



WMTA Annual Business Meeting Agenda

Saturday, October 25, 2025 / Osthoff Resort, Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin

- I. Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions
- II. Adoption of Agenda
- III. Approval of Minutes from October 2024
Reports of Officers
 - a. President Mary Tollefson, NCTM
 - b. Immediate Past President Mickey Lytle, NCTM
 - c. 1st VP-Conference Stacey Kraus, NCTM
 - d. 2nd VP-Membership Justin Krueger, NCTM
 - e. Treasurer Rachel Fritz
- IV. Reports of Program Chairs
 - a. Regional & State Keyboard Competitions Mary Anne Olvera, NCTM
 - b. Regional Vocal/Instrumental/Ensemble Opala Bilhorn, NCTM
 - c. Collaborative Performance Forum Shuk-ki Wong
 - d. College Faculty Representative Nick Phillips
 - e. District Auditions Roberta Grube
 - f. Independent Music Teachers Forum Margaret Burton
 - g. Local Associations Catherine Walby, NCTM
 - h. Media Chair Ashley Jehn
 - i. MTNA Certification (NCTM) Sandra Statz, NCTM
 - j. MTNA Competitions Coordinator Diana Shapiro
 - i. Junior/Senior Anthony Padilla
 - ii. Chamber Music/Young Artist Kaju Lee, NCTM
 - iii. Composition Competition Vacant
 - k. MTNA Composer Commissioning Michael Mizrahi
 - l. MTNA Foundation Shannon Whaples, NCTM
 - m. Teacher Award of Excellence Sandra Statz, NCTM
 - n. Wellness Forum Chair Vacant
 - o. WMTA Young Composer Festival Amber Bruns, NCTM
- V. Standing/Special Committees
 - a. Finance
 - b. Nominating
- VI. Old Business
- VII. New Business
 - a. Summary of actions by Executive Board Mary Tollefson, NCTM
- VIII. Announcements
 - a. Next Annual Business Meeting Luncheon: October 24, 2026 WMTA Annual State Conference.
 - b. Next Administrative Council Meeting, plus LA Presidents and District Chairs, is tentatively set for Friday, June 12, 2025, location TBA.
 - c. All submission for the December newsletter are due to Katie Butler by November 15th.
- X. Adjournment

Board Member Reports

PRESIDENT: Dr. Mary Tollefson, NCTM marytollefsonwmta@gmail.com

Resignations:

- Jennifer Lohman, Wellness Forum Program Chair
- Sandra Statz, Teacher Award of Excellence Program Chair
- Anthony Padilla, Jr./Sr. MTNA Performance Competitions Chair
- (Kaju Lee, Chamber Music/Young Artist Performance Competitions Chair)

New appointments:

I have communicated with Kaju Lee, and after the 2025 Competitions this fall, she has agreed to move to the Wellness Forum position.

Vacancies: After November, there will be vacancies for

- MTNA Jr./Sr. Competitions Chair
- MTNA Chamber Music/Young Artist Chair
- MTNA Composition Competition Chair

These positions are concentrated responsibilities, primarily September-October-early November. Diana Shapiro is the MTNA Competitions Coordinator.

Primary Activities:

- I continue to work on the new WMTA Youth Protection policy for WMTA Auditions and am grateful to the support from Mary Anne and Roberta as well as others who have chimed in as requested-thank you!
- There have been other issues that I have tried to work on, but little progress: greater Facebook presence, virtual association, integrating college students, helping with Foundation fellows.
- I attended the MTNA Leadership Summit in Cincinnati, Ohio in September.
 - A new MTNA website will be revealed in November (here's hoping...).
 - I met the new MTNA president, Kevin Chance and heard updates for the 2026 National Conference.
 - I met with other East Central Division State Presidents as well as State Presidents of similar size-memberships. I have passed some ideas on to the Foundation Chair and to the State Conference Chair.

Thank you all for your hard work to make WMTA a thriving organization!

IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT: Mickey Lytle, NCTM MickeyWMTA@gmail.com

My WMTA time since June has been spent helping to sync our Facebook and Instagram accounts, publishing the results of the survey for the September newsletter, and preparing upcoming newsletter articles based on survey feedback. I also continue to communicate with my MTNA colleagues from other states on discussion topics relevant to WMTA that may eventually be helpful to board members.

1ST VP-CONFERENCE: Stacey Kraus, NCTM sakraus2@gmail.com

The 2026 conference is slated for October 22-24 at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point. We are looking at an Americana theme to celebrate 250 years of music making in America. Mackenzie Melemed is not contracted yet but plans to be our guest artist. Numbers were low for this year's conference putting us over budget. Mary and I are thinking of ways we can boost numbers for the future. Items to discuss are in the agenda. Hopefully being able to announce next year's location & dates at this year's conference will help boost interest.

