



A Message from your President:

This year has given me the opportunity to work more closely with a number of my NDMTA friends. As president, I realize even more profoundly how fortunate we are to have such dedicated members. If you have yet to take a leadership role in NDMTA, I highly recommend that you make this your year, as the rewards are numerous.

The MTNA conference in California was incredible. Those of us who attended were exposed to more than we could possibly take in: motivating sessions, inspiring master classes, exciting concerts, continual opportunities to network with other professionals, fabulous meals, and beautiful weather. Now is the time to start planning for next year's conference. If you have never attended an MTNA national conference, please consider going to Chicago this coming year. There are a number of things that can help make attending possible (especially if you feel like you can't attend because you can't afford to take the days off): schedule those days as non-teaching days on the coming year's calendar (plan for that now), arrange to go with 1-3 friends and share a room to keep expenses down, and bring your own breakfast food to keep food costs down. Maybe this is a good year to even consider driving with a group rather than flying, since Chicago isn't that far. I drove with NDMTA members to MTNA conferences in Milwaukee and Kansas City and the trip was so much fun! I still appreciate one of my friend's views towards those non-teaching/conference days. She charges for those days (even though she doesn't teach) and sends the parents a letter stating, "These are the sessions I attended on behalf of your child while at the conference." She then lists the many activities that helped her to be a better teacher. That way the parents see the value of those days as workdays from which their children will benefit for years to come.

I hope, too, that you are planning to attend our NDMTA conference in Fargo on June 19-21 this summer. Did you know that many states don't have conferences, or only have them every other year, or maybe just for a day? We do so much better in North Dakota! This year, there will be sessions by some of our own members: Bob Groves will give a session on *Solving the Mysteries of Pedaling* and another on *How to Memorize It, Perform It, and Retain It*; Mary Leaf will present on *Group Lessons and Composer Camps*; and I will give a session discussing the new (and more accessible) national *Certification* program and our options for changing state certification in the future. We also will have a wonderful IMTF session, *Build your own Picnic*, by Cathy Sando and an excellent recital by Nariaki Sugiura (piano) and Simona Barbu (cello).

Professional development is a hallmark of membership in NDMTA and MTNA, and attending conferences is one of our best ways for personal growth. I hope we can have record turnouts in Fargo and would love to see you there!

Independent Music Teachers Forum – Anaheim, CA

Submitted by: Anne Morris

The Forum was headed by Mary Sallee, IMT Chair. She stressed that as independent teachers, we have good and bad days, and that if we believe we are the only ones facing recurring dilemmas, we are bound to feel alone and frustrated. We try to teach overscheduled students who put piano ‘low’ on their priority list. We struggle to hold our tongues when a parent fails once again to pay on time. Or maybe we count ourselves lucky to be our own bosses when friends are facing cutbacks or getting flak from their bosses.

Mary said it is important for those attending the Forum to be able to share as well as to be good listeners. We’re all experts when it comes to experience, and we can learn a lot from one other! If nothing else, we will realize that we share similar frustrations and challenges no matter where we teach. And so she reminded us that this was our Forum and that each of us was welcome to vent as well as to share stories of encouragement. We need to remind ourselves why we are in the business of teaching music!

We were invited to choose among five different areas of the room, designated by balloons of different colors, and participate in various topics. The Green Balloon topic covered “Communicating with Parents,” and dealt with parent involvement, initial interviews, and establishing and adapting policies. The Blue Balloon topic, “Stepping Out of the Box,” included Recreational Music Making, Kindermusik, and incorporating technology in the studio. The Pink Balloon, “Preventing a Crisis,” dealt with the practical aspects of zoning, legal and ethical issues, copyright laws, insurance, and related topics.

I participated in the Yellow Balloon group dealing with “Motivation.” One teacher said that she gives away play money that students can save up to buy candy, gum, or small items. Another teacher awards statuettes for accumulated points earned by the students. Still another gives away fun music for earning a certain number of points. Playing in ensembles and group lessons are also other ways that we can motivate students.

I also participated in the Red Balloon group, which dealt with “Business Practices.” In some places, teachers are losing students to teachers who charge a lot less, and others are losing students because students’ schedules are too full of other activities. Still others are losing students because of the economic downturn. Some teachers keep a full studio by word of mouth; current students’ families recommend the teacher they presently have. One teacher has a unique website, another teacher puts her name in at a music teachers’ store, and another teacher gives free lessons to needy families. One teacher picks up garbage along the highway and can advertise with free road signs. About half of the teachers in our group reported doing an annual survey on number of students and tuition.

