

MINUTES

December 4-5, 2024 – Rochester, NY



NYSSMA[®] Executive Council Meeting

**NYSSMA[®] Executive Council Meeting
OFFICIAL MINUTES - Wednesday,
December 4 - 2:00 p.m. - Thursday,
December 5, 2024 - Noon
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Rochester, NY**

Welcome - Call to Order

President Chiarello called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and welcomed members of council to the 2024 NYSSMA[®] 88th Annual Winter Conference pre-conference Executive Council meeting.

Not in attendance: Ruth Breidenbach (Zone 13 – Michael Lee, subbing).

Election Results

President Chiarello announced the results of the 2024 NYSSMA[®] elections: NYSSMA[®] 2nd Vice President - Daryle Redmond.

NYSSMA[®] 3rd Vice President - Shelly Bauer.

Zone 5 Representative - Ashley Trudell.

Zone 6 Representative - Jeanette Woodruff.

Zone 9 Representative - Timothy Hamblin.

Zone 10 Representative - Samantha McShane.

Zone 13 Representative - Michael Lee.

Officer Reports

President Report: Edmund Chiarello

President Chiarello extended his congratulations to all the 2024 Area All-State festival concerts that have taken place this fall (a list was distributed to council for perusal).

2024 NYSSMA[®] Awards - President Chiarello announced the following NYSSMA[®] Awards to be presented at the 2024 Winter Conference:

Presidential Citation: Nanuet School District - Thursday/8:30 p.m., Lilac BR. Long Beach School District -/Friday/8:30 p.m., Lilac BR.

Distinguished Service: Alan Orloff - Sunday/10 a.m., Eastman Theatre.

Early Career Achievement: Holden Maiorana - Friday/ Galleria, noon.

Established Educator: Patricia Dunn - Friday/ 9:30 a.m., Lilac Ballroom. Jackie Kovaks - Saturday/ 9:30 a.m., Lilac Ballroom.

Outstanding Contributor: Diane Hems - Monday/ March 3/ Empire State Plaza.

Music Education Innovation: Brian Wagner-Yeung - Friday/ 8:30 p.m., Lilac Ballroom. Austin Day - Saturday/ Galleria, noon.

President Chiarello spoke about the newly updated NYSSMA[®] Student with Disabilities Accommodation Form for 2025 festival season, in addition to the Crosswalk notice for adjudicators, Zone Representatives and festival chairs. Additional information discussed included:

- Electronic Manual update - Interim Executive Director Michael Salzman gave an update on the upcoming new manual edition. (There will be a \$20 yearly subscription for NYSSMA[®] members with multi-factor authorization). Additional work is being done to make certain that the manual can be accessed in remote areas of the state.
- NYSSMA[®] Fall Academy update.
- Brian Wagner-Yeung - *The Accessible Music Classroom for All* book release.

- Blue Ribbon Commission update.
- Executive Director search update - President Chiarello gave members of the Executive Council an update on the search process to identify the next NYSSMA[®] Executive Director. Five candidates have been invited to be interviewed on February 1. Two candidates will then be identified to move forward to be interviewed by voting members of the NYSSMA[®] Executive Council on Sunday, March 2, 2025, during the March Executive Council meeting taking place directly before the annual NYSSMA[®] Joseph R. Sugar Day at Albany.
- NAFME Eastern Division Conference - April 24-27, 2025, Hartford CT.
- Candidates for NAFME Eastern Division President-Elect (Ed Doyle / New Hampshire and Wayne Mallette / New Jersey). Voting begins January 2025 and closes the first week of February. There will be links to candidate bios online soon.
- NYSSMA[®] website and NYSSMA[®] Facebook business page progress - Terry Nigrelli gave a brief presentation touching on some of the updates to the NYSSMA[®] web page and to the NYSSMA[®] Facebook business page.
- 2025 Winter Conference Modern Band Showcase - Lindsey Williams, Emerging Ensembles Chair, gave a modern band presentation to members of council. She gave an overview of a scheduled modern band pilot to take place in 2025 touching upon the timeline for eligibility, application procedures, rehearsals and performance at the 2025 winter conference.

Finance Committee budget proposal

- The proposed 2025 NYSSMA[®] budget was sent to members of council ahead of

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the meeting for perusal and comment. In addition, a special Executive Council budget overview was offered online on Sunday evening, November 24, 2024, to review the proposed 2025 NYSSMA® budget. (Approximately 20 council members were in attendance.)

