
MINUTES

June 13 - 14, 2026 – DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel – Niagara Falls, NY

NYSSMA® EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

NYSSMA® Executive Council Meeting Official Minutes DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel – Niagara Falls, NY June 13 and 14, 2026

Call to Order and Welcome

NYSSMA® President Kathy Perconti called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 13 and welcomed those in attendance to Niagara Falls. Not in attendance: Shelly Bauer (3rd Vice President), Jeannette Woodruff (Zone 6), Timothy Hamblin (Zone 9), Kimberly Dunkin (Zone 11), Kevin Heathwood (Zone 12), Dr. Keith Koster (C-NAfME/NYSSMA), Terry Nigrelli (Web Editor), Mike Mastrangelo (Government Relations /Advocacy).

President Perconti officially welcomed Dr. Jason Berger (Advisor) and Samantha Mason (C-NAfME/NYSSMA Collegiate President).

Nominations

President Perconti announced the continuation of nominations (opened in March of 2026). The following positions maintained current nominations and/or received new nominations at this meeting:

2nd Vice President: Ashley E. Trudell (Zone 5) nominated Scott Cannan. Michael Lee (Zone 13) nominated Dr. Joseph Owens.

3rd Vice President: Ashley E. Trudell (Zone 5) nominated Dr. Jennifer L.R. Greene.

Kevin Heathwood (Zone 12) nominated Shelly Bauer.

Zone 2: Scott Cannan (2nd Vice President) nominated Brian Wilkins (Zone 2).

Zone 4: Kevin Upcraft (Zone 4) nominated himself.

Zone 8: No nomination.

Zone 12: Kevin Heathwood (Zone 12) nominated himself.

Zone 14: Jim Uzzi (Zone 14) nominated Anissa Arnold.

Nominations will remain open at the August 2026 NYSSMA® General Business and County Presidents' meeting to be held virtually. At the conclusion of that meeting, nominations will be finalized and closed.

Appointments

A motion was brought to council to approve the addition of the following individuals to NYSSMA® committees:

Motion: President Perconti, seconded by Ashley E. Trudell (Zone 5), "That the NYSSMA® Executive Council approve the following committee appointments: Awards – Joe Ianconi, Jessica Chapman; Composition – Cynthia Marcus Smith; and All-State Assistant Vocal Jazz Chair – Ben Pesenti. **Motion carried.**

NYSSMA® Manual

A motion was brought to council for the formation of a committee focused on the next edition of the manual:

Motion: President Perconti, seconded by Samantha McShane (Zone 10), "That the NYSSMA® Executive Council authorize the manual chair to form the Manual Committee and Commencement of the NYSSMA® Manual Edition 35." **Motion carried.**

Officer Reports

President: Kathy Perconti

President Perconti offered congratulations to New York's recent, award-winning Tri-M chapters:

Tri-M Chapter of the Year Senior Division - First Runner Up
Christian Brothers Academy - Syracuse, NY
Chapter 1176 - Timothy Davis, advisor
State Chapter of the Year Winner
Shoreham-Wading River High School - Shoreham, NY
Chapter 7752 - Ashley O'Connor, advisor

Strategic plan update: President Perconti shared that this committee, led by NAFME Past President Scott Sheehan, met on March 21-22 and worked on drafting mission and vision statements. A survey was sent out via email, with further dissemination through social media platforms, and a virtual town hall was held on April 26, 2026. The next meeting of this committee will take place on June 14-15.

Vocal Jazz and Contemporary Vocal Ensemble update: In response to questions and concerns, an open Zoom meeting, advertised via social media and elsewhere, was held on May 3. Subsequently, a vocal jazz strand was added to the NYSSMA® Summer Conference. President Perconti is working with the Adjudication Festival Committee (see AFC report in these minutes) to take everything into consideration.

National Assembly and NafME Hill Day – Washington D. C.: President Perconti, President-Elect Daryle Redmond and Executive Director Dr. David Brown will be representing NYSSMA® at this event (on June 23-24, 2026).

