
MINUTES

August 13, 2026 – virtual meeting via Zoom

NYSSMA® COUNTY PRESIDENTS’ ASSEMBLY / GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING OFFICIAL MINUTES

NYSSMA® County Presidents’
Assembly / General Business
Meeting Official Minutes
Thursday, August 13, 2026 –
virtual meeting via Zoom – 12:00 p.m.

Welcome – Call to Order

NYSSMA® Past President Edmund Chiarello welcomed approximately 75 members who joined the online August NYSSMA® County Presidents’ Assembly / General Business Meeting.

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: Dr. Andrew D. Pease (Zone 8) nominated himself.

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

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

Nominations officially closed at 12:05 p.m. at this meeting. Ballots will be prepared and sent to membership for voting in fall 2026.

Officer and Chair Reports

President: Kathy Perconti

Strategic plan update: The Strategic Plan Committee had two productive meetings: March 21-22, 2026, and June 14-15, 2026. A survey was sent out via email in April, with further dissemination through social media platforms, and a virtual town

hall was held on April 26, 2026. President Perconti shared intentions for focus groups and meetings in the coming fall and winter.

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.

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

Eastern Division Conference – Providence, RI (<https://www.rimea.org/eastern>): The NAFME Eastern Division Conference will take place on April 2-4, 2027. The theme is “Sound of Hope/Waves of Change.”

- Session and performing ensemble deadlines have closed.
- Exhibitor applications opened June 15, 2026.
- Research proposal and poster applications opened on August 15, 2026.
- Student composition applications opened on September 15, 2026

New York State students will be ranked and recommended this fall. Subsequently, teachers will be notified about those students and will have to submit applications for them.

NYSSMA® Winter Conference - December 3-6, Rochester: President Perconti shared that the feature performing group is Voctave.

President-Elect: Daryle Redmond

NYSSMA® Winter Conference -

December 3-6, Rochester

- The conference schedule has been finalized.
- Committee chairs and presenters have been notified via email through Cvent. If they have not received a notification, they should contact JT Cummings in the NYSSMA® Office.
- Concert hour performing groups have been selected, notified, and scheduled. This information can be found on the NYSSMA® website and in *School Music News*.

- Conference information will be disseminated through the NYSSMA® website, *School Music News*, Constant Contact email, and a postcard mailing. The Constant Contact will be sent this month (August) and the postcard will be mailed on or around September 1. There will be direct links or QR codes embedded in these communications linking to the digital brochure.
- The registration and reservation process, which goes live on September 9, will be streamlined this year.

President-Elect Redmond offered thanks to the 300-plus individuals who submitted sessions proposals, 20-plus ensembles who applied for concert hour performances, the committee chairs, the Selection Committee, the NYSSMA® Office staff and everyone involved with the conference.

2nd Vice President: Scott Cannan

All-State 2026: All-state selections took place on June 29 in Syracuse. Scott Cannan shared the following timeline:

- 2026 Conference All-State announcements/acceptances will be mailed to music teachers or music department chairs or school principals of high schools with participating students on or about August 26, 2026.
- 2026 Conference All-State acceptance letters will be mailed to students on or about August 27, 2026.
- 2026 Conference All-State acceptance emails will be sent to students on or about September 4, 2026.
- The postmark deadline for the return of student reservations to the appropriate All-State Chairperson is September 18, 2026.
- All-state fees are due to the NYSSMA® Office by October 1, 2026.
- All-state music and participant information will be available for accepted students to download on or about October 14, 2026.

2026 Conference All-State student housing and rehearsal location updates

- DoubleTree: Symphonic Band, Symphony Orchestra, Treble Choir, Modern Band Showcase (1111 Jefferson Road, Rochester, New York, 14623)
- Hilton Garden Inn (University): String Orchestra (30 Celebration Dr, Rochester, NY 14620)
- Staybridge Suites: Wind Ensemble (1000 Genesee St, Rochester, NY 14611)
- Marriott (Greece / Airport): Mixed Choir (1890 W Ridge Rd, Rochester, NY 14615)
- Woodcliff Hotel and Spa: Instrumental Jazz and Vocal Jazz (199 Woodcliff Dr, Fairport, NY 14450)

All ensembles will rehearse at the hotel in which they are housed, except for Symphonic Band; they will rehearse at the Hyatt.

