



ZONE 1 NEWSLETTER

February 2026

Zone Rep Stuff

Howdy all!

Hope everyone is enjoying their February break! Things are about to start getting busy NYSSMA-wise so be sure to read through the newsletter thoroughly for various updates.

A few items:

1. If you have not already, **Please bookmark the Zone 1 webpage**. This serves as a “one stop shop” for all things Zone 1 festival and application related.
2. Please remember to use Zone1@nyssma.org for NYSSMA related communications, rather than my Kenmore-Tonawanda email.
3. Applications for **Winter Conference Session Proposals** and **Concert Hour Performing Groups** are now open! See links above for more info and these will be added to the Zone 1 website soon!

Majors Festival Deadline!

The registration deadline for ALL MAJOR ORGANIZATION FESTIVALS is **SUNDAY, MARCH 1!** See **Zone 1 Website** for registration details. Please contact festival hosts for details regarding remaining timeslot available. North Tonawanda Festival is **CLOSED**

Solo Festival Deadlines

Solo Festival Deadlines are approaching throughout the month of March! See **Zone 1 Website** for details. Teachers of All-State applicants should also complete All-State applications by the deadline! Please contact festival hosts with any specific festival questions.

All-State Student Showcases

Applications for All-State Student Showcases (piano, modern band, composers, song writers, electronic music) are open and live. See **Zone 1 website** for links to applications and information.

Phi Beta Mu

Band Clinicians

From Helen Ihasz, Phi Beta Mu Band Fraternity, Chi Chapter.

One of our missions is to provide assistance to band directors. We are available to do sessions, coachings, observations, whatever a teacher would like or feels like they need help with. We are also available to give sessions at inservice days. We have members with a wide variety of experiences, who could speak on many topics, and we offer these services at no charge. If you have any questions or would like more information, you can contact Helen Ihasz (hmarieihazs@gmail.com) or committee chair Nancy Russo (nrussol@naz.edu)

Midwest Clinic Scholarship

From Shawn Halquist: The NY chapter of Phi Beta Mu sponsors an annual scholarship for young Band directors toward attending the Midwest Clinic. **Click HERE for more details about how to apply.**

Joe Sugar Day 2026

Joseph R. Sugar Legislative Day in Albany is Monday, March 9.

Click here for the general NYSSMA schedule.

Contact Patrick Towey, Zone 1 Rep, or Paul Monaco, Zone 1 GRC Chair (pmonaco@royhart.org) for more info or to let us know if you are planning to attend!

Spring Festivals 2027

The NYSSMA Office must have the finalized schedule of solo festivals and major organizations **by June 1, 2027.**

Please let me know ASAP if you are interested in hosting a solo festival or MAJOR Festivals in 2027!

Interesting Quip

A random quote, but an important one worth remembering:

Important Quote