Eastern Division Conference – Providence, RI: The NafME Eastern Division Conference will take place on April 2-4, 2027. The theme is "Sound

of Hope/Waves of Change.” The following submission dates were provided:

- Exhibitor applications open June 15, 2026.
- Submission deadline for sessions: July 1, 2026.
- Submission deadline for performing ensembles: July 10th, 2026.
- Research proposal and poster applications open on August 15, 2026.
- Student composition applications open on September 15, 2026.

President-Elect: Daryle Redmond Winter Conference 2026:

- Deadlines for performance groups, showcases (save for piano) and sessions all closed prior to this June meeting. The Piano Showcase applications close on July 11, 2026.
- Committee chairs have received session proposals for review.
- NYSSMA® Award applications are open until July 1, 2026. NYSSMA encourages application(s).

Application statistics:

- Modern Band - 42 applicants.
- Piano Showcase – Open until July 11.
- Young Composers Showcase – 58 applicants.
- Electronic Music Showcase – 39 applicants.
- Songwriters Showcase – 39 applicants.
- Applications for performing groups – 12 applicants in 2025, 23 applicants in 2026.
- Proposals for sessions – 313 applicants in 2025, 299 applicants in 2026.
 - o Committees’ selection-of-session deadline – June 25, 2026.
 - o Schedule to be created after that deadline.

New York State Council of Educational Associations (NYSCEA) Conference: President-Elect Redmond attended the NYSCEA Conference on May 8, 2026. In addition to a variety of other attendees and subjects, representatives from NYSED were present and spoke about Portrait of a Graduate and Path-

ways. Discussions about demystifying the state budget process were also held.

New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) call for performing groups: The NYSSBA call for performing groups in early 2026 yielded seven applicants. Despite a specific request or hope for a marching band, none applied.

Zone Analysis Committee: An ad hoc committee chaired by Kevin Giroux will collect data concerning needs surrounding zones. The information being collected and reviewed includes but is not limited to geographic size, access, administrative work load, county boundary effectiveness, and population(s).

2nd Vice President: Scott Cannan Festival season statistics:

- All-state applications-2026: 6,423 applications for 5,843 students. One application missing.
 - o Prior years:
 - 2025: 6,339 applications for 5,584 students.
 - 2024: 5,956 applications for 5,390 students.
 - 2023: 5,707 applications for 5,159 students.
- Variances: 53 requested, 40 granted, 1 rehearing (written as a variance), 12 not granted.
- Rehearings: 5 granted (Zone 1, Zone 3 [included in variance data], Zone 11 x2 [student declined], Zone 13).
- All-state accommodations: 29 requests submitted.

All-state selection: The Selection Committee will meet on June 29, 2026, at the DoubleTree, Syracuse.

Conference All-State 2026:

- December 3-6, 2026 – Rochester, NY
- Conductors
 - o Instrumental Jazz Ensemble: Dr. Molly Redfield, conductor.
 - o Vocal Jazz: Cindy Ellis, conductor.
 - o Wind Ensemble: Dr. William Talley, conductor.

- o String Orchestra: Adrian Slywotzy, conductor.
- o Treble Chorus: Mary LaCasse Biddlecombe, conductor.
- Jonathan Riss, collaborative pianist.
- o Mixed Chorus: Dr. Jason Tramm, conductor.
- Ellen McCarthy, collaborative pianist.
- o Symphonic Band: Dr. Lindsay Bronnekant, conductor.
- o Symphony Orchestra: Dr. Régulo Stabilito, conductor.

Festival season calendar: The near-completed 2027 festival season calendar was presented to council.

Adjudicator release letter: 2nd Vice President Cannan presented a draft of the previously-discussed adjudicator release letter to help advocate for end-of-day teacher/adjudicator professional release time for travel to festival assignments. Brief discussion ensued about the best method(s) for distribution, be it through the official Adjudicator Portal or via Coordinator emails, and whom they should be distributed to—adjudicators or school administrators or other parties.

