie Purricelli coming off, retiring). **Motion carried.**

Officer Reports

President: Ed Chiarello

NYSSMA[®] Executive Council – Statewide Presence: President Chiarello gave an update on his presence, with other NYSSMA[®] Executive Council members, at various events across the state. The list included NYSSMA[®] Neuro-Diversity Chair Brian Wagner-Yeung's book release for *The Accessible Music Classroom for All* (March 8); Clinton County's 25th Annual P.E.A.K. Festival (April 12, with 2nd Vice President Daryle Redmond and Classroom Music Committee Chair Kerry Mero); NAFME Eastern Division Conference (April 24-27, NYSSMA[®] Reception sponsored at event); Zone 11's All-State Celebration (May 1 with Past President Russ Faunce); NY-SCEA Conference (May 2, with Past President Russ Faunce), and the WHIN Music Community Charter School Dedication (May 3 with 3rd Vice President Shelly Bauer).

NYSSMA[®] Modern Band Showcase: President Chiarello gave a brief update on the selections (14 students) and procedures (rehearsals, housing) for the NYSSMA[®] Modern Band Showcase being held at the 2025 Winter Conference.

NYSSMA[®] Academy: Primarily created for collegiate members and open to all NYSSMA[®] members, this online

event will see a change in format for the 2025-2026 school year, removing the consecutive Saturday model in favor of sessions spread out over the year.

NYSSMA® Summer Conference: President Chiarello gave an update on the 2025 NYSSMA® Classroom Music Conference being held at Nazareth University from August 10-12. He also provided an update on affiliate conferences: the NY-ACDA Summer Conference at Siena College from August 10-12 and the NYSBDA Summer Conference at Ithaca College from August 12-14.

National Coalition for Arts Standards: A brief update was provided on the timeline surrounding the national standards and the survey link that NYSSMA® provided to the membership.

NYSSMA® Manual: President Chiarello spoke about the release of the digital NYSSMA® Manual on July 1. At the President's request, Andy Kittleston, Manual Chair, presented to the council during the June 8 portion of the meeting, addressing the addition of material by underrepresented composer groups, addition and removal of certain repertoire, pricing, access, searchability, registration and edits.

President-Elect: Kathy Perconti

Winter Conference 2025 update:

- As of the June meeting, all session reviews were completed and scheduling is set to begin.
- Announcements made via Cyber Notes as well as *School Music News* and social media.
- There will be a slight reduction in the number of Concert Hour and Galleria performances at the winter conference. This is due to a variety of factors: response to member comments, a reduction of available room space and safety restrictions from the venue(s).
- Young Composers Showcase, Student Electronic Music Showcase, Student Songwriters Showcase - applications are due Sunday, June 11.
- Piano Showcase - applications are due July 11, 2025.

Contemporary choral music update:

- The committee met twice since March and will meet again on June 8.
- Committee members are Morgan Jolley (Zone 15, Committee Chair, VJCA); Alan Jones (Zone 2, AFC Vocal Jazz); Paige Hardison (Zone 1, Zone 1 Rep); Austin Kiley (Zone 3, Vestal High School Choral Director); Sarah Staebell (Zone 2, Brighton High School Choral Director); Darryl Jordan (Zone 12, LaGuardia High School Choral Director); Tyler Thomas (Zone 7, Galway CSD Grades 6-12 Choral Director); Ed Norris (Zone 13, Glen Cove High School Choral Director).
- This committee is doing research on different New York schools and what programs are being offered in this area. A Google form is being sent to county presidents so that all high schools can submit data

- The next meeting's intent is to establish the mission statement, goals, and objectives for this committee (based on the data collected).
- President-Elect Kathy Perconti is exploring what other states are doing in this area and she shared her experiences and a student performance from a PMEA conference and cited Vermont as another source for discussion

2nd Vice President: Daryle Redmond

Festival season statistics/comparisons:

- All-state applications
2025: 6,339 applications for 5,584 students.
All applications received.
2024: 5,956 applications for 5,390 students.
One Application not submitted, received one.
2023: 5,707 applications for 5,159 students.
Eight applications not submitted, received three.
2022: 4,519 applications.
- Variances
2025: 83 requests, 75 granted.
2024: 66 requests, 61 granted.
2023: 100 requests, 96 granted.
2022: 45 requests, 40 granted.