2ND VP-MEMBERSHIP: Dr. Justin Krueger, NCTM justind.krueger@gmail.com

Our June 30th Membership Numbers from MTNA show us at 417 members (up 2.71 %) from the prior year - so we are holding steady. Great work to all the local associations for being the boots on the ground and the district chairs for running our auditions which are two of the driving forces of our state organization. The current audition membership list has been fully updated and distributed to the district chairs. It contains all members who are deemed paid up to date. Awards will be presented at the conference for membership milestones.

TREASURER: Rachel Fritz wmtatreasurer@gmail.com

There are multiple reports available for your reference:

- 1) Balance sheet for the end of the fiscal year - The fiscal year ended on June 30, 2025
- 2) Income Statement for last fiscal year
- 3) Budget - WMTA passed a budget at its June meeting.
- 4) Balance sheet for the current Year to Date
- 5) Income Statement for the current Year to Date

Narrative regarding past fiscal year (Documents 1 and 2):

For the past several years WMTA has been running a deficit:

- FY 2020: **\$13,744**
- FY 2021: \$ 14,566
- FY 2022: **\$-9,934**
- FY 2023: **\$-4,797**
- FY 2024: **\$-3,797**
- FY 2025: \$ 5,437

How did WMTA not run a deficit for the 2025 fiscal year?

- Lower conference attendance costs for the President due to the MTNA conference being in Minneapolis.
- Fewer background checks were run due to it being the third year of doing background checks.
- Audition database project ended.

Budget narrative (Document 3)

This was a new process for the current leadership. A few changes from past reporting:

- 1) 501 - This was the amount of mileage and lodging. Moving forward these will be broken out into separate lines for Mileage, Lodging and Meals
- 2) 510 - Will now be only for facilities. In 2024 this line also contained the food expenses for the conference. Food expenses will move to meals.

- 3) Background checks costs were not included in the current budget based on process changes. We are in the process of learning if these costs will have to be added.

Narrative regarding current fiscal year (Documents 4 and 5)

Financial statements are current as of conference. The following expenses are outstanding:

- 1) Cost of sound technicians.
- 2) Meal cost

These expenses are projected to be \$5,000-\$7,000.

As we go into audition season a couple of reminders:

- 1) Checks are cut twice a month. As checks must be cut and then mailed to the president for signature it can take time for checks to arrive.
- 2) All Income and expenses need to be entered on the Income/Expense form

WMTA has CD 2957 coming due at the end of the month. This will be discussed in the Executive Board Meeting on Thursday evening.

WMTA's 990 is due on November 15. I am currently working on completing the information for this document.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Fritz, WMTA Treasurer

REGIONAL AND STATE KEYBOARD COMPETITION CHAIR: Mary Anne Olvera NCTM

Maryanneolvera@gmail.com

WMTA REGIONAL KEYBOARD COMPETITION OCTOBER REPORT, 2025

Dates and venues for WMTA 2026 Regional Keyboard Competition are all secured as follows:

- S Regional, UW-Parkside, Saturday May 9
- NE Regional, UW-Stevens Point, Saturday May 9
- NW Regional, UW-La Crosse, Saturday May 9

Judges are being actively secured, and most are in place for all three events. I am in communication with site chairs for each venue and site liaisons will be in place.

I am anticipating smooth running of the event – with some small pushback - at all sites with the new WMTA policy in place. This year's rollout will be a learning curve for all, setting up a model for upcoming years. While Regional events have always been open to an audience, typically parents did not go in the room. Mandatory parental attendance will also be new here.

I will be closely watching numbers for S Regional. Parkside has already let me know that if we need more than 6 sites, it could pose problems. Last year a very large fifth grade group necessitated creating a new level (4/5A, 4/5B). I will be looking to see how, or if this affects 5/6 this year, and accommodating as necessary.

It may be worthwhile to explore rebalancing the regions for 2027, equalizing numbers somewhat and potentially easing pressure off the overloaded S region.

SOUTH REGION BREAKDOWN BY DISTRICT

2025 - 161		2024 - 127	2023 - 129	2022 - 145
MKE	53	52	45	52
SHEB/WB	30	11	10	17
WW	24	17	20	26
KEN	14	16	21	23
MAD	40	31	32	22

WMTA STATE KEYBOARD COMPETITION

WMTA State Keyboard Competition is slated for Saturday, May 16 at UWSP. In order to mitigate any concerns (*and surprises*) with insurance liability, I have requested – and received – the COI for this competition. They have been sent on to SP. The sexual abuse/molestation policy will be applied for when it comes up for renewal in January, 2026.

I am awaiting confirmation from one judge, and barring any scheduling conflicts for him I have all our judges in place.