Hotel update for the 2026 NYSSMA® Winter Conference: Scott Cannan introduced Dr. David Brown, NYSSMA’s Executive Director, who provided an update on the closure of the Wyndham Hotel and shared with council that he is working with Visit Rochester to move almost 300 students to a new space.

As soon as final decisions are made, Dr. Brown will provide updates to the general membership. Addressing what matters most and the extraordinary effort(s) he and the association will undertake to deal with this difficult circumstance, Dr. Brown stated that “everything we do is for the good of the children we serve, and I will do everything in my power to find spaces for hotel rooms and rehearsals.”

3rd Vice President: Shelly Bauer (Absent)
Jazz @ Lincoln Center - Summer
Conference:

- A vocal jazz strand has been added, with multi-GRAMMY winner Sara Gazarek serving as the clinician.
- Session names and specifics are still being finalized.
- Todd Stoll, Vice President of Education at Jazz at Lincoln Center, has agreed to create a promo video for NYSSMA's use.

Affiliate summer conferences:

- NY - ACDA Summer Conference - August 7-9, 2026.
- NYSBDA Summer Conference - August 11-12, 2026.

NYSSMA® will be asking both affiliates to advertise or at least announce the NYSSMA/JALC Summer Conference in July.

Past President: Edmund Chiarello

Past President Chiarello shared that the summer County Presidents'/General Business meeting will be held on Zoom at noon on Thursday, August 13.

Executive Director: Dr. David Brown

• **Online manual update:** The new manual was successful in its first year. However, the load time continued to be slow, even with updates from NERIC, and the search feature wasn't user-friendly. Dr. Brown created an RFP to find a company, be it NERIC or otherwise, to take the lead with our digital manual.

Because of the timeline for acceptance and review, the 2026-2027 Manual may not be "opened" by July of 2026 and may need to be opened in August instead. The new manual can still be purchased prior to that point with the understanding that it will go "live" when the company is selected and the manual is ready.

A committee was created to look at the manual purchasing process, but that has been tabled while NYSSMA® investigates a new platform. The price will continue to be \$20.00 this year with

the expectation that it will be raised to \$25.00 for 2027-2028. Following this update, discussion ensued.

• **Trainings update:** Trainings are part of our requirement for our technology company and cyber security insurance. All members of council with an email must complete these digital/online trainings. However, Dr. Brown was given permission to accept any trainings that have been done by a member in their home districts, colleges, or other jobs that require the trainings. If you have a certificate that you did the training, please send it to David. The deadline for trainings was originally several weeks ago, but an extension was given up to July 15 out of respect for concert season and end-of-year responsibilities.

• **Budget update:** Dr. Brown provided budget updates, including information about the 2025 audit, the closing of the six-month budget, and concerns surrounding the July-to-June budget.

• **Fee increases for 2027-2028:** Dr. Brown is in the process of finalizing a proposal for fee increases — a three-year plan meant to begin in 2027-2028 — to be presented to Executive Council in the near future and discussed later in 2026.

• **1099 threshold/bonus program:** The threshold for 1099s is now \$2,000, up from \$600. The officers discussed the bonus program with the Executive Director and all decided to keep the bonus schedule as is. Originally, this was created to offset the tax burden for anyone making more than the threshold but all believed it would be better to keep it for anyone making more than \$600.

• **Payroll company:** Dr. Brown is finalizing work to select a payroll company to use in the future.

• **Area all-state fees:** Dr. Brown addressed conductor payments and discussed the need to visit the possibility of fee increases.

