

## **NWSMTA Minutes for Member Meeting, November 17, 2025**

**9:45: Call Meeting to order** – President Lois V. Guderian

Meeting Location: Countryside Church, 1025 N. Smith St. Palatine, IL 60067

Presenter: Janna Williamson. The presentation: *Taking off the training Wheels: General Overview of Intermediate Teaching*. See more information about Janna on our website.

**Read minutes from October meeting, 2025** – Recording Secretary, Helen Chang

Minutes were read and Maureen motioned to approved, Mary Anne second

### **Reports from Officers**

**President Lois V. Guderian – ISMTA Conference:** 1) Member-presenters, 2) Member of the Year Marcia Rudin honored, 3) NWSMTA President's Fall Report to ISMTA, 4) NWSMTA President's Account of the conference posted on the website, 5) Thank you letter from Brian Shepherd, CEO of MTNA for equally supporting all three nominated Illinois Foundation Fellows.

**First Vice President and Programs Chairperson** – Justyna Weirich

**Second Vice President and Membership Chairperson:** SuZane Ray

A hearty welcome to recent new members: Tatyana Petrosova, Yuriko Tanaka, Chris Tang,

Pablo Esteban Valladares, Marie Laure Goulut Cohen

**Current membership:** 114

### **Recording Secretary**

Helen Chang

**Treasurer** Xin (Cindy) Li

**Report:** Balance in the BMO Harris Bank checking account.

**Checking Account:** As of November 17, 2025, the balance in the BMO Harris Bank checking account stands at **\$22,273.14**.

**Mutual Funds Account:** As of October 30, 2025, the market value of the mutual funds account at Fidelity Investments is **\$52,372.07**. This represents an increase of **\$847.36** in investment value.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Li, NWSMTA Treasurer

### **COMMITTEE and CHAIR REPORTS**

**AIM:** Achievement in Music – Chairs of Areas and Levels Reports

#### **Reminders, Updates**

December Theory Exam Levels 3-12 moved to January 25, 2026: \*Helen Chang and Vonnie Mrozinski

March Exam Levels 3-9 Performance: Vonnie Mrozinski\* & Helen Grosshans

April Exam Levels 1-2 Complete & Levels 10-12 Performance: Brenda Haynes\*

**Aim Workshop: Report by Helen Chang****Monday, October 27, 10:00 A.M. Countryside Church Choir Rehearsal Room**

The Aim Workshop on October 27th was attended by members that were new to Aim as well as a few experienced teachers. Vonnie Mrozinski and Helen Chang presented a Program Overview discussing requirements in Theory and Performance exams and evaluation procedures. Registration and repertoire selection were demonstrated. Teachers had lots of questions and the 2-hour session was really helpful for teachers interested in implementing Aim in their teaching.

**AIM Report on the Revision Process given at the ISMTA Conference.** Jennifer Cohen was one of the presenters. Information is included in Lois' President's report on the conference in the November Newsletter.

**Camp Scholarship:** Suyi Su

**Certification:** Jennifer Cohen (Applications, Education and Renewals)

**Classical Recitals:** Report by Michelle Ho

The Classical Recital took place at St. Michael's Episcopal Church on October 26 and featured 18 young performers. Under the guidance of seven dedicated NWSMTA piano teachers, the students presented a beautifully varied program showcasing both timeless classical works and engaging contemporary selections.

**Festival of Pianos:** Yoko Amano

Dates: February 14 & 15, 2026.

30th Festival of Pianos will be held at: The Music Institute of Chicago

Nichols Concert Hall

1490 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201

**Registration Deadline**

First Deadline: November 30, 2025. Final Deadline: December 30, 2025

Rehearsal: February 14, 2026

Performance: February 15, 2026, 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

There's a parking garage nearby and also a church parking lot

**Finance/Vision:** Seeking a new Chair for the committee.

**Gold Medal Recital Chair:** Reinstatement in process. A member has come forward to Chair the recital in 2026.

**Group Ticket Sales:** Genya Kantorovich, last call from concert in December, Yunchan Lim and Klaus Makaela December 20th

**Historian/Hospitality:** Mary Hough continued

**Jazz Combo Experience:** Maureen Flood\* & Justyna Weirich

**Luncheon:** Marcia Rudin

**Midwest Keyboard Performers Challenge (February 22):** Brenda Huang\*

## **Mentor Program:** SuZane Ray

**Mentors:** Helen Grosshans, Deborah Lynch, Marcia Mally, Suzanne Murray, Marie Rutter, Carol Walgren-Georgas

**Newsletter:** Deborah Lynch

If you have news or information that you would like included in the online Newsletter, please note that it is always due on the 5th of the month. Please send your items to Deb Lynch.