Time willing, I will be contacting companies for corporate sponsorship of this event, with the hope of finding more resources.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Anne Olvera, NCTM

VOCAL/INSTRUMENTAL/ENSEMBLE STATE COMPETITION CHAIR: Opala Bilhorn, NCTM

opalas.music.studio@gmail.com

WMTA Vocal | Instrumental | Ensemble

The 2025 State Vocal|Instrumental|Ensemble Competition is Saturday, May 9th at UW-Stevens Point.

Registration deadline for the State VIE Competition: April 6, 2026

Ensemble Registration fee increase

The registration fees for students participating in ensembles has increased to cover the expenses of additional trophies required for more participants.

The new fees are as follows:

Duet: \$40

3-5 person ensemble: \$50

6-10 person ensemble: \$60

New WMTA Audition Policy – application for VIE accompanists

The new WMTA child protection policy states that, “custodial care throughout the day remains fully with the parent, the guardian, or someone the legal guardian designates as a responsible adult.”

Please be advised that a students’ parent/legal guardian MAY designate an accompanist as a “responsible adult.”

Submitted,

Opala Bilhorn, NCTM, WMTA Vocal | Instrumental | Ensemble Chair

COLLEGIATE FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE: Dr. Nick Phillips, NCTM phillins@uwec.edu

Nothing to Report!

DISTRICT AUDITIONS CHAIR: Roberta Grube rfrinkman@gmail.com

The 2026 audition dates, entry deadlines, and venues are all confirmed. The weekly District Chairs Zoom meetings have started up again this fall. It is a great way for district chairs old and new to ask questions and discuss concerns. Several districts have already stated they will be doing theory tests online in 2026.

I have been working on updating the audition registration spreadsheet with suggestions received during and after the 2025 auditions and June board meeting. The biggest issue is not being able to access accumulated points easily. I have encouraged the District Chairs to put the responsibility of tracking points on the teachers.

I have completed updates to the handbook for the District Chairs and the District Audition fee summary sheet. Fees for ensembles were updated along with a box to check that teachers have informed their student's guardians about the new WMTA Youth Protection Policy. These updates are posted on the WMTA website.

The group came up with a poster to use during auditions stating no photos, recording, or talking to the judges or students during an audition. We felt if every district used the same verbiage, it would work better.

It has been my pleasure working with all the District Chairs, they are all rockstars in my mind!

Respectfully submitted, Roberta Grube

INDEPENDENT MUSIC TEACHERS FORUM: Margaret Burton wmta.margaretb@gmail.com

IMTF: I'm looking for interesting topics for the Independent Music Teacher "column" in the WMTA newsletter (deadline Nov 15). If you have any ideas, please hit me up during the conference.

LOCAL ASSOCIATION CHAIR: Catherine Walby, NCTM Catherine.walby@lawrence.edu

Local Associations Report, October 2025

Submitted by Catherine Walby, NCTM

We have 11 active local associations in Wisconsin and 2 associations that loosely exist.

10 LAs applied for the \$100 local association grant that is available to all LAs to support general programming or specific projects.

8 LAs nominated a member of the year, to be honored at the banquet during the 2025 state conference.

Collaborative Performance Forum: Shuk-ki Wong

No report. Shuk-ki has decided to step away from this position at this time.

Teacher Award of Excellence, Sandra Statz, NCTM

Some fun facts: Wisconsin currently has 55 Nationally Certified members. We have 15.3% of our members who are certified which ranks WI as 27th in the nation. Currently New Hampshire is leading the way with 35.6% of their members who are certified. Following them are: Rhode Island at 33.3%, Louisiana at 30.1% and Utah at 28.9%.

Another fun fact: There is a way to complete 4/5 of your certification, submit the \$200 application fee, complete the 5th step and once certified, be reimbursed from WMTA for ALL \$200 of that fee. This brings your total investment into TIME only...no \$\$!!! Please talk with me if I can answer any questions about this amazing educational opportunity!

As of June 2025, WMTA has 1 newly certified member and 10 in progress. I would like to increase the number of certified per year to at least 10. Please encourage your local association members to explore the possibility. A great way to bolster interest is to have informal mentoring sessions with those already certified.