All-state selection

- The Selection Committee will meet on June 30 at the DoubleTree, Syracuse.

Conference All-State 2025

- December 4 - December 7, 2025 - Rochester, NY.
- Hotels and rehearsal locations:
DoubleTree: Mixed and Treble Chorus.
Marriott Airport: Symphony Orchestra.
Wyndam (Formerly Holiday Inn Downtown).
 1. Symphonic Band (Ballroom).
 2. Wind Ensemble (River Room).
 3. Instrumental Jazz (HGI - Lower level).
 4. String Orchestra (Hyatt Grand Ballrooms ABC).
- Conductors
Symphonic Band: Dr. Courtney Snyder, University of Michigan.
Wind Ensemble: Dr. David Vandewalker, Georgia State University, Professor Emeritus.
Mixed Chorus: Dr. Brandon Boyd, University of Missouri; Accompanist: Andrea Shaut.
Treble Choir: Dr. Jennifer Sengin, University of Missouri-Kansas City; Accompanist: Jonathan Riss.
Symphony Orchestra: Dr. Jeff Meyer, Indiana University.
String Orchestra: Anthony Elliott, University of Michigan, Professor Emeritus.
Instrumental Jazz: Ms. Ellen Rowe, University of Michigan.
Vocal Jazz: Ms. Alison Crockett, Shenandoah University; Accompanist: Nick Weiser.

continued on next page

Festival season calendar: The near-completed 2026 festival season calendar was brought into discussion with a focus on start and end weekends and minimizing the number of festivals on a given weekend.

3rd Vice President: Shelly Bauer

Summer Conference 2025 update: 3rd Vice President Shelly Bauer shared updates on the classroom music conference at Nazareth University happening in August of 2025. She also shared that NYSSMA® will reimburse \$20 of registration costs (via QR code confirmation, soon to be created) for any members attending either affiliate conference (NY-ACDA or NYSBDA). Shelly Bauer thanks Kerry Mero and all involved for their hard work to make the classroom music conference a reality

Summer Conference 2026 update: In the spring of 2024, NYSSMA® was taking a summer 2025 conference proposal to Jazz at Lincoln Center. Interim Executive Director Michael Salzman met with Todd Stoll, Vice President of Education at Jazz at Lincoln Center, for talks about this collaboration. That proposal is moving toward pre-planning for summer 2026.

3rd Vice President Shelly Bauer, Executive Director David Brown and Todd Stoll will be meeting on June 17, 2025, for deeper exploration (i.e. timing, costs, logistics, focus). 3rd Vice President Bauer noted that an adjusted version of JALC's Band Director Academy, tailored for elementary and middle/high school, and Webop program, for Pre-K through elementary, were two avenues that she was strongly pursuing as possibilities within the summer 2026 programming.

News in Harlem: 3rd Vice President Bauer shared the news that, for the first time in her career and to her knowledge, Harlem hosted a very successful, two-day NYSSMA® Majors Festival. Members of council confirmed that they could not recall such a festival in that area in the past three decades.

Past President: Russ Faunce

NYSSMA® County Presidents'/General Business meeting -

This meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 14, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom. Past President Faunce made a request to share this information with county presidents and membership. Nominations will close at this meeting and general business will be addressed.

NYSSMA® Participation in FSU Study:

President Chiarello requested that Past President Faunce participate in the following study from Florida State University:

Study Purpose: This study aims to examine the selection processes for secondary all-state (MEA and/or ACDA) guest conductors and analyze programming trends across audi-

tioned secondary ensembles, with specific focus on gender representation among conductors and composers/arrangers. The results will provide valuable descriptive analysis to better understand current practices across the United States.

What we're asking:

- MEA organizational structure and policies.
- Honor ensemble offerings (SATB, SSAA, TTBB, Middle Level / Junior High).
- Guest conductor selection processes.
- Historical data (2015-2025) on guest conductors and performance repertoire.

Past President Faunce has been in contact with Dr. McKenna Stenson at FSU, and NYSSMA® has graciously provided the study committee with the pertinent information FSU requested. A link was available to voluntarily add any information regarding festival conductors, with a plan to upload the information to the BEDR website on July 1st.

Executive Director: Dr. David Brown

Transition update: The transition between Michael Salzman and Dr. Brown has been running smoothly. Dr. Brown thanked Mr. Salzman for all of his efforts and assistance.