Voting procedures: Kate Jarrard

Based on prior discussion at the March 2026 meeting, a proposal was drafted and presented to Executive Council to move NYSSMA® elections from mail ballots to electronic voting. The proposal involves a slight adjustment in the related wording in the NYSSMA® Constitution:

Current constitutional language:

Article V, Section 8 of the NYSSMA® Constitution currently reads:

"Section 8. ANNUAL ELECTIONS. Elections of Officers and Executive Council members for the Association shall take place by mail ballot during the Fall of the year. The Executive Council shall serve as the nominating committee for officers of the Association. Nominations for Zone Representatives shall be presented by the incumbent representative following a procedure which reflects the wishes of his/her constituent membership. A president of an Affiliated County Organization may also forward a nomination for position of Zone Representative to the incumbent Zone Representative. The slate shall be published in the *School Music News*. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the general meeting of NYSSMA® to be held prior to September first. Nominations made from the floor for an office of Zone Representative must be made by a member of the respective zone. For mail ballot voting privileges Active and Retired members are defined as individuals who hold NYSSMA/NAfME membership on September first prior to the election. Individuals paying membership dues after September first may obtain ballots upon presentation of proof of such payment to the Executive Director. A majority of votes cast shall elect a candidate. The term of office shall begin on January first following the election."

Initially proposed language change: The Standing Committee on the Constitution initially proposed the following language to replace the text underlined above:

“Elections of Officers and Executive Council members for the Association shall take place by electronic ballot during the fall of the year.”

and

“For electronic ballot voting privileges Active and Retired members are defined as individuals who hold NYSSMA/NAFME membership on September first prior to the election.”

After presenting that information and offering a suggested motion, that motion was presented to council as follows:

Motion: President Perconti, seconded simultaneously by Jim Uzzi (Zone 14) and Scott Cannan (2nd Vice President), “I move that the Executive Council recommend to the membership a constitutional amendment to Article V, Section 8, replacing the phrase ‘mail ballot’ with ‘electronic ballot,’ and that the proposed amendment be published in the *School Music News* and/or distributed to the active membership in accordance with the notification requirements of Article X, for a subsequent membership vote.” **Motion seconded.**

Immediately following the seconding of the aforementioned motion, discussion ensued and it was agreed upon that instead of specifying “mail ballot” or “electronic ballot,” it would suit any potential future need(s) for flexibility in this area by simply saying “ballot” with no type qualification.

Motion Amended: President Perconti, seconded by Jim Uzzi, (Zone 14) “To change ‘electronic ballot’ as dictated in the previous motion to simply say ‘ballot.’” Thus, the amended version of the motion reads as follows: “I move that the Executive Council recommend to the membership a constitu-

tional amendment to Article V, Section 8, replacing the phrase ‘mail ballot’ with ‘ballot,’ and that the proposed amendment be published in the *School Music News* and/or distributed to the active membership in accordance with the notification requirements of Article X, for a subsequent membership vote.”

Motion carried.

Next steps:

1. The approved amendment will be published in *School Music News* to notify the membership.
2. The proposed amendment will appear on the fall ballots. Ratification requires two-thirds approval in ballots cast by the membership.
3. If approved, electronic voting will take effect in the fall of 2027.

Zone Reports: Representatives

President Perconti introduced the Zone Representatives and asked them to share news from their respective areas. The Zone Representatives spoke about a variety of topics, including but not limited to festivals, professional development, advocacy, awards, and guest artist visits.

Committee Reports

Adjudication Festival Committee: George Smith

The Adjudication Festival Committee met March 6-7, 2026, at the Albany Hilton. The meeting focused on the final details of the 2026 adjudicator orientation season. 2025 AFC Winter Conference sessions were reviewed and possible AFC sessions for the 2026 Winter Conference were discussed.

2026 Adjudicator Orientation Seminars:

Adjudicator Orientation Seminars were held at:

Talent Unlimited (Zone 12) - March 13-14.

East Syracuse-Minoa (Zone 3) - April 17-18.

Half Hollow Hills (Zone 14) - April 24-25.