NYSSMA® Finance Committee Chairperson Richard Rabideau brought the following motion to council:

Motion: Richard Rabideau, NYSSMA® Finance Committee Chairperson, seconded by Daryle Redmond, NYSSMA® 2nd Vice President, “that the NYSSMA® Executive Council approve and adopt the proposed 2025 NYSSMA® budget as presented.” Discussion ensued in council relevant to the proposed budget. An overview of the proposed budget was made for the benefit of Executive Council members who were unable to attend an online virtual informational session this past November 24, 2024. During this discussion Richard touched upon proposed increases on the revenue side and increases in the expenditure side during the 2025 budget year. **Motion carried.**

President-Elect Report: Kathy Perconti

Kathy Perconti distributed information about the 2024 NYSSMA® Winter Conference offerings including:

- 2024 Winter Conference Concert Hours and Showcases.
- 207 NYSSMA® 2024 Winter Conference sessions; a new Nursing Mother’s Area - Convention Center.
- BEDR - Intersectional Affinity Space - Hyatt; remember to download and install the 2024 NYSSMA® Winter Conference App (special thanks to JT Kender for creating and maintaining the app). Conference attendees can download the app via the Google Play Store or the Apple Store.
- How to search for “NYSSMA® Events.”
- Downloading instructions (enter first name, last name, and email).
- JT will update cancellations as we receive them. The winter conference

app will include:

- Arrival and registration.
- Exhibit hours.
- Uber voucher instructions.
- Attendees (updates automatically).
- Sponsors (updates automatically).
- Exhibitors (updates automatically).
- Speakers (updates automatically).
- All-state rehearsals.
- All-state concerts.
- Meetings.
- Requesting CTLE Credit/Proof of Attendance.
- Emergency procedures.
- Concert hours.
- Floor plans.
- On demand (updates automatically).

Preliminary planning for next year is now under way:

- NYSSMA® will use C-Vent instead of Submittable in 2025.
- Submission of 2025 Winter Conference session proposals will open February 1 and close April 25, 2025.
- 2025 Student Showcase applications (Electronic Music, Songwriters, Young Composers) open February 1 and close April 1, 2025.
- 2025 Modern Band Showcase Pilot begins January 15 and closes April 25, 2025.
- Piano Showcase applications open March 1 and close July 11, 2025.

2nd Vice President Report:

Daryle Redmond

Conference All-State:

- Saturday Concert 1, 3:30 p.m.: Vocal Jazz and Instrumental Jazz at The Theater at Innovations Square.
- Saturday Concert 2, 7:30 p.m. Wind Ensemble, String Orchestra, and Treble Chorus at Eastman Theatre.
- Sunday Concert, 10:00 a.m.: Mixed Chorus, Symphonic Band, and Symphony Orchestra at Eastman Theatre.

2024 All-State Ensemble rehearsal/housing locations:

- Symphony Orchestra is rehearsing at the Jewish Community Center

(Edgewood Ave); the students are housed at the Double Tree (Jefferson Rd).

- String Orchestra is rehearsing at the Hilton Garden Inn (University Hospital) - Salon BC; the students are housed at the Hilton Garden Inn (University Hospital).
- Symphonic Band is rehearsing at the Holiday Inn - Grand Ballroom; the students are housed at the Holiday Inn.
- Wind Ensemble is rehearsing at the Holiday Inn - River Room; the students are housed at the Holiday Inn.
- Mixed Chorus is rehearsing at the Double Tree (Jefferson Rd) - Grand Ballroom; the students are housed at the Double Tree.
- Treble Chorus is rehearsing at the Marriott (Rochester Airport) - Salon AB; the students are housed at the Marriott (Rochester Airport).
- Instrumental Jazz Ensemble is rehearsing at the Hyatt; the students are housed at the Holiday Inn.
- Vocal Jazz Choir is rehearsing at the Double Tree Hotel (Jefferson Rd) - Jefferson Room; the students are housed at the Double Tree.

Festival season:

- Festival Calendar is “complete” and posted (online and *SMN*).
- Immediately contact Stuart, Katie, and 2nd VP via email with any potential changes.
- Handbooks will be distributed electronically in January and will be reviewed at the March meeting.
- Festival Chair check-ins.

