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**Buffalo-Area Educator Elected as Local Representative**

Westbury, NY - January 9, 2026 - The New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) is proud to announce that veteran educator Patrick Towey has been elected by his peers to serve as area *Zone Representative* to the Executive Council. Patrick will serve a three-year term and liaise with music educators from seventy (70) school districts and service 169,000 students throughout Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, and Niagara counties.

A veteran music educator, Mr. Towey is the director of bands at Kenmore West Senior High School in Buffalo, NY. He conducts three concert bands, the pit orchestra for the school's annual musical stage production, and teaches brass and percussion lessons. He is also a jazz ensemble director at Kenmore East High School. He held similar duties at Plattsburgh High School, where he previously taught for six years.

He is an active NYSSMA adjudicator for All-State Instrumental Jazz, Piano and Brass solo areas, and instrumental ensembles, and has guest-conducted honor bands in several New York counties including Clinton, Franklin, Genesee, Saratoga, Warren, and Wyoming.

When he's not teaching, Patrick is active in local community theaters serving as music director and orchestra conductor for the Ken-Ton Summer Theater Arts Group Experience (STAGE), and theaters in Lockport and Lewiston. More, he is the founder and music director of the Western New York Future Educators Wind Ensemble consisting of music educators and college students studying to be music educators.

"My passion for music education has been alive for as long as I can remember," Mr. Towey said. "NYSSMA's goal to advance and improve music education programs across New York State has resonated with me throughout my career. I look forward to providing students with as many opportunities as possible and serving NYSSMA in this new capacity as Zone 1 Representative."

"Our fifteen (15) Zone Representatives provide an invaluable line of communication between their areas of New York State and the Executive Council of NYSSMA," said Kathy Perconti, NYSSMA president. "Patrick's outstanding leadership skills will benefit our members and students in many ways, and we are proud to have him on our team."

Towey is completing his Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University. He received his Bachelor of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester. NYSSMA, the New York State School Music Association, is the largest state affiliate of the National Association for Music Education.

The Mission of the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) is to advance music education across New York State for its membership and students in member school programs.

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