Graphic designer applications: The job for graphic designer was posted. Interviews are taking place with the hope to have the successful candidate in place by Monday, June 23, 2025.

Festival Season 2025 invoices: Invoices from festival hosts and adjudicators are in the final stages of being met. Dr. Brown thanks all of the Zone Representatives for their leadership throughout the festival season.

Trainings: Dr. Brown reminds all council members to complete their online trainings for NYSSMA® cyber security insurance needs.

Joe Sugar Day 2026 update: Joe Sugar Day will be Monday, March 9, 2026.

Committee Reports

Adjudication Festival Committee Chair: George Smith

The NYSSMA® Adjudication Festival Committee met March 21-22, 2025, in Syracuse. The meeting focused on the final details of the 2025 adjudicator orientation season. AFC winter conference sessions were reviewed and possible AFC sessions for the 2025 Winter Conference were discussed.

Manual Chair Andy Kittleson provided AFC with a presentation of the electronic manual, and President-Elect Kathy Perconti made a presentation to AFC about the planned Contemporary Choral Music initiative.

In addition, the committee discussed Major Organization Clinic Evaluations, the matter of adults performing in clinic evaluations, ensembles scheduled for rated evaluation

changing to clinic evaluation rather than comments only, and the B.E.D.R. Committee Reflection Form (which was addressed and completed).

2025 Adjudicator Orientation Seminars:

These seminars were held at the following locations:

Jericho H.S. (piano only - Zone 13)

Kellenberg H.S. (Zone 13)

Byram Hills H.S. (piano only - Zone 11)

Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk H.S. (Zone 7)

Buffalo Academy for the Visual and Performing Arts (Zone 1)

Candidates in the following specialties successfully completed orientation in 2025:

	Regular	All-State	Major Org.
Percussion	2	1	
Piano	12		
Strings	17	4	
Voice	27	8	
Woodwinds	20	2	
Inst. Jazz		10	
Vocal Jazz			
Instrumental			3
Choral			
Total	78	25	3

2025 Orientation Grand Total – 106

- Of the 78 new regular adjudicators, 11 were “fast track” candidates (8 string, 3 voice).
- Comparison of new regular adjudicators from previous years:
2025 – 78; 2024 – 130; 2023 – 66; 2022 – 95;
2019 – 37; 2018 – 102; 2017 – 70.
- Other statistics - 3 cancellations, 4 unsuccessful, 3 sessions not offered.

2026 Adjudicator Orientation Seminars:

- 2026 adjudicator orientation sites have been scheduled and confirmed for the following dates and sites:
 - o March 6-7 – Nassau C.C. - Zone 13 (piano only).
 - o March 13-14 – Talent Unlimited H.S. - Zone 12.
 - o April 17-18 – East Syracuse- Minoa H.S.- Zone 3.
 - o April 24-25 – Half Hollow Hills West H.S. – Zone 14 (no piano).
- The application was posted on the NYSSMA® website on May 24 and will appear in the *School Music News* in the September, October, November/December issues.
- Applications and supporting materials must be received by March 1, 2026.
- Adjudicator Refresher Seminars will take place in February. There will be two for each specialty.

The AFC’s next meeting will be July 16-17 in Albany. There, the committee will discuss the refresher seminars and electronic manuals (and emails going to adjudicators about the electronic manual in January). AFC’s report presentation ended with discussion of the need to explore updating festival sight-reading materials in the near future.

Social Media and Communications: Dr. John Gallagher

Published news stories: Dr. David Brown – Appointed as Executive Director (Syracuse.com and LongIslandPress.com).

Standout Instagram posts:

NYS Bills S6318 and A6490 - 16,724 Views (27.8% Followers; 72.2% Non-Followers) and 642 Interactions (76.3% Followers; 23.7% Non-Followers).

Congratulating NYS Students Selected for Eastern Division - 13,260 Views (32.9% Followers; 67.1% Non-Followers) and 454 Interactions (82.1% Followers; 17.9% Non-Followers).

Congratulating Collegiate President Taylor Kelly for Chancellor’s Award - 2,826 Views (77.6% Followers; 22.4% Non-Followers) and 154 Interactions (95.0% Followers; 5% Non-Followers).

The New York Times reached out to Dr. Gallagher wanting to write a story about orchestral music education in the South Bronx. He provided appropriate assistance and requested a digital link of the article for the association.