Joseph R. Sugar Day:

- Plans are under way for Vocal Jazz and Instrumental Jazz Ensembles to perform at the Albany LOB on Monday, March 3, 2025.
- Paperwork will be distributed to students at all-state.
- Arrive on Sunday, March 2, 2025 - Century House, Latham.
- Perform on Monday, March 3, 2025 - Empire State Plaza, Albany.

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3rd Vice President Report:

Shelly Bauer

Shelly Bauer spoke briefly about her affiliation with The Harlem School of the Arts. Shelly continues to work with some of the music programs in urban areas in New York State. Shelly also spoke about some of the discussions she has had with Jazz at Lincoln Center (perhaps a 1-2-day event). That said, it is unlikely that this experience will not happen during the summer of 2025.

Additional discussion included COMEA and connections with various NYSSMA[®] committees.

Immediate Past President Report:

Russ Faunce

Russ Faunce sent out a link to members of council containing an up-to-date Excel listing of county presidents by zone.

Thank you to NYSSMA[®] President Ed Chiarello presiding at the August General Business / County Presidents meeting in my absence. Several topics and reports were covered and nominations were closed.

Only a couple of emails got kicked back so I'll assume that my running list of County Presidents is very close to accurate. Thank you, Zone Representatives, for helping to keep that information current and up to date. January 1 will be another pivotal time for change, so please reach out with any new county leadership information.

Thank you to the Zone Representatives and County Presidents who shared their rosters of guest conductors in my attempt to support the Belonging Equity Diversity and Representation (BEDR) Committee in creating a list of under-represented and diverse conductors. The project is a work in progress, and it is our hope to vet the list and make it available to zones and counties for any upcoming festivals. That said, any contributions, recommendations and suggestions are greatly appreciated.

It deserves to be noted that as I looked across the programs that arrived in my inbox, NYSSMA[®] is doing a great job supporting the work of BEDR, and festival chairs across NYS have done

a nice job finding contemporary and relevant conductors who have chosen innovative and fresh musical literature.

The NYSSMA[®] General Business Meeting/County Presidents meeting will take place on Friday, December 6, 2024, at 10:45 a.m. Please attend if you are free.

Interim Executive Director Report: Michael Salzman

In his report to council Michael Salzman touched upon the following items:

NYSSMA[®] Office report: Michael thanked President-Elect Kathy Perconti for all her work in planning and developing this year's winter conference. Michael went on to thank the folks in the NYSSMA[®] office (Debby, Stuart and Joan) for all their work and efforts in preparing for the winter conference.

Area all-state update and reminders: Area all-state chairpersons must follow up in a timely fashion in submitting all the payments received and final documents.

Sexual harassment training for Executive Council: Coming to all NYSSMA[®] leadership soon.

Committee Reports

Adjudication Festival Committee

Report: George Smith

The Adjudication Festival Committee met on July 17-18, 2024, at the Albany Hilton. The following report lists the relevant topics discussed.

2025 Adjudicator Orientation Seminars:

- Applications must be received by March 1, 2025. Zone Representatives are asked to encourage qualified candidates to apply.
- For 2025 fast-track candidates, Director of Adjudicators Mike Robertson will:
 - o Inquire with Zone Reps about fast-track candidates' 2024 Fill Locally performance.
 - o Inform 2025 fast-track candidates

that they must successfully complete Friday night portion of adjudicator orientation to become a NYSSMA[®] adjudicator.

- There are five scheduled adjudicator orientation sites in 2025:
 - o March 14-15 - Jericho H.S. - Zone 13 (piano only)
 - o March 28-29 - Kellenberg H.S. - Zone 13 (no piano)
 - o March 28-29 - Byram Hills H.S. - Zone 11 (piano only)
 - o April 4-5 - Ravena, Coeymans, Selkirk H.S. - Zone 7 (no piano)
 - o April 25-26 - Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts - Zone 1
- Enrollment to date:
 - Jericho - 0, Kellenberg - 2, Byram Hills -1, RCS -3, Buffalo - 8. Grand Total: 14
 - Enrollment to date: 2023 - 36, 2022 - 15, 2021 - 48, 2019 - 11
 - "Fast-track" candidates - 3

2024 AFC Winter Conference sessions

- George gave an overview of the AFC sessions scheduled to take place at the 2024 winter conference.

