

Zone 1

WINTER NEWSLETTER

2026

Welcome to the NYSSMA Zone 1 Newsletter! This will act as a supplement to the NYSSMA Zone 1 Webpage for any current information you may need as a Zone 1 music educator.

- 1) Please bookmark the new [Zone 1 webpage](#). This will serve as a “one stop shop” for all things Zone 1 festival related. There is a list of solo and majors festivals for the 2026 season with hyperlinks to necessary forms/documents.
- 2) The Newsletter will serve as a supplement to information found on the webpage. It will be sent out on a quarterly (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall) basis. Please review thoroughly for additional information and opportunities.
- 3) Several teachers have received multiple payment requests from Kevin Duncan for any outstanding payments for 2025 Senior High Area All-State. Please make sure these bills are paid ASAP!
- 4) Please feel free to reach out at any time with any questions or concerns.

Best wishes for the New Year!
Patrick Towey
NYSSMA Zone 1 Representative
zone1@nyssma.org



Spring 2027

Hard to believe, but we already need to start looking toward Spring 2027!

We need hosts and/or confirmation of hosts!

Solo Festivals – at least one per county

Majors Festivals– ideally at least one per county, per area (instrumental/choral), with multiple options for Erie County, if possible.

*Please reach out to me if you are interested in hosting for the 2027 festival season!

ADJUDICATOR TRAINING

Fantastic opportunity to learn the other side of NYSSMA solo and ensemble (or majors) – See Zone 1 Webpage for Link to Application- Apply by March 1st

Summer Conference!
In Association w/
Jazz @ Lincoln Center
In person
for July –
SAVE THE DATES:
July 24th and 25th
[Flyer](#)
[Interest Form](#)

NYSSMA URBAN SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

Teachers in our urban districts:

Jasmine Britt, chair of the NYSSMA Urban Schools Committee is looking NYSSMA members from urban school districts across the state to serve on the committee, please reach out to Jasmine with interest:

jasminebritt@gmail.com

Additionally, please complete the following survey at your earliest convenience: [Urban Schools Survey](#)



NYSSMA Digital Manual 2026

This year's manual is digital! For any questions or concerns, reach out to Andy Kittleson at manual@nyssma.org. I am also happy to assist where possible: zone1@nyssma.org

Need Help Using the Digital NYSSMA Manual? [Click HERE for assistance.](#)

Read the rule and regulations and note any new changes for the year are highlighted.

Spring 2026

Remember registrations are right around the corner for this year's solo and small ensemble festivals! Please see the Zone 1 Webpage for all deadlines and forms.

Solo:

Niagara:

Lew-Port: April 18

Erie:

Ken-East: April 24-25

West Senecas: May 29-30

Chautauqua:

Jefferson MS (Jamestown): May 1-2

Cattaraugus:

Allegany-Limestone: May 8-9

Majors:

Niagara:

Lockport (MC)– May 20

North Tonawanda (MI)– May 21

Erie:

Frontier (MI)– April 1

Springville (MI)– April 29-30

Lancaster (MC)– May 21

Olmstead (Buffalo) (MI)– May 27

Chautauqua:

Chautauqua Lake (MC)– May 6

Fredonia (MI/CE)– May 20

Cattaraugus:

Pioneer (MC)– May 19