C-NAfME/NYSSMA®: Dr. Keith Koster (absent) and Sophie Wood, Collegiate President:

The new Collegiate Executive Board members have been selected. The term runs for one year (May 1, 2025 until May 2, 2026):

President Sophie Wood (swood11@pride.hofstra.edu)
 President-Elect Samantha Mason (maso5608@fredonia.edu)
 Secretary-Treasurer Aidan Carney (carneyaidanr@gmail.com)
 Web Editor Gillian Gates (ggates7@mail.naz.edu)
 Province 1 Cate Palanski (pala2218@fredonia.edu)
 Province 2 Cade Wyles (cadewyles@gmail.com)
 Province 3 Elsie Munstersteiger (munstee207@potSDam.edu)
 Province 4/5 Nelli Cordi (Nlccordi03@gmail.com)
 Province 6 James Keesee (Jkees10.jk@gmail.com)
 Province 7 Jameson Connagham (jconnagham1@pride.hofstra.edu)
 Joe Pesco (jpesco1@pride.hofstra.edu)

Activities and updates:

- The 2025-2026 Collegiate Executive Board met virtually on May 14, 2025.
- This new board assisted Dr. Koster by rank-ordering session proposals for the 2025 Winter Conference, and everyone appreciated the large number of collegiate session proposals that were received.
- The new state collegiate officers come from the following institutions: SUNY Fredonia, Nazareth, Ithaca, SUNY

continued on next page

Potsdam, Queens College-CUNY and Hofstra. There's a desire to expand the number of institutions that are a part of state collegiate leadership in the future.

- Collegiate President Sophie Wood will roll out the collegiate engagement theme for 2025-2026. Sophie and the other state officers will develop a series of projects and events that will seek to increase collegiate membership, engagement and participation at events such as the State Collegiate NYSSMA® Conference that will be hosted by Hofstra University on March 27 and 28, 2026.
- During the summer, Collegiate Executive Board members will be updating collegiate rosters and preparing the fall newsletter. The website information will be updated, as well as all of the social media links for collegiate chapters in New York.
- Those interested in subscribing to collegiate chapter social media accounts should visit the Collegiate Chapter page at www.nyssma.org

Curriculum: Fred Weingarten (Absent)

2025 Winter Conference sessions: Planning for winter conference is under way. Sessions have been submitted and all curriculum-related proposals have been rated and ranked.

Professional development: The Curriculum Committee co-sponsored professional development opportunities with the Greater Capital Region Teacher Center. Both winter offerings, listed below, proved to be relevant and well attended with participants from throughout the state:

World Arts Pedagogy: Building Empathy in Arts Classrooms, presented by Sabrina LaPointe, had 37 participants.

Using Artificial Intelligence to Scaffold Student and Teacher Creativity, presented by Denise Lutter, had 98 participants.

Teaching materials: The Curriculum Committee has designed Lesson Plan Templates that have proven to be an effective planning tool for music educators designing lesson plans that reflect the Standards. The templates are available on the Curriculum Committee Web page, and there has been a positive response to the templates for both Pk-8 General Music and the Traditional and Emerging Ensemble, as teachers are finding them simple, efficient and helpful.

Initiatives: Work continues on Innovative Instruction for Standards-Based Music Learning (I2). The Curriculum Committee has been meeting with a Web designer to bring this project online for membership use. As always, the committee is accepting lesson ideas. NYSSMA® members are invited to contribute to this innovative venture by submitting lessons for inclusion using this link, also found on the Curriculum Committee Web page under Current Projects:

<https://www.nyssma.org/committees/curriculum-committee/>

Government Relations/Advocacy: Michael Mastrangelo (Absent)

MIOSM/Albany legislative efforts: The 52nd Joseph R. Sugar Day in Albany was held on Monday, March 3, 2025. On this day, NYSSMA® members met in small groups with legislators to advocate for music education. The talking points for this year were as follows:

- NYSSMA® advocates to restore the position of Music Associate at the NYSED Office of Curriculum and Instruction. For this reason, we advocate for the position to be included within the Governor's 2025-2026 state budget.
- NYSSMA® advocates to restore full funding for the New York State Summer School of the Arts program and to return to NYSSSA the School of Orchestral and Choral Studies.
- NYSSMA® advocates for the long-awaited Bills S6318 and A6490, which address the omission of music education from the state's list of recognized academic subjects.
- NYSSMA® thanks our legislators for the support they have offered over the years to support music education opportunities for all of New York State's students.