2025 Online Adjudicator Refreshers:

- 2025 adjudicator Zoom refreshers have been scheduled as follows:
 - Sunday - Feb. 2 - 6:30 p.m. - Voice and Piano I.
 - Tuesday - Feb. 4 - 7:30 p.m. - Instrumental (Br., Perc., Str., WW) I.
 - Wednesday - Feb. 5 - 6:30 p.m. - Voice and Piano II.
 - Wednesday - Feb. 5 - 7:00 p.m. - Major Organization I.
 - Saturday - Feb. 8 - 3:00 p.m. - Instrumental (Br., Perc., Str., WW) II.
 - Thursday - Feb. 13 - 7:00 p.m. - Inst. and Vocal Jazz I.
 - Saturday - Feb. 15 - 7:00 p.m. - Major Organization II.
 - Sunday - Feb. 16 - 7:00 p.m. - Inst. and Vocal Jazz II.
- These dates were sent to Zone Reps. on November 2, so the information could be disseminated at zone meetings held in November. AFC Coordinators will also inform ad-

judicators of the refreshers in their coordinator letter sent in January.

- The following format will be followed for the 2025 refreshers:
 - o 30 minutes - general discussion of accommodation (all areas).
 - o 30 minutes – break-out rooms for all specialty areas discussing video of performance sent to participants prior to refresher.
 - o 30 minutes - All-state with focus on the adjudicator recommendation (bottom-portion of the sheet).
 - o Major Organization - similar to solo refresher focusing on accommodation with two performances sent prior to the refresher.
- Attendance - taken after 10 minutes. Anyone entering after 10 minutes would not receive “credit.”
- Require that video be switched on.

Alternative All-State Orientation Pilot

- As documented in the Assignor of Adjudicators report, there is a shortage of all-state adjudicators, especially in Zones 13 and 14. To recruit and orient more all-state adjudicators there was discussion of offering Zoom orientation for all-state adjudicator, in addition to the onsite training offered at spring orientation sites.

After AFC discussion, it was decided a pilot of Zoom all-state orientation will be offered following these guidelines:

- The all-state training will be streamlined from three hours to two hours with no general session. Topics covered in the general session will be integrated in the two-hour session.
- This pilot will be offered in percussion, strings, and voice, the areas of greatest need.
- The all-state orientation session will be held on January 21, 2025 - 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- Emails will be sent to potential candidates announcing the pilot with an RSVP early enough to check prerequisites.
- Coordinators will send a PDF of the appropriate evaluation sheets to

approved candidates.

- If there are more than six candidates enrolled in a session, a second session will be scheduled.

Procedures for Accommodations Form and Crosswalk

- After receiving feedback that the former Student with Disabilities Accommodation Form was outdated and inadequate to meet the current needs of students, AFC was asked to revise the form. Daryle Redmond, Mike Robertson, George Smith and Brian Wagner-Yeung met on July 5 via Zoom to revise the form. The revised form uses language that is aligned with current special education best practice and includes check boxes to request accommodations at NYSSMA® solo and major organization festivals. The check boxes on the form were taken from the NYSED testing accommodations. After seeing and discussing the draft of the revised form, it was unanimously approved by AFC.
- As a next step, Brian Wagner-Yeung, Daryle Redmond, and George Smith developed a crosswalk for use by adjudicators using the form. The accommodation form will be advertised and made available through the NYSSMA® website, School Music NEWS, and Constant Contact.

Belonging, Equity, Diversity and Representation (BEDR) Committee Report: Adele Bovard

The committee has been working on three major focus areas:

BEDR rubric for committees - At the request of President Chiarello, the BEDR Committee has created a rubric for all NYSSMA® committees to consider. The purpose of the rubric is to pose essential questions for committees as a reflection of their work and celebration of successes as we align the work of NYSSMA® with the goals of Belonging, Equity, Diversity, and Representation. The rubric will be presented at Council to build a shared

understanding of the alignment process. The Council will be asked for their feedback and insights.

Creation of Affinity Spaces – These would encourage and welcome diverse participants at conference. Specifically, these spaces will accomplish the following:

- A welcoming and affirming space at the NYSSMA® conference for diverse teachers, specifically those from historically marginalized and under-represented communities, including BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, disabled, and neurodivergent individuals.
- All are welcome, with a focus on centering these voices and experiences.
- The sessions will be held on:
 - Friday 9:30 a.m. - Strong Board Room.
 - Friday 2:30 p.m. - Regency Ball Room C.
 - Saturday 9:30 a.m. - Susan B. Anthony.
 - Saturday 2:30 p.m. - Frederick Douglas.