2nd Vice President Cannan thanked All-State Head Chaperones Neil and Karen Bryson for their assistance in hotel reconfiguration plans.

NYSSMA® Manual Changes

Effective July 1, 2026:

- Level 5 vocal jazz solos will be added to the NYSSMA® Manual, July 2026.
- Level 5 vocal jazz solos will be offered in festival season 2027.
- The current Level 6 vocal jazz evaluation sheet will be revised to include Level 5.
- All vocal jazz solos beginning in festival season 2027 will use voice sight-reading, not vocal jazz sight-reading.

Effective July 1, 2027:

- Level 4 vocal jazz solos will be added to the NYSSMA® Manual, July 2027.
- Level 4 vocal jazz solos will be offered in festival season 2028.
- Level 4 vocal jazz evaluation sheet will be created for festival season 2028.

3rd Vice President: Shelly Bauer

Summer Conference 2026: 3rd Vice President Bauer offered a recap of the NYSSMA® Summer Conference held in cooperation with Jazz at Lincoln Center (JALC) on July 24 and 25 in New York City. There were two different tracks — one for vocal jazz and one for instrumental jazz. Among the highlights mentioned were opportunities for band directors to watch famed bassist-educator Rodney Whitaker working with students at JALC's Summer Academy, and the included concert offerings — the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra on Friday night and the Jon Faddis Quartet on Saturday night.

3rd Vice President Bauer noted the need to think about growing this conference, cited the partnership between NYSSMA® and JALC as an ideal connection within an urban center, noted that she received positive feedback from members from across the state who attended, and thanked everyone involved in the creation, support, advertising and implementation of the conference: President Kathy Perconti, Executive Director Dr. David Brown (and those who preceded him in that position), the NYSSMA® Office staff (Joan Chiarello, Stuart Rauch, Matt Gagliardi and JT Cummings), NYSSMA® Web Editor Terry Nigrelli and NYSSMA® Editor Dan Bilawsky, among many others.

Executive Director: Dr. David Brown

- Dr. Brown thanked everyone in the NYSSMA® Office (Joan Chiarello, Stuart Rauch, Matt Gagliardi and JT Cummings) for their work for the association.
- Dr. Brown acknowledged the passing of Dr. Bert Nelson, NYSSMA® Executive Director (1998-2006), Advisor (1980-1998, 2006-2025), and Finance Committee member (2006-2025). He shared that a donation to have trees planted in his name was made by NYSSMA®, and he asked for a moment

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of silence to honor him.

- NYSSMA®, working with Da Capo, has unveiled a faster, more intuitive digital manual. The price remains \$20 for a subscription for the 2026-2027 school year. The information was widely disseminated.
- Dr. Brown spoke about voting procedures. He explained that, per the current constitutional language, voting must take place by paper ballot. A proposal for amended language allowing for electronic voting to replace paper ballots was presented to Executive Council, which subsequently approved/supported putting it up for a membership vote. That membership approval vote will take place via the paper election ballots this fall and, if approved by two-thirds of received ballots, will result in a move to electronic voting in 2027.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Web Editor Terry Nigrelli reminded everyone to check their pages for accuracy.
- Past President Edmund Chiarello reminded everyone to inform him of county president changes so he can properly maintain the county president list (and Editor Dan Bilawsky reminded everyone to inform Matt Gagliardi in the NYSSMA® Office about these changes, too).
- DCMEA President Alicia Nace, addressing rising costs and district cuts to PD and conference attendance, made an inquiry about the possibility of increased online meetings/livestreamed meetings for county presidents.
- Questions were posed about the timeline for NYSSMA® award recipient notifications. Executive Director Dr. Brown explained that the committee had met the previous week and that President Perconti would be reaching out to them once the award chair passes along the information to her. It was noted that this probably won't happen for at least another four weeks. Answering a follow-up question, Dr. Brown confirmed that Zone Representatives will be notified if anyone in their zone is receiving an award.
- A question was posed about the date for the NYSSMA® County Presidents' Assembly / General Business Meeting at winter conference. President-Elect Redmond confirmed that it will be on Saturday, December 5.