The All-State Vocal and Instrumental Jazz Ensembles performed for our legislators in the morning and again at the evening reception. Thank you to the All-State Instrumental Jazz Chairpersons, Pat Isenberg and Dave Lobenstein, and the All-State Vocal Jazz Chairpersons, Edward Reisert and Morgan Jolley, for their efforts preparing these student musicians for their outstanding performances.

Also, thank you to President Edmund Chiarello, Interim Executive Director Michael Salzman, NYSSMA® MIOSM Chairperson Scott Andrews, the NYSSMA® office and our NYSSMA® membership for all of their efforts to make this very important annual initiative a success. Coordinating the Joseph R. Sugar Day in Albany is truly a team effort.

As of Saturday, May 17, 2025, there were 30 sponsors of bill S6318 in the NYS Senate and 21 sponsors of bill A6490 in the NYS Assembly. The NYS Senate passed S6318 in June. Jazzmone Sutton, NAFME Advocacy and Public Policy Representative, helped put out a simple online form for individuals to sign and show support for the bills. This was shared with the membership in email blasts and through social media.

Please consider following up with local legislators who have yet to sign on. Establishing positive relationships with your local legislators is the best means to gain support for this very important initiative. We especially need help with getting legislators from the assembly to sign on as co-sponsors of bill A6490A.

A contingent of NYSSMA® Executive Board members will be joining with other NAFME-associated organizations advocating for music education at the national level on Hill Day, in Washington D.C., on June 11, 2025.

Please consider following through on any advocacy efforts released by NYSSMA® or NAFME that you see to sup-

port federal funding. This is a critical time to show support for music education.

Classroom Music Committee: Kerry Mero

2025 NYSSMA® Classroom Music Summer Conference - “Growing Musicians, Growing Community: The Classroom Music Committee announced it will be hosting an elementary classroom-focused summer conference August 10-12 at Nazareth University in Rochester. The headliner is James DesJardins.

NYSSMA® Winter Conference 2025: Our headliner this year, co-sponsored by Peripole Music, will be Franklin Willis (www.fwillismusic.com). He will be presenting four sessions for us: “Rooted in Rhythm: Drumming Up Joy in Elementary Classroom Music”; “More Than a Two-Step: Teaching Black Line Dances with Cultural Context”; “Teach Me About Hip Hop,” and “Books, Beats, and Brilliance.” We have selected a great slate of additional sessions, and we look forward to sharing them after the review process is complete!

25th Anniversary Clinton County P.E.A.K. Festival: It was an absolute pleasure to attend this special event (along with several NYSSMA® officers, as well as the original founders of the festival). I enjoyed watching the students participate in the various workshops, learning the closing song accompaniment along with the volunteer parents, participating in the opening Street Song with colleagues, and leaving with several lesson plan ideas for my own classroom! CMC is always happy to share more info about P.E.A.K., if you know someone who is interested in starting a new festival.

Future SMV articles: We are continuing our initiative to write more articles for *School Music News* featuring classroom music! Several have been published this year and there are more to come.

School Music News Editor: Thomas Gellert

- The 2025 May/June *School Music News* issue, Volume 88, No. 7 (Tom Gellert’s last as Editor) has been printed and mailed to membership.
- Tom has been working closely with Dan Bilawsky to facilitate a smooth transition as his service to NYSSMA® as association editor concludes at the end of June. Tom will continue to work with Dan throughout his first year as *School Music News* Editor, and he has agreed to remain as NYSSMA® Historian/Archivist until the end of President Chiarello’s term of office this year.
- The fourth volume of the *History of the New York State School Music Association* has been completed. It has been something Tom has been working on for the last three-plus years, since when he first announced to the NYSSMA® officers that he would step down as editor, effective July 1, 2025. This latest volume of the NYSS-

MA® history covers the period of 2007 through the end of 2023.