The morning sessions will be more informal networking. The afternoon sessions will be more structured with intentional discussion prompts on Friday and a panel of NYSSMA® leaders on Saturday.

Diverse conductor resource list – This resource list of conductors from diverse backgrounds would be for county festivals and area all-state festivals. The BEDR group has been asked to create this resource to share statewide so all festival chairs can access the information. A preliminary list has been established and will be shared at council for discussion and feedback.

NAfME President: Deborah Confredo

President Chiarello introduced and welcomed NAfME President Deb Confredo to the 88th Annual NYSSMA® Winter Conference and the pre-conference NYSSMA® Executive Council meeting.

Deb spoke on a variety of topics touching upon the importance of advo-

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cating for music education. Deb reflected on the changing times especially over the past five years as the focus has become more on belonging and equity in many places. She explained how the music education community needs to focus more on creating opportunities for kids who might otherwise not be included in our programs. This also applies to encouraging our music students to consider college music education programs before they go on to college.

Additional talking points included the increased focus on Tri-M at both the HS and MS levels, the focus on best practices stretching from Pre-K through higher education levels and the Music Education Mentoring Outpost (MEMO) project.

NAfME Eastern Division President: Michael Brownell

President Chiarello introduced and welcomed NAfME Eastern Division President Michael Brownell. Mike spoke briefly about the upcoming 2025 NAfME Eastern Division Conference to be held at Hartford, CT, April 24-27, 2025, hosted by the Connecticut Music Educators Association (CMEA). The theme of this year's conference is "Advocate! Elevate! Celebrate!" The biennial Eastern Division Conference will feature:

- Inspiring sessions on relevant topics in music education.
- Performances by student and professional ensembles.
- A research component for collegiate members and professors in the field of music education.
- A Tri-M Music Honor Society component for middle and high school Tri-M students and their advisors/teachers.
- Exhibit hall featuring music industry vendors from all over the region.
- Eastern Division Honors Ensembles Festival performances at the historic Bushnell Performing Arts Center located in Hartford.

Classroom Music Committee Report: Kerry Mero

Part 1: Outline/Overview

- Considering the pause on summer conference, we partnered with NY-Gordon Institute for Music Learning (GIML) this summer to sponsor a headliner for their August conference at Fredonia.
- We are discussing how we might build upon this model for future conferences.
- Headliner for Winter Conference 2024 is Chelsea Cook (innovative Orff educator).
- This year we are spotlighting PEAK festivals in multiple ways.
- We have several ideas for future SMN articles featuring Classroom Music.

Part 2: Addendum

Summer conference partnership - Ashley Moss Fox, who is our Early Childhood Chair and serves as the NY-GIML President, hosted the "Un-Conventional Conference" at SUNY Fredonia Aug 11-13. NYSSMA® partnered with GIML to sponsor one of their headliners. We are hoping this can pave the way for future professional development partnerships with other COMEA organizations, focusing on classroom music. When our committee meets at the winter conference, we will be discussing how the conference went and will work on ways to partner with other classroom music organizations, possibly with a similar model.

Winter Conference 2024 - Our committee members Ashley Moss Fox, Shana Kohler, Donna Basile, Anthony Femino and Walter Harris have selected a wonderful slate of 17 sessions for this year's conference. We are thrilled to have Chelsea Cook as our Classroom Headliner for 2024 (co-sponsored by Peripole). Her "out of the box" arrangements have given her Orff ensembles a unique sound that has garnered much success, thus becoming one of Dekalb County's premier elementary music programs. <https://orfrageouspublications.com/>

Spotlight on PEAK - Donna Basile (committee member) has written an article for SMN to spotlight the PEAK festival (Parents Educators and Kids). We are also hosting a session at the winter conference on how to host/plan a PEAK festival. (Clinton County celebrates their 25th anniversary of PEAK in 2025.) There is also a downloadable document on our web page about hosting a PEAK festival.

Future SMN articles - As the chair, I would like to make more of an effort this year to write some articles for the *School Music NEWS* about classroom music as a means of providing our membership with more classroom music representation and resources. We have a wealth of information and experience on our committee so we should continue to share it!

