

NWSMTA Member Meeting February 16th at the Rolling Meadows Library

9:45am President Lois called the meeting to order

January meeting minutes were read by Recording Secretary Helen Chang. Deb Lynch motioned to approved minutes. Maureen second. Minutes were approved.

Officer Reports

President

NWSMTA is seeking new accountant. Our former account has health issues and cannot keep working for NWSMTA. President Lois is working with Yushan, former treasurer to fill the position. Marcia Rudin suggested we contact her accountant. Lois contacted MTNA and they ensured our chapter is proceeding forward in a good way and it is ok if the annual report is delayed or combined with the upcoming report due to the circumstances.

VILMTA-first meeting went well. Meet and greet included some games and active participation. E-Festival coming up so please check their website from meeting agenda.

MKPC-Sunday, February 22nd. Everything is in place for the event. Brenda reported 135 students are participating, 5 judges 45 minute recital from 9am to 6pm. Lunch DIY sandwich stations with snacks.

Deb Lynch reported that she is looking for someone to take over the Newsletter Editor. Deb said that it could be two editors that switch off month to month. Sonatina /Sonata festival

Lois reported that Marcia Mally's daughter passed away last month. Please remember their family in your prayers and meditations.

Announced: Marvin Blickenstaff, famous piano pedagogue also passed away in January.

Annual Report deadlines have passed, but please submit those as soon as possible after your event if it has not occurred yet.

First Vice President

Justyna confirmed February presentation by George Radosavljevic "Watercolors: An Exploration of Piano Works that Have Been Inspired by the Colors and Motion of Water"

March meeting will be virtual and business meeting only

April will be the last program featuring Svetlana Belsky on Bach French Suites

Treasurer

Cindy Li Reports As of February 16th, 2026, the balance in the BMO Harris Bank checking account stands at \$31,127.13

Mutual Funds Account : As of January 31st,2025, the market value of the mutual funds account at Fidelity Investments is \$53,333.69,This represents an increase of \$668.37 in investment

Committee Reports

Festival of Pianos- Lois reported this past weekend the performances took place at Nichols Concert Hall of the Music Institute of Chicago. A Special Performance of “Resonance” by Kevin Olson commissioned in memory of Joan Drolet was played by the pianists. Maureen Flood gave a beautiful tribute in Joan’s honor. Several members of Joan’s family attended the FOP performance.

Aim

Helen Chang Reported on the Theory Exams

Theory exam 3-12

The Aim Theory Exams took place January 25th at Harper College despite the extreme cold weather. Of the 294 students registered, a few dropped out and a few missed the exam due to illness. Thank you to all the teachers who judged, monitored exams and graded the written exams. Scores were posted the Friday after and exams were available for pick-up the week after. We had makeup exams for those students who were ill and their scores were recorded as of this weekend. The exams are available for pick-up at today's meeting but you can contact Helen Chang for other pick-up times at her house. Exam scores and averages are below. Score Highs, Lows and Averages for each level was reported below and it is viewable in individual teacher’s OPERA page thanks to Terry Goedken’s database.

	Low	Average	Median	High
Overall	57.25	91.33	93.00	101.00
L12	82.50	92.24	93.00	98.00
L11	71.00	87.57	88.00	96.00
L10	80.00	90.83	91.00	100.00
L09	66.00	88.24	90.00	99.00
L08	81.50	92.09	92.50	100.75
L07	62.50	90.00	91.63	100.25
L06	62.75	90.03	91.38	100.00

L05	69.00	91.24	93.00	101.00
L04	69.00	93.90	96.63	101.00
L03	57.25	93.20	96.25	100.00

Performance exam 3-9 will be Sunday, March 15th at Harper. The deadline passed yesterday February 15th. Vonnie and Helen Grosshans reported if you entered students, please expect to judge for the exam. Email information will be going out for the judges meeting and student schedules.

Camp Scholarship

Suyi reminded the deadline is May 1st. Marcia Mally noted it is a very good opportunity to offer for students who might want to attend a summer camp and could be more advertised

Classical/Pop and Jazz Recital

Online registration period for April 26th Recital is Feb.26-April 12th. Please check online for Rules and information

Festival of Pianos

Marcia Mally reported that the Nichols Concert Hall was by far the nicest venue in the history of the festival. Thanks to Yoko Amano, music were made available for students to practice with the tempo of their parts beforehand. This might have been the last festival held, but there's hope if people will be willing to come and take over the Chair position. The entire event was very well-coordinated and ran very smoothly.

Vision and Finance

Interim or new Chairperson needed. Please contact Lois if you are interested in this position.

Gold Medal Recital

Elena Goptseva will work with Michelle, Jerry, Deb and Terry for next year's SSF

Jazz Combo

Event will be on Father's Day, June 21st at the House of Music and Entertainment. Maureen Flood reported teachers can write out lead sheets, and jazz musicians play the backup rhythm sections for student pianist. Justyna suggested that most music have chords already available. Website has directions on how to start create lead sheets prepare students for the event.

Professional Development tributed to Janice Wilkans

5 teachers applied and the committee decided unanimously to approve all 5 applicants. Helen C. asked if the award recipients were named for the membership and Lois confirmed that members were notified by way of the Agenda sent in the Constant Contact communication before the February meeting.

Publicity-Lily Zhang

Lois noted Teachers attended the Steinway luncheon and the past weekend Festival of Piano. Pictures were taken at the events. Everyone is reminded to send photos or publicity to Lily.

Sonata/Sonatina

Deb and Terry will demonstrate the new registration platform during the meeting and Deb suggested that teachers who are interested to register students next year attend and learn how to use the online registration. Helen Chang suggested that a video tutorial or a video be recorded of the meeting so it's available for teachers to refer back to for troubleshooting. As it might be hard for chairperson to mentor teachers individually and walk them through the registration process. In referencing the information in the Agenda, Lois reminded the group that the meeting will be recorded and an outline will be sent to members before the demonstration.

New Business

Sheet Music

Maureen Flood said Dan Wilkans will be bringing historical documents including recital programs and sheet music from Janice library. Brief discussion followed. Lois suggested that members give the matter thought. Decisions on what to do with the documents is on hold for members to discuss at a future meeting.

Nominating committee for nominating president and 1st Vice President/Program Chair

Chyi-ling Evans, SuZane Ray, Marcia Rudin and Marueen Flood volunteered and we are looking for one more volunteer to serve.

Marueen motion to adjourn the meeting and Deb and Carol second