Here are just some the features of this book:

- o Reflections from nine NYSSMA® Presidents (Jim Cassara through Russ Faunce).
- o “At-a-Glance” charts for each year covered in the book including the names of all zone representatives, standing committee chairpersons/members of council for each year; winter and summer conference information; festival fees info; dues; all-state conductors; a summary of Executive Council meetings year by year focusing on charts; reports by sectional festival/Adjudication Festival Committee, the Classroom Music Committee and more.
- o Summaries of every Executive Council meeting over the course of 17 years including nominations/election results. Yearly information/action at the all-Eastern and national level (MENC/NAfME).
- o NYSSMA® budget/finances 2007-2023.
- o Coverage of important events and NYSSMA’s response (COVID, Joseph R. Sugar Day in Albany/MIOSM), the development of the online manual, BEDR, and more.
- o Guest articles written specifically for the book.
- o **New Feature:** a comprehensive, indexed compilation of important Executive Council motions covering 17 years of meetings, providing context and quick reference to council action and where and when it occurred.
- o And, much more (pictures and ephemera).

The goal of this book is to provide a working resource for NYSSMA® now and into the future. It fills a void, especially considering that the history of NYSSMA® is taken directly from thousands of pages of the *School Music News* over the years. It is Tom’s fervent hope that this history book sees publication in the not-too-distant future as it contains important reference material that cannot be found elsewhere. This is not designed to be a book gathering dust on a shelf!

Tom’s final *School Music News* editorial thanks those individuals who have been with him for much of his entire 31 years as *School Music News* Editor. He had this to add:

“It would be remiss of me to not thank those of you around this table: my current fellow officers and, my zone representative/committee chairperson friends and colleagues who as members of the NYSSMA® Executive Council are the key stakeholders for our statewide association. Many thanks also to my friends and colleagues in the NYSSMA® Office for their cooperation and assistance over the years!

Finally, stealing from and to paraphrase a famous American industrialist and automobile manufacturer:

Getting to join the NYSSMA® Executive Council at the table is just a start; remaining involved and engaged at the

continued on next page

Executive Council table can bring improvement; working mutually with all of your colleagues around the table brings accomplishments for NYSSMA®.

Please commit to and continue to make it happen, folks!"

Web Editor: Terry Nigrelli (Absent)

Web Editor Terry Nigrelli requests that committee chairs and Zone Representatives verify the contact information on their respective pages. Many counties change their leadership on June 30. Counties should update this and other information on their Web pages as soon as possible. As always, anyone can edit their own pages or they can send their content to the Web editor, who will post it.

Please email Terry Nigrelli if you need help logging on or require assistance with editing your pages: webeditor@nyssma.org

In addition to managing the content on the site, Terry receives email messages from the info@nyssma.org address. He responds to as many as he can and forwards the ones he cannot answer to the appropriate individuals so that they may respond. Please include Terry in the reply if you believe it will assist him in answering future inquiries.

Very Important: If you find any links that don't work on the new website, please send Terry an email with the link.

Old Business - None

New Business - None

Recognition -

Motion: President Edmund Chiarello made a motion "... to appoint Thomas Gellert as NYSSMA® Editor Emeritus, on the occasion of his retirement, in recognition of his dedicated service to the association as NYSSMA® Editor for the past 31 years. The motion was seconded by Daryle Redmond (2nd Vice President) and Michael Lee (Zone 13). **Motion carried.**

President Chiarello presented a gift and plaque to the newly titled NYSSMA® Editor Emeritus, and he went on to speak of Tom's incredible accomplishments as the longest serving editor/ex-officio in the association's history.

Over the course of his 31 years, Tom Gellert worked with 16 presidents, six executive directors, 1,000-plus members of Executive Council, wrote more than 240 editorials, was responsible for every all-state program during his entire tenure, documented the association's history via multiple book publications and received the NYSSMA® Distinguished Service Award (2008).

President Chiarello also recognized and honored Karen Gellert, a retired music educator and Tom's wife, who served the association and magazine through her billing and advertisement work behind the scenes.

Next meeting: Thursday, August 14, 12 noon, General Business/County Presidents meeting via Zoom.

Adjournment:

The following motion was brought to council:

Motion: Michael Lee (Zone 13), seconded by all in attendance "that the meeting be adjourned." **Motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m. on Sunday, June 8, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas N Gellert / Dan Bilawsky, Official Recorders



Parents: Support MUSIC as a well-rounded subject in your child's school district!

For more information on ESSA, visit <http://bit.ly/NCLBends>

For more information on parent advocacy, visit <http://bit.ly/SupportMusicEd>