Candidates in the following specialties successfully completed orientation in 2026:

	Regular	All-State	Major Org.
Brass	15	6	
Percussion	5		
Piano	3		
Strings	25	3	
Voice	20	4	
Woodwinds	26	7	
Inst. Jazz		4	
Vocal Jazz		5	
Instrumental			4
Choral			2
TOTAL	94	29	6

2026 Orientation Grand Total – 129

- Of the 94 new regular adjudicators, 13 were “fast track” candidates (2 brass, 1 perc., 1 piano, 8 string, 1 voice)
- Comparison of new regular adjudicators from previous years: 2026 – 94, 2025 – 78, 2024 – 130, 2023 – 66, 2022 – 95, 2019 – 37, 2018 – 102

Other statistics: 2 cancellations, 3 unsuccessful, 3 Session not offered

2027 Adjudicator Orientation Seminars:

- 2027 adjudicator orientation sites have been scheduled and confirmed for the following dates and sites:
 - o March 5-6 – Nassau C.C. - Zone 13 (piano only).
 - o March 12-13 – Schenectady C.C.C. Zone 7 – (piano only).
 - o April 9-10 – Monroe-Woodbury H.S. - Zone 9.
 - o April 16-17 – Uniondale H.S. - Zone 13.
 - o April 23-24 – Carthage Middle School – Zone 5 (no piano).
- The application will be posted on the NYSSMA® website and will appear in *School Music News* in the September, October, and November/December issues.

- Applications and supporting materials must be received by March 1, 2027.

Festival sight-reading: Sight Reading Factory is providing sight-reading for the 2027 festival season. We were hoping to have that sight-reading in the coordinator's hands by June, but, even though that didn't happen, this timeline still works and we hope to have it during the summer of 2026. If revisions are needed, those will be done and time will be allowed for the office to have them printed by January of 2027.

Vocal Jazz/Contemporary Vocal Ensemble: The Adjudication Festival Committee made the following motion related to changes and adoptions surrounding vocal jazz in the manual and in practice. Conversation ensued, with questions answered by AFC Chair George Smith:

Motion: George Smith (AFC), seconded by Scott Cannan (2nd Vice President), "That the NYSSMA® Executive Council approve the following:

- Level 5 vocal jazz solos will be offered in festival season 2027.
- The current Level 6 vocal jazz evaluation sheets will be revised to include Level 5.
- Level 5 vocal jazz solos will be added to the manual by July 2026.
- Level 4 vocal jazz solos will be offered in festival season 2028.
- Level 4 vocal jazz evaluation sheets will be created for festival season 2028.
- Level 4 vocal jazz solos will be added to the manual by July 2027.
- All vocal jazz solos beginning in festival season 2027 will use voice sight-reading, not vocal jazz sight-reading."

Passed unanimously. **Motion carried.**

A Contemporary Vocal Ensemble showcase will be held at the 2027 Winter Conference. This addition will not replace the All-State Vocal Jazz Ensemble. Sessions on vocal jazz prepara-

tion have been submitted for the 2026 NYSSMA® Winter Conference.

BEDR: Adele Bovard

BEDR is pleased to be focused on collaboration with other committees to work together to create a welcoming environment for all in NYSSMA®!

We have a renewed focus on working with committee chairs to encourage a review process utilizing the rubric created last year. Adele will be happy to sit down with any committee chair to review the rubric and talk through a process for review with individual committees.

- This rubric as well as our Affinity Space protocol has been shared as part of the NAFME Equity Resource Center Part 2 that will be coming out shortly!

The BEDR Committee is leading a session in the NYSSMA® Academy run by Brian Wagner-Yeung:

Session #2-"Belonging, Equity, Representation, Diversity (BEDR) in the music classroom"

Date: January 23, 2027

Presenter: Adele Bovard, Elise Sobol and Avid Williams

Description: This interactive session will begin with foundational principles and current research on creating a strong sense of belonging that is representative of the diversity of all students. Participants will engage with successful strategies for the music classroom to create that culture of belonging.

Cross-committee partnerships:

- A partnership has been formed with the Urban Committee Chair (Jasmine Britt) to create resource(s) for urban districts. Jasmine has created a resource for quick contact with urban schools.
- A partnership has been formed with the Curriculum and Classroom Music Committees to present "Building a BEDR Curriculum" at winter conference.