Curriculum Committee Report: Fred Weingarten

Fred Weingarten gave an overview of the 2024 Winter Conference sessions presented by the curriculum committee. He then reflected on recent professional development opportunities co-sponsored with the Greater Capital Region Teacher Center: "Reimagining Music Education through Universal Design" [15 participants] and "Embracing AI in the Music Classroom" [30 participants]. Once again, the Curriculum Committee found that attendance for these workshops has represented the entirety of the state. This attests to appropriateness and relevance of topics addressed, as well as the need for these types of opportunities.

Initiatives - The Curriculum Committee has designed lesson plan templates that serve as a pretty good guide for music educators preparing lesson plans that reflect the Standards. We now have templates for both general music and performance ensembles. It's easy... and it's free (of course)! There has been a good response, and teachers are finding use of the template to be simple, efficient and helpful. Check them out at:

General Music K-8 Form



Traditional And Emerging Ensemble Lesson Plan Template



Work continues on the “Innovative Instruction for Standards-Based Music Learning” (I2).

Although we are re-designing the document to make it even easier to use, we are still accepting lesson ideas. All NYSSMA[®] members are invited to contribute to this innovative venture by submitting lessons for inclusion using this link. This link can also be found on the Curriculum Committee web page under Current Projects at <https://www.nyssma.org/committees/curriculum-committee/>

GRC / ADV Committee Report:

Michael Mastrangelo

- On June 12, 2024, NYSSMA[®] Executive Council members and collegiate students (SUNY Fredonia, Hofstra University and Nazareth College) attended the NAFME Hill Day in Washington, DC, and met with New York State politicians to advocate for music education.
- In October 2024, Edmund Chiarello, NYSSMA[®] President; Russ Faunce, NYSSMA[®] Past President, and Michael Mastrangelo, Advocacy/GRC Chairperson, attended the New York State School Boards Association conference in New York City to promote NYSSMA[®] and to advocate for music education.
- In November 2024, Edmund Chiarello, NYSSMA[®] President; Russ Faunce, NYSSMA[®] Past President, and Michael Mastrangelo, Advocacy/GRC Chairperson attended the New York State Parent Teacher Association conference in Saratoga Springs to promote NYSSMA[®] and to

advocate for music education.

- NYSSMA[®] is actively preparing for the Joseph R. Sugar MIOSM Day in Albany, which is scheduled for Monday, March 3, 2025. Please help to spread the word about the importance of participation at this annual event. Each year during the month of March, NYSSMA[®] celebrates “Music in Our Schools Month” across New York State. During this time, NYSSMA[®] arranges a day in Albany for music educators to meet with their state legislators. NYSSMA[®] members work collaboratively with NYSSMA[®] to schedule times with their State Assembly member and Senators to discuss current issues and how they may affect music programs for students and to express our gratitude for continued support of music education.
- A workshop will be held at the NYSSMA[®] winter conference about how to participate in the Joseph R. Sugar MIOSM Day in Albany.

NAfME/NYSSMA[®] Collegiate Report:

Taylor Kelly / Dr. Keith Koster

Part I: Overview

The new Collegiate Executive Board members have met several times and are working on projects related to the following:

- The spring newsletter, which will contain collegiate and NYSSMA[®]/NAfME information for the remaining academic year and summer.
- Collegiate rosters have been updated.
- Collegiate chapter officer rosters will continue to be updated.
- Membership recruitment strategies and increasing collegiate membership - the collegiate officers have circulated information about membership and the conference. We hope to have increased engagement this year.

Part II: Activities and updates

- We are excited to present 10 conference sessions at the 2024 Winter Conference, and the caliber of the

sessions are exciting and inspiring.

- We’ve included new collegiate initiatives from NAFME in the newsletter and on social media. The students have noticed an increase in collegiate-based activities presented by NAFME and chapter members have participated in some of those events.
- Brian Wagner-Yeung presented a series of virtual sessions about inclusivity in music education that were a part of the NYSSMA[®] Academy Series and that were promoted statewide. The sessions were well received by those who attended, and we appreciate NYSSMA’s support in providing CTLE credit, as well as promoting the event.
- We look forward to the collaboration with J.W. Pepper and their support of the collegiate meeting and dinner at the conference and will be working with representatives from the organization to facilitate a meaningful collegiate event for all involved.
- Collegiate officers are promoting the biennial Eastern Division meeting in Hartford, CT, in April 2025 and hope to have a strong New York presence at the event.
- To subscribe to collegiate chapter social media accounts, visit the Collegiate Chapter page at www.nyssma.org

We look forward to the 2024 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.

