



Letter from the President, Dianna Anderson

Greetings from Minot! I have been thinking about how grateful I am for the musical community in North Dakota. When I moved here in 2003 from Cincinnati, fresh out of graduate school, I had the expectation that I might feel isolated or out of the loop. By the time I had lived in Minot for a couple of months I had a full studio, was teaching and collaborating at Minot State, involved in the opera company, and turning down new students and playing opportunities. I had no time at all to feel isolated or regretful for leaving a big city to live in a smaller place. I feel such a deep connection to my musical friends here that I confess to tearing up every year at the first rehearsal for the Minot Symphony Orchestra.



When lessons and classes at MSU went online last spring, I continued to be grateful for my community. Even though we couldn't play live music together, there was a sense of camaraderie amongst my colleagues and students, and a commitment to being optimistic in the face of this huge obstacle. I'm sure that many of you would agree that you have learned an enormous amount from this experience that you wouldn't have otherwise and continue to seek out more information on online teaching and technology to better prepare yourselves for the future. I am extremely grateful to have made it through nearly 3 weeks of in-person teaching at MSU, and I really don't mind the masks and the copious amounts of disinfectant. I also feel prepared to move online in the event that our community becomes more threatened by infection.

NDMTA is a big part of the musical community in our state. I am excited about what we can do together and look forward to making connections with all of our membership. I hope that you are taking advantage of your membership, whether it involves watching webinars, looking up conference sessions, getting discounts on office supplies, or entering your students in competitions and festivals. There is a lot to be grateful for in this organization!

Stay well and happy teaching!

Dianna Anderson

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NDMTA Membership Awards

By Lisa Schuler, Membership Chair

Membership awards are presented each year during the NDMTA State Conference held in June. Due to Covid19, the conference had to be cancelled and the organization was unable to present the awards at its annual banquet. Instead, special certificates and congratulatory letters were sent to them.

Membership awards are important because our members are important! Our members lead us, hold positions and offices, are active in our programs, and teach us. Our members teach hundreds of students around our state, they in turn become enriched community members who will forever appreciate the fine arts, and then the circle continues.

NDMTA is proud to announce the recipients of this year's membership awards. There were no 10-year members this year but we acknowledge the following 25 and 50 year memberships.

25- Year Awards:



**Sandy Weisenberger,
Richardton, ND**



**Sharon Gegelmann,
Dickinson, ND**



**Jennifer Turnwall,
Richwood, MN**

Upon receiving her 25-year certificate, Jennifer Turnwall shared, "I have been blessed to share and receive the gift of music. This has been made special by the friends and education received by belonging to FMMTA, NDMTA and MTNA."

50-Year Awards:



**Karen Okerlund,
Fargo, ND**

Upon receiving her 50-year certificate, Karen Okerlund shared, "One of the best things I did to further my piano teaching education was to join NDMTA when I moved to Fargo. An added benefit is all of the wonderful lifelong friends and teachers I have met and learned so much from. NDMTA is a gift to all that join and become active in their local organizations."



**Marjorie Johnson,
Fargo, ND**

Marjorie Johnson stated, "My life has been blessed by my many years in NDMTA. I've had so many wonderful experiences and have made some very dear and lasting friends and memories. Karen Okerlund and I started teaching the same year in ND. We have shared many workshops, conferences, and a lasting friendship. I had the opportunity to share my time on the certification committee with Sister Thomas Walder. She was such a special person and will be missed. She passed away June 21, 2020. I also helped Helen Jacobson with the first draft of the NDMTA Rally Program in the early 1970's."

Congratulations to our long-time members
who have helped to shape NDMTA into what it is today!

Thank you!



Dear NDMTA Members:

Thank you for the opportunity and honor of serving you as President from 2018-2020.

The experience was rewarding as well as educational. Most importantly, I learned more about NDMTA, MTNA and the wonderful people who work to support these organizations.

I also want to thank Michelle Kallod and NDMTA for the lovely wind chimes and hand made note of appreciation for service as Past President.

As a side note, my husband and I had been working in the yard for hours when Michelle and her daughter stopped by to drop off the gift. I must say we all laughed pretty hard when she suggested a picture for the newsletter then and there. I'm afraid we were quite a sight that evening!

Vangie Johnson Parker

Badlands MTA Workshop & Recital

By Jean Guenther

Badlands MTA sponsored Dr. Dianna Anderson for a Workshop and Piano Recital on October 3, 2020 at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Dickinson, ND. Dr. Anderson