**Parliamentarian:** Mary Anne Block

**Pop & Jazz Recitals:** Michelle Ho and Chyi-Ling Evans

Six teachers entered students in the Pop & Jazz Recital, with a total of 16 students performing. The repertoire included ragtime, blues, show tunes, and other enjoyable selections. All participating students performed wonderfully and demonstrated enthusiasm and musical growth.

We look forward to welcoming more students who are passionate about performing to participate in the Spring Classical and Pop and Jazz Recitals. The recital will be held on **Sunday, April 26, 2026**, and registration will be open from **February 26 through April 12, 2026**. Please check the NWSMTA website for details.

**Publicity:** Lily Zhang Photos Send ISMTA conference photos and other events to Lily. Reminder, send photos to Lily's phone for upload to the website or Facebook.

## **Sonata-Sonatina Festival**

Heartfelt thanks to Michelle Ryder-Smith and Distinguished Volunteer Jerry Dolins for yet another very successful Sonata-Sonatina Festival.

## **Report from Michelle Smith**

The Sonata festival was a great success again this year with almost 400 students participating. Judging was fair and we really appreciated tremendous feedback from the judges. All teachers showed up for their designated volunteer hours. I was especially thankful for the tremendous help I received with setting up in the morning and with cleaning up afterwards as those are very stressful hours. I also really appreciated how many teachers kept asking me during the day if there was something extra they could do to help. Many thanks to everyone. A huge thank you to Jerry for all of the countless hours he puts in to make this festival possible. Next year I will be willing to chair again however this will definitely be my last year. If somebody would be willing to step up to be a co-chairman with me, they could learn the ropes. It is not difficult. You just have to know what you are doing. Cochairing would be a much easier way to learn rather than me just having to explain things. Thank you to each and everyone of you teachers for making this a wonderful event once again this year.

Michelle

## **Final numbers for Sonata-Sonatina Festival (From Jerry Dolins)**

**Number of teachers who entered students (62) including 9 non-NWSMTA teachers**

**Number of students (382) entered**

**Student participants from 64 different cities,  
top 3: Schaumburg (41), Buffalo Grove (36), Chicago (30)**

<b>Gold Medal Winners:</b>	<b>196</b>
<b>Silver:</b>	<b>159</b>
<b>Bronze:</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Ribbon:</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>361</b>
<b>Absent</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Entered</b>	<b>382</b>

**Fees exceeded \$13,000  
6 new NWSMTA members as a result of SSF participation**

**Teachers Musicale:** SuZane Ray

**Technology Committee: Chair,** Chyi-Ling Evans  
**Website/ENews:** Maureen Flood  
**Yearbook:** Maureen Flood

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Gold Medal Recital Chair: A NWSMTA member has come forward to chair future GMRs. We continue to seek volunteers to be on the SSF Committee during the 2026-2027 year.**

**Google form as a possibility for SSF in 2026 has been eliminated, the registration will be very similar to AIM registration platform.**

**Reimbursement of dues for retired teachers:** Reminder: Members can apply for the funds by way of an online Google form. See the link below.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/u/1/d/1yd6cejH6TmOjUjq39RTyndiRV720ocVUIbxWk9N7il4/edit?usp=drivesdk>

**Additional qualifications to be eligible for partial reimbursement of dues include:**

Qualifications for eligible applicants:

1. At least 5 years membership with NWSMTA
2. Retired from teaching
3. No students enrolled in student events

## **Professional Development Scholarships/Grants**

**Reminder to Apply:** The new “*NWSMTA Grant for Teachers’ Professional Development.*” There will be 4 grants of up to \$500 per member starting Dec 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Link to Google Form will be available on the December Newsletter. For members interested in applying for the grants, information on how to apply will be forthcoming in the immediate future. NWSMTA membership will be notified via a message when it is available.

### **Reminder: Job Descriptions Available In Two Ways**

Way #1: Available on the website via Google Drive. Way #2: There is an existing page on the NWSMTA website for Job Descriptions. It is located under Home / About US / Job Descriptions. All the positions are listed, and some are linked to job descriptions; however, many are not. The links are to job descriptions stored on Weebly, but it is a good idea to have the job descriptions also on the Google drive and have the website link to them.

### **NEW Business**

1. Transitional year for Sonata-Sonatina leadership. If you are interested in being on the SSF Transition Committee for 2026 and would like more information, please let Michelle Ryder or Lois Guderian know.
2. NWSMTA equally supported the 3 nominated Illinois Foundation Fellows: Jeff Kleinsorge, Yeeseon Kwon, Debi Inch. We received a thank you letter from Brian Shepherd, CEO of MTNA which will be read during the meeting on Monday.
3. VILMTA (virtual chapter) Jennifer Cohen-for people who live in more rural areas but also for those who want to join in addition to their current membership. Platform for E-festivals for students. January is the first targeted meeting. First year you can join for free and subsequent years will be \$10.00 per membership year.

Marcia Rudin moved to adjourn the meeting and Genya Kantorovich second. Meeting was adjourned.