The following have applied for piano certification:

- Andrew Bocher, piano
- Mikaela Pawlowski, piano
- Charis Dwire, violin
- Carmen Lemos, piano
- John Scoville, piano
- Grace Hedrick, piano
- Gabriella Moore, violin
- Emma Bateman, piano
- Jocelyn Metcalf, piano
- Olivia Cansler, violin

Congratulations to the newly certified since June, 2025: Alissa Foerster, piano – June 24, 2025

MTNA Competitions Coordinator: Diana Shapiro

- Junior/Senior, Anthony Padilla
- Chamber Music/Young Artist, Kaju Lee, NCTM
- Composition Competition
- Junior Representative: Gregory Rottinger, Student of Amy Hansel
- Senior Representative: Liam Bradley, Student of Amber Bruns

We have seven piano entrants scheduled to compete in the in the Senior Piano Performance Competition and 7 entrants in the Young Artists Piano, plus single entrants in Junior Piano and junior Woodwind Performance Competitions who automatically advance to represent Wisconsin in the East Central Division competition: Tyler Fang, piano (student of Adam Chlastawa) and Elisa Fowler, flute (Wendy Stern, teacher). Judges will be Kirstin Ihde, Stanaslava Varshavski, and Kaju Lee. We will submit results of the Senior and Young Artist Piano Competitions to MTNA after completing auditions on Nov.

This year, the Wisconsin judge was: Martin Hebel

Winning and representative compositions automatically advance to the division competition. The results of that competition will be announced in mid-December.

Congratulations to all the participants in the competition! We hope that the comments you receive from the judges will be helpful to you and your teacher. Your efforts are to be commended, and we hope that you will continue to learn and grow as a composer. Good luck with your musical studies!

MTNA Composer Commissioning: Michael Mizrahi

Our WMTA 2025 Commissioned Composer is Theresa Martin, who wrote the piece "The Voice of Trees" for a world premiere performance at the Wisconsin Music Teachers Association annual conference in Elkhart Lake, WI on October 24, 2025. Michael Mizrahi, WMTA Composer Commissioning Chair, will perform the work. Theresa Martin (b. 1979) is an internationally renowned contemporary composer of orchestral, band, and chamber music who holds a doctorate in Music Composition from the University of Michigan and whose works have been performed at conferences and recitals worldwide and are available on several recordings. She has

composed a large catalogue of works for the clarinet, and in a recent online article, she was named one of history's top 100 female clarinetists. Among her many beloved works, "City of Ambition," for wind ensemble and "Gryphon" for solo clarinet are quickly becoming a standards in the repertoire. She freelances as a performer, publisher, private teacher, and guest composer, and currently serves as the Wisconsin State Chair of the International Clarinet Association. When not composing or performing, she enjoys traveling, reading, being active outdoors, and spending time with her husband, son, daughter and two cats.

MTNA Foundation: Shannon Whaples, NCTM

Wisconsin Music Teachers have two Fellows we are honoring at the 2026 MTNA conference. Martha Fischer and Bill Lutes, we announced this in the August newsletter. As of October 15th, each fellow has received \$800 in donations. Donations needed are \$1500 per person. We are doing great, however are still fundraising to support these great people. Thank you to all who have already donated.

Teacher Award of Excellence: Sandra Statz, NCTM

Congratulations to all recipients of the Teacher Award of Excellence
By Sandra Statz, Teacher Award of Excellence Chairperson (Sandra.statz2@gmail.com)

Inspirational and skilled educators can help children envision bright futures and realize great accomplishments. The WMTA Teacher Award of Excellence recognizes and promotes excellence in music teaching in our state by an individual member. These recipients demonstrate a record of outstanding accomplishments by their students in WMTA auditions and competitions and proven high standards of teaching in their studio.

The WMTA Teacher Award of Excellence awards are presented to teachers based on awards received by students in WMTA auditions.

- One point is given to the teacher for each plaque or bar their students earn through WMTA.
- An award certificate is earned at the following milestones: 10, 50, and 75 points.
- A plaque is earned at 100 points
- Bars are earned in 25-point increments following the plaque.

To receive any of these awards, the teacher should submit a list of students, and the awards they have won, to the Teacher Award of Excellence Chair by September 15 of each year. Please reach out to Sandra for any assistance in receiving your awards!

150 Point Bars: Paulette Garin

Wellness Forum Chair: Vacant

WMTA Young Composer Festival: Amber Bruns, NCTM
2025 Young Composer Festival Summary

- *32 students signed up (+6 from last year)
- 10 Elementary Compete
- 9 Junior Compete
- 12 Senior Compete -1 Senior Non-Compete
- 5 teachers participated

- *Festival Fees: \$1,125
- Elementary: Competitive \$30 (\$20 non-compete)
- Junior: Competitive \$35 (\$25 non-compete)
- Senior: Competitive \$40 (\$30 non-compete)

- Judge receives 75% of advertised entry fee
- Judge: Roger Zare

- *3 divisions: Elementary, Junior (Solo or Ensemble), Senior (Solo or Ensemble)
- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awarded in each division.

- *Cities represented:
Madison (2), McFarland (1), Eau Claire (1), Somerset (1)

Comments

Advertising for the October conference helped bring in new teachers. Will continue to do this in subsequent years. Excellent feedback from teachers, students, and parents. The expanded rubric from last year and the split divisions of Ensemble and Solo Categories continues to be well received.