NWSMTA Member Meeting May 11th at The Garden Berry Café in Palatine

10:59am President Lois called the meeting to order

April meeting minutes were read by Recording Secretary Helen Chang. Maureen clarified that she would oversee and seek technological help to digitize the NWSMTA Historical documents. Marcia Mally motioned to approved minutes and Marcia Rudin second the motion. Minutes were approved.

Officer Reports

President

Lois Guderian read a thank you letter from Yeeseon Kwon, (MTNA Foundation Fellow and ISMTA President), one of the three Foundation Fellows NWSMTA supported last year.

Lois reminded everyone that the new accountant to work with new Board and NWSMTA members is Raj Nagaraja, Managing Partner CPA, MSA, ATA Group, LLP

Lois brought a Sign-up sheet for committees and it was passed around at the luncheon

Lois reminded everyone to submit Annual Reports for your events as soon as possible because we need to have all the budget reports done before the June 1st Board meeting. The form is available on the website and how to find the form and submit is on the May meeting Agenda

Lois noted Thank You Checks of $1,000.00. for the student foundation will go out this week. This is to thank Harper for use of their facilities. The check is used as scholarship money for Harper music students. Another $1,000 was donated to directly to the Music Department at Harper College.

She thanked this year's Chairs of Committees and Distinguished Volunteers

Lois noted that Recording Secretary Helen Chang has served for more than 2 years after taking over for Ann Chang. It was clarified that she filled in 1 ½ years for Ann and the current "term" would extend to 2026-2027 to offset the 2-year term of the President.

We will swear in officers at the May meeting or June Board meeting. Open positions are Chair for Teachers Musicale, Membership, Finance and Vision, Intern Chair for Sonata-Sonatina Festival. Michelle Ryder-Smith will serve as Chair for another year while mentoring the Intern Chair. Additional information is on the NWSMTA website SSF page with links to videos from last month's training of COMPASS program.

First Vice President and Programs

No report

Second Vice President and Membership

SuZane reported there are 119 members and new member Ellie H. Lee joined this month.

Treasurer

Cindy Li Reports As of May 11th , 2026, the balance in the BMO Harris Bank checking account stands at **$20,714.21**
Mutual Funds Account : As of April 30th,2025, the market value of the mutual funds account at Fidelity Investments is **$54,921.72.** This represents-an increase of **$2739.75** investment value

Committee Reports

Aim

All exams for Levels 1-12 are finishing up. Some Level 12 recitals have already taken place and some recitals are still to be scheduled and booked. Committee will have a meeting this Thursday May 14th to discuss budget and review the last year.

Camp Scholarship

Suyi reported this year we have Christopher Goldston (MTNA Composition National Coordinator and MTNA National Secretary-Treasurer) for our Scholarship judge. There were total of three entries for the scholarships and the judge has picked out the winners:

College Scholarship winner:

Steven Ring (student of Alexander Djordjevic)

Camp Scholarship-Senior Division

1st place: Sophia Nguyen (Student of Soo Young Lee)

2nd place: Steven Ring (student of Alexander Djordjevic)

Certification

Jennifer stated (Applications, Education and Renewals) she is willing to continue however, due to time restrictions, if new initiatives are needed, possibly a new chair will be needed.

Classical/Pop and Jazz Recital

No Report
Festival of Pianos

Yoko reported that committee decided to end the event at 30-year anniversary. Yoko noted that the malls are closing, and she thinks leaving he pianos for two nights over is a big liability. Yoko said the MIC is a very exquisite venue but to be worth the rental fee she would like to see participation at 200 students or more. Yoko noted past year 66 students. Maureen added that her neighbor is willing to donate specifically for FOP. Yoko said she will consider chairing again if there's funds and the participation would be 200 students. It will be discussed at the June board meeting

Vision and Finance

Interim or new Chairperson needed. Please contact Lois if you are interested in this position. Lois asked for follow up on Professional Development grants. Helen Grosshans that the reports from teachers that received grants can make our membership more aware of the possibility of different grant proposals, and does not have to be too detailed, The write-up is for the purpose of sharing the experience through the newsletter since it is available to all members. Thus, the reports serve the purpose of reminding members of the grants and to see ways that it may be applied. The article is not meant to be lengthy or in great depth. The second half of the award is to be paid out at the time of publication/inclusion in the Newsletter. There is no deadline because it is assumed that the recipient would want to receive the remaining money from the grant. Two reports were received thus far.

Gold Medal Recital

Group Tickets Sales

Historian

Hospitality

Lois reports Maureen agreed to be the liason to Mary Hough if something is discussed at the monthly meetings.

Jazz Combo

Maureen reminded everyone event will be on Father's Day, June 21st at the House of Music and Entertainment. Deadline is June 12th. Maureen and Justyna can assist teachers to create lead sheets. Justyna and Maureen both agreed that teachers will be able to participate as performers if they wish. Justyna suggested putting past video performances on the website to advertise.

Luncheon

Luncheon is today and 23 members and distinguished volunteers are in attendance.

Mentors
SuZane has not received requests from members to get mentorship. Deb suggests a contact person be in place. Chyi-Ling suggests assign a member to a new member. Brenda Haynes offered to be a mentor for this year.

MKPC

Music Blocks

Newsletter

Deb Lynch is stepping down as editor and we will be seeking someone to take over. Please contact Deb, Lois or the new president if you are willing to take over the responsibility of the Newsletter.

Nominating Committee

Chyi-Ling Evans reports the following officers for 2026-2027

President – SuZane Ray

First Vice President and Program Chairperson - Marcia Rudin

Second Vice President and Membership Chair, SuZane Ray – a replacement for SuZane Ray is needed

Parliamentarian:

No report from Mary Anne Block but we need to determine when the swearing in will take place, May Luncheon or June 1 Board meeting as was the case last year.

Publicity

If you have photos of events, send photos to Lily's phone for upload to the website or Facebook.

Professional Development
Reminder that Reports needed from recipients if the professional development has taken place. See Helen Grosshans report from Vision and Finance

Sonata/Sonatina

Michelle Ryder Smith, Jerry Dolins, Terry Goedken

Michelle reports Committee members are needed. Ongoing meetings with new committee members will need to be scheduled by the current chairs and distinguished volunteers. At this time, a Co-Chair/Transitional Chair to work with Michelle Ryder-Smith is needed. Please consider this position and contact Michelle and the new or current president of NWSMTA

Teacher's Musicale

SuZane Ray reminded that a New Chair is needed. Vonnie reminded that it used to be Vice President/Program Chair used to host the Teacher's Musicale. Yoko said the teachers participating helped with making the programs and coordinate. Marcia said she will try to take it on for year 2026-2027

Technology

Chyi-Ling reports that new committee members are needed since SuZane is the incoming President

VILMA

Brenda Haynes no report

ISMTA E-Competition

Brenda Haynes reports Details on ISMTA's annual student competitions are on the ISMTA.org website.

Yearbook

Mauree Flood reminded that Committee Chairs are to secure your dates and venues as soon as possible in order to meet the printing deadline for the fall yearbook.

New Business

- Helen Grosshans announced that she is retiring from teaching and will not be renewing her membership next year
- Marie Rutter reported that one more new member will join next year, current Music Department Chair at Judson College
- Deadline for Jazz Combo and Level 12 Aim recitals
- Amend April minutes of member count to 118

Marcia Mally motioned to adjourned the meeting and Marcia Rudin second. Meeting was adjourned at 12:02pm.