Social Media and Communications

Report: Dr. John Gallagher

John Gallagher gave the PR/PI report touching upon:

- News releases and stories.
- Area all-state.
- Conference all-state.
- Piano Showcase.
- Awards.

Bios and headshots of Zone Representatives needed for local PR efforts.

Social media handles.
Instagram and Twitter / X - NYSSMA_Official.

Facebook - NYSSMA Official (General Site), NYSSMA Official (Members Only).

Urban Committee Report:

Jasmine Britt

Winter conference sessions - Jasmine Britt announced the Urban Schools sessions that will take place this year's winter conference.

Work with the BEDR Committee - Many of the interests as Urban Chairperson align with the goals of the BEDR committee. We have been working together to further develop practices, materials and policies that will allow NYSSMA® to better serve those who have been underrepresented in/underserved by our organization.

I will be a panelist/facilitator for the 2025 Winter Conference BEDR Affinity groups, in addition to being co-presenter for "BEDR Ideas Are Driven By You." It is our hope that these sessions can solicit feedback about what NYSSMA® members need/want from our organization and can empower a multiplicity of voices to become more involved with NYSSMA® to address those needs.

Moving forward - There have been strides in elevating underrepresented voices in NYSSMA® by the initiatives that have been piloted in the past year. To continue that work through the urban schools' lens, I'm looking forward to curating projects outside of the winter conference to further engage our teachers and students in New York's city centers and to develop institutional processes that will keep those voices engaged with NYSSMA® outright.

School Music NEWS Editor's Report: **Thomas N. Gellert**

NAfME member update reminder - Please remind members in your zone to renew their NAFME/NYSSMA® membership before expiration as this will help us to keep the *School Music NEWS*, as well as all NYSSMA®/NAfME mailings, from being interrupted.

All-State concert program - I am pleased to provide you with an advance copy of this year's all-state concert program. The creation and production of this document represents many painstaking hours of roster checks, proofing drafts, compiling program information and much more! As is our past-practice: IF there are any mistakes / omissions in the AS concert program personnel listings, I will undertake a limited reprint of the all-state concert program (two corrected copies of the program will be sent to any student accidentally omitted or whose name was spelled incorrectly).

Masthead additions / corrections / changes - With the start of the New Year rapidly approaching, it is likely that there will be some changes in leadership at the zone and county levels. Please check over the masthead information as it appears in the current Nov-Dec 2024 *School Music NEWS* when you get home and then please let the NYSSMA® office know if there are any changes that should be made (names, addresses, phone numbers, email contacts, etc.).

Next issue of the School Music NEWS - A timely reminder that the next issue of the *School Music NEWS* is also a double issue (Jan-Feb 2025) and it will not arrive until mid-February 2025. This issue will contain a photo retrospective of the 2024 Winter Conference, the 2024 All-State Student Roster, the MIOISM calendar of performances at the LOB in Albany in March 2025, the updated spring 2025 festival calendar and selected articles and reviews of interest.

NYSSMA® History Book, Volume IV - Work continues on the writing of the fourth volume of the NYSSMA® history, with an anticipated draft ready for proofing in the next month or so.

Web Editor Report: Terry Nigrelli

Terry Nigrelli shared initiatives for NYSSMA's website and social media:

- We are in the process of redesigning the NYSSMA® website. The new site will contain all the current content. As before, you can edit your own pages or you can send me the information and I will post it.
- The new home page will have sections for NYSSMA's functions and activities.
- News and Updates, Upcoming Events, Member Resources, Advocacy and About pages.
- It will be a scrolling page.
- The new site will be more mobile device friendly.
- We've created a new NYSSMA® Business Facebook page.

General email box - I receive the info@nyssma.org email messages. I answer as many as I can and forward the ones I can't answer to the appropriate people so they can reply.

Contact information - I have been working with the officers, committee chairs and Zone Reps to keep their pages up to date. Please check your zone and committee pages for accuracy of the contact information.

**Next Meeting: March 1-2, 2025,
Century House, Latham, NY**

Adjournment

Motion: James Uzzi (Zone 14), seconded by Julie Smith (Zone 8), "that the December 2024 NYSSMA® Executive Council meeting be adjourned." Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas N. Gellert, Editor
Official Recorder