Eileen Geske: 2013 MTNA Foundation Fellow

By Kathleen Johnson, NDMTA Foundation Chair

Eileen Geske was honored at the MTNA Conference in Anaheim, California in March as a MTNA Foundation Fellow. For this honor she was recognized at the Conference Gala where she received a Foundation Fellow pin and a certificate. The NDMTA was able to make this happen for Eileen by contributing \$1061.00 in her name to the MTNA Foundation Fund. We would like to recognize all of those that contributed in her name and thank them for their support in making this honor possible for this very deserving member. Below is a list of the members, local associations and others that contributed in Eileen's name:

Badlands MTA	Fargo Moorhead MTA	NDMTA
Upper Valley MTA	Melody Bober	Kathy Bresee
Clara Christ	Jane Feigum	Carole Flatau
Phyllis Folstad	Sharon Gegelmann	Don Geske
Janice Herr	Kathleen Johnson	Marjorie Johnson
Karen Kalinowski	Priscilla Keogh	Beth Klingenstein
Marilyn Knutson	Carma Kulish	Isla Law
Anne Morris	Mary Motta	Susan Nagel
Paulette Orson	Myung Park	Frank Pearson
Alpha Roeszler	Mary Schneider	Darla Sheldon
Linda Wallevand	Wanda Wavra	Monica Wolff

Thank you all, so much!

The above list is the one that was sent to me by the MTNA as they had recorded the contributions in Eileen's name. If you thought you had contributed to the Foundation Fund for Eileen and your name isn't on the above list, there could be a number of reasons. One most usual reason is that you forgot to write Eileen's name on your check memo line. This is very important as contributions to the Foundation Fund by members from a particular state don't automatically go to their Fellow nominee unless you designate it. Some states have more than one Fellow so it is important to let the MTNA know to whom you wish your contribution be designated for. It is the same if you made your contribution online. You must designate the Fellow in whose name you are contributing in the box provided online. The third reason your name may not be listed is if you gave cash through your local association where the contribution is recognized in your local association's name. If you have any questions, send me an email at kathleen@utma.com.

Other Foundation News: 4th Quarter Contributions

By Kathleen Johnson, NDMTA Foundation Chair

Fourth Quarter Contributions, (Oct. 2012 - December 31, 2012) were made by the following individuals:

Don Geske,

Kathleen Johnson

Beth Klingenstein

Isla Law

Paulette Orson

Myung Park

Cathy Sando.

Thank you all so much for your generosity! Your contributions help the MTNA support so many worthwhile programs. To find out what these programs are and how they can benefit you as an individual, go to the NDMTA web site at <http://www.ndmta.org/foundationFellows.php> or the MTNA Foundation web page at <http://www.mtnafoundation.org/foundation-overview/>

Foundation Fellow Nominations

By Kathleen Johnson, NDMTA Foundation Chair

Nominations are being accepted for the MTNA 2015 Foundation Fellow Award.

Each local association or individual member is encouraged to nominate one or more deserving individuals for this honor. There are no specific criteria for this nomination. At our February NDMTA Board Meeting, President Beth Klingenstein asked that each local or member send nominations for consideration to her before the June 19th Board Meeting at which time a Foundation Fellow for 2015 will be chosen.

The Foundation Fellow Program offers a meaningful method for honoring deserving individuals while supporting the MTNA Foundation Fund through a donation to the Fund in an individual's name. When \$1000 has been contributed in an individual's name, they are honored as a MTNA Foundation Fellow at the MTNA Conference Gala with a free ticket to the Gala, a MTNA Foundation Fellow pin and a certificate.

A list of past Foundation Fellow honorees can be found on the NDMTA web site at <http://www.ndmta.org/foundationFellows.php>.

www.ndmta.org

Have you checked out the new web site yet? If you haven't, go to it today to see how you can find the information you are looking for concerning NDMTA/MTNA. There are links to everything you need to know about.

Cool things to find: Go to 'member resources' and click on 'teacher resource links'. From there in the right corner there is a box with **NDMTA Member Websites**. Click on 'Cathy Sando'. It's a WOW! Great job on your web site, Cathy! Her website is also listed with her teacher information in the web directory so when someone does a search for a teacher in Grafton, they can click on her website to see what she offers. They will be impressed!

We can build web sites from the NDMTA web site. I haven't figured it out yet, but stay tuned. We can do this too.

Kathleen Johnson
Technology Coordinator