Next Meeting:

December 2026 (NYSSMA® Winter Conference, Rochester).
Saturday, December 5, 2026 at 10:45 a.m. – Highland CH
(Convention Center)

Adjournment:

The following motion was made:

Motion: President Elect Daryle Redmond, "that the meeting be adjourned." **Motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:41p.m.

Following the adjournment of the NYSSMA® County Presidents' Assembly / General Business Meeting, voting members of the NYSSMA® Executive Council were asked to remain on the Zoom call to vote on the following motions:

Motion: 2nd Vice President Scott Cannan, seconded by Jim Uzzi (Zone 14), "that the NYSSMA® Manual Rules and Regulations be amended to remove Multiple Percussion as an audition instrument for Conference All-State, making the list of ineligible instruments read as follows:

1. Students may not audition for all-state organizations on the following instruments:
 - o Alto Flute.
 - o Soprano Saxophone.
 - o Eb Alto Clarinet.
 - o Bass Saxophone.
 - o Contra Bassoon.
 - o Piccolo Trumpet.
 - o Valve Trombone.
 - o Piano (Non-Jazz).
 - o Classical Guitar.
 - o Recorder.
 - o Vibraphone (Non-Jazz).
 - o Multiple Percussion."

Approved unanimously.

Motion carried.

Prior to the motion, 2nd Vice President Cannan confirmed that this eliminates the proficiency list for multiple percussion for all-state only. Levels 1-6 will remain unchanged.

Motion: Dr. Jennifer L. R. Greene (Zone 3), seconded by Jim Uzzi (Zone 14), “that the following NYSSMA® solo and ensemble fee schedule be adopted by the Executive Council and put into place in the following indicated timeline below:

PARTICIPATION FEES & ADJUDICATOR HONORARIA

	FESTIVAL			
	Festival Season			
SOLO	2027	2028	2029	2030
Level 1-4 / Piano 1-4 (Piano has its own fee starting 2028)	\$20/\$26	\$22	\$25	\$30
Level 5-6 / Piano 5-6 (Piano has its own fee starting 2028)	\$30/\$36	\$32	\$35	\$40
Piano (All Levels) (New Pricing Starting 2028)	N/A	\$45	\$50	\$55
All-State	\$36	\$40	\$44	\$48

MAJORS	2027	2028	2029	2030
Level 1-3	\$210	\$250	\$275	\$300
Level 4	\$245	\$280	\$300	\$325
Level 5-6	\$315	\$350	\$380	\$400

CLINICS	2027	2028	2029	2030
Grades 4-5	\$210	\$250	\$275	\$300
Grades 6-8	\$245	\$280	\$300	\$325
Grades 9-12	\$315	\$350	\$380	\$400

AREA ALL-STATE				
	Fiscal Year			
	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30
Area All-State	\$30	\$40	\$45	\$50

ADJUDICATOR HONORARIA				
	2027	2028	2029	2030
Local	\$18	\$20	\$22	\$24
NYSSMA® Adjudicator	\$22	\$30	\$32	\$35
All-State / Majors / Zone Rep	\$28	\$35	\$38	\$40

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION FEES

SCHOOL SIZE	26-27	28-29	2030
1 – 250	\$250	\$250	\$300
251 – 500	\$500	\$500	\$600
501 – 1000.	\$750	\$750	\$850
1001 – 1500	\$1000	\$1000	\$1100
1501 – 2500	\$1250	\$1250	\$1400
2501 – 5000	\$1500	\$1500	\$1600
5001 – 10000	\$1750	\$1750	\$1900
10001+	\$2000	\$2000	\$2200

ALL-STATE STUDENT FEE			
2025	2026	2027	2028
\$900	\$950	\$975	?

Actual cost 2025 \$1050 Per Student

The breakdown for 2026 is \$550 for Registration and \$400 for Housing and Food

Motion carried.

Conversation ensued regarding wording clarification, which was then addressed and is reflected in this published version of the motion.

Adjournment:

The following motion was made:

Motion: 2nd Vice president Scott Cannan, “that the meeting be adjourned.” **Motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:01p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Bilawsky, Official Recorder