This is our first attempt to show coherence between the work of various committees of NYSSMA®. Our goal is to increase this type of collaboration in the future.

Diversity in literature: Many thanks to JT Cummings and Dr. David Brown for providing the literature in the NYSSMA® library in spreadsheet format. Rob Deemers' ICD group is working to create an analysis of diverse repertoire in the library so we can supplement where needed, ensuring diverse composers and literature are available for festival conductors and for teachers.

Social Media and Communications: Dr. John J. Gallagher

Dr. Gallagher shared information about news placements and press releases in the 2025-2026 school year.

Standout Instagram posts (Data as of June 1, 2026):

- Tri-M Chapters of the Year: 15,113 views (44.3% followers; 55.7% non-followers) and 585 interactions (70% followers; 30% non-followers).
- Submit session proposal for winter conference: 8,562 views (53.1% followers; 46.9% non-followers) and 203 interactions (77.5% followers; 22.5% non-followers).
- 2026 Summer Conference promotion: 4,499 views (89% followers; 11% non-followers) and 77 interactions (91.4% followers; 8.6% non-followers).

C-NAfME/NYSSMA®: Dr. Keith Koster (Absent) and Samantha Mason, Collegiate President

The new Collegiate Executive Board members have been selected. The term runs for one year (May 1, 2026 until May 1, 2027):

- o President: Samantha Mason (maso5608@fredonia.edu)
- o President-Elect: Cade Wyles (cadewyles@gmail.com)

- o Secretary-Treasurer: Julia Wachsmuth (jwachsmuth1@pride.hofstra.edu)
- o Web Editor: Gillian Gates (ggates7@mail.naz.edu)
- o Province 1: Sophia Arcuri (sacuri@fredonia.edu)
- o Province 2: Abigail Hoerbelt (ahoerbe2@mail.naz.edu) & Keenan Smith (ksmith54@mail.naz.edu)
- o Province 3: Stephen Buff (buffss208@potdam.edu)
- o Province 4/5: Mia Remeika (mremeika1@pride.hofstra.edu)
- o Province 6: Juni Bae (junbae980@gmail.com)
- o Province 7: Michael Lawless (mlawless1@pride.hofstra.edu)

Activities and updates:

- The new collegiate e-board will meet in June and we have to share that we appreciate last year's state collegiate leadership. The purpose of the June meeting will be the establishment of a theme for the upcoming year and specific goals and objectives. We look to increase collegiate membership and engagement both at the 2026 NYSSMA® Winter Conference and the 2027 NAFME Eastern Division Conference meeting in Providence, RI.
- We look forward to President Mason's representation at the NYSSMA® Executive Council meeting(s) and also at the NAFME Collegiate Summit later this month. Samantha will also share her experiences — especially those in Washington D.C. — at the next collegiate e-board meeting.
- We offer thanks to returning Web Editor Gillian Gates for updating the Collegiate Officer Web page and to NYSSMA® Web Editor Terry Nigrelli for managing the changes for us. We encourage everyone to take note of the new state collegiate leadership at our site: <https://www.nyssma.org/collegiate-nyssma/officers/>

- President Samantha Mason is looking forward to working with Dan Bilawsky, the Editor of *School Music News*. The two have connected via email to discuss column contributions as we begin the new term with new leadership.
- This summer, e-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.
- We are especially happy to report that the collegiate chapter at SUNY Potsdam – Crane School of Music will be hosting the 2028 State Collegiate NYSSMA® Conference.
- Many thanks to the Hofstra collegiate chapter's work in hosting a successful 2026 State Collegiate NYSSMA® Conference this past March.
- We also value and appreciate NYSSMA's support of all that we do to build collegiate representation and engagement during the academic year.
- To subscribe to collegiate chapter social media accounts, visit the Collegiate Chapter page: www.nyssma.org
- We look forward to the 2026 NYSSMA® Winter Conference and value and appreciate NYSSMA's commitment to current and future collegiate members of NYSSMA® by offering scholarships and the travel stipend program.

Curriculum: Susan A. Davis

- 2026 Winter Conference: Planning for the winter conference is under way. Sessions have been submitted and the Curriculum Committee is collectively rating and ranking all sessions.
- Cross-committee collaboration: Chairs of the Curriculum, BEDR, and Classroom Committees met on May 11 to discuss plans for collaboration in service of NYSSMA® membership, starting with a partnered winter conference session.

The Curriculum Committee is also co-sponsoring a NYSSMA® Academy session with the Neurodiversity and Accessibility Committee for 2027: "Inclusive by Design: Curriculum Planning for the Instrumental Classroom."

- Initiatives: Committee members are reviewing the Curriculum Committee Web page in preparation to eliminate broken links, update resources, and reorganize materials. Discussion is under way regarding possible curriculum supports for Modern Band and for the NYS Portrait of a Graduate.

Classroom Music Committee:

Gina Costanza

- 2026 Winter Conference
 - o 38 submissions were reviewed.
 - o Headliner: Ani Silva-Berrios
 - Latin American music focus.
 - Balanced approach to curriculum.
 - Strong Instagram content with social media marketing potential (Instagram: @elementarymusicnotes).
 - o Thematic approach for submission call and selecting sessions for future conferences.
- "Save the Music" Scholarship for 2026 AOSA Conference in November.
- Current Priorities
 - o Reviewing CMC mission and goals.
 - o Updating the website to reflect the current committee's vision.
 - Different ways to engage w/ membership via the website.
 - Different pedagogy examples (and dissecting the commonalities in the different pedagogy examples).
 - o Collaborating with other NYSSMA® committees
 - Collaborating on two panels for winter conference with the Curriculum, BEDR, and Advocacy Committees.
 - o Drafted proposal for CMC Summer Conference at Nazareth College in August 2027.

- o Complete BEDR Rubric for committees.
 - o Preserving historical documents.
 - o Sharing proven practices for taking attendance and surveying participants at the NYSSMA® Winter Conference.

School Music News Editor:

Dan Bilawsky

- **Masthead additions/corrections/changes:** Please check over the masthead information as it appears in the May-June 2026 *School Music News*, and then let Matt Gagliardi (mgagliardi@nyssma.org) at the NYSSMA® Office know if there are any changes that should be made (e.g. names, addresses, phone numbers, email contacts, etc.). Updated masthead information for *SMN* comes to me electronically each month from the NYSSMA® office. Thank you for your assistance.
- **Online all-state program archive update:** Assembly of the Online NYSSMA® All-State Program Archive (proposed and supported by Executive Council at the March 2026 meeting) is under way. It already contains more than a dozen past programs that are downloadable and have been made searchable with OCR technology. The Editor is in search of programs from 1993 and earlier to borrow to scan for the archives. This work-in-progress archive can be viewed at <https://www.nyssma.org/nyssma-all-state-program-archive/>
- **Contributor update:** Over the course of 2025-2026, every vacant Review Editor position was filled. *School Music News* was proud to publish articles presented by these contributors, as well as submissions/contributions from some NYSSMA® members who are not Review Editors. Specific requirements for article submission/consideration for general membership are outlined in the first issue(s) of the magazine each year.

- **Expression of gratitude:** Many thanks to everyone on Executive Council and beyond for their assistance during my first year as NYSSMA/*School Music News* Editor. Your help was invaluable and I greatly appreciate all you've done in service to the association through its official publication.

Web Editor: Terry Nigrelli

- The NYSSMA® website is running smoothly.
- The most recent version of the festival calendar is always the one that is on the home page. It is updated weekly, usually on Friday.
- Please double-check and update the contact info and the documents on your committee and zone pages.
- If you need help posting or editing your zone or committee pages, I can give you the instructions to edit them yourself or you can send information or files to me and I will post them for you.
- If you run into any problems logging in or editing your pages, please send me an email: webeditor@nyssma.org
- I receive the emails that are sent to info@nyssma.org. I try to respond to as many as I can. If I don't know the answer to the question, I send it to the appropriate people so they can reply. If you think it would help me answer questions in the future, please include me in the reply.
- I approve the job postings. The link to post a job is at the bottom of the job list at <http://www.nyssma.org/post-a-job/>. The dates are the Start Date and End Date of the posting, not the start and end of the job opening.

Government Relations/Advocacy:

Michael Mastrangelo

MIOSM/Albany legislative efforts:

The 53rd Joseph R. Sugar Day in Albany was held on Monday, March 9, 2026.

On this day, NYSSMA® members met in small groups with legislators to advocate for music education. The taking points for this year were as follows:

- NYSSMA® continues to advocate for bills (Bills S6318A and A6490B) which address the omission of music education from the state's list of recognized academic subjects.
- NYSSMA® advocates for full funding of School Foundation Aid and Expense-Based Aid, along with the New York State Board of Regents request for a \$12 million increase in cultural education funding.
- NYSSMA® continues to advocate for the restoration of 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 2026-2027 state budget.
- NYSSMA® continues to advocate 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.

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 Robert Dumas for their efforts preparing these student musicians for the outstanding performances.

Also, thank you to President Kathy Perconti, Executive Director Dr. David Brown, NYSSMA® MIOSM Chairperson Scott Andrews, the NYSSMA® Office and our NYSSMA® membership for all their efforts to make this very important annual initiative a success. Coordinating the Joseph R. Sugar Day in Albany is a team effort.

Bills S6318A and A6490B update:

New York passed a number of education-related bills this session, which include the adjustments to Tier 6 pension reform. Bill S6318A passed this session in the Senate. Although Bill A6490B exceeded the number of Assembly members needed as co-sponsors to bring it to the floor for a vote, there appears to be a holdup in the office of sponsor Assemblymember Dias.

For some reason there have been delays getting the Assemblymembers officially signed on which has affected the ability of the bill to reach the floor for the vote during this session. As of June 4, 2026, 74 Assembly members are signed on with 10 names still needed to be added. 76 members are needed for a bill to be considered. At this point, I am awaiting an update from NYSAEA about where things are at. Since there is a two-year term for proposed bills, we will need to begin again if the bill does not move forward this year.

NAfME Hill Day: Currently, NYSSMA® is in the process of preparing for the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) Hill Day which will be held in Washington D.C. on Wednesday, June 24, 2026. A small contingent of NYSSMA® Executive Council members

will be advocating for music education at the national level on this day.

NYSSMA® Portrait of a Graduate Ad-Hoc Committee: The NYSSMA® Portrait of a Graduate Ad-Hoc Committee plans to provide an updated presentation at the 2026 Winter Conference. Please consider following through on any advocacy efforts to support federal funding that you see released by NYSSMA® or NAFME. This is a critical time to show support for music education.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Brian Wilkins (Zone 2) raised a question regarding festival host honorariums and timing of payment when purchase orders have been received.
- Ashley E. Trudell (Zone 5) requested clarification about where to send county president/masthead updates. It was explained that the Past President needs to be informed, since that's who maintains the county presidents list. Matt Gagliardi (NYSSMA® office), however, is the one responsible for maintaining the masthead, which is dis-

seminated to the Editor and Web Editor for publication, so he needs to be made aware of changes, too.

- Ashley E. Trudell (Zone 5) inquired about the possibility of exploring Contemporary Vocal Ensemble at the area all-state level. Discussion ensued.

Next meeting: Thursday, August 13, noon, General Business/County Presidents' Meeting via Zoom.

Adjournment:

The following motion was brought to council:

Motion: Julie M. Smith (Zone 8), seconded by all in attendance "that the meeting be adjourned." **Motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m. on Sunday, June 14, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Bilawsky (with assistance from
Dr. David Brown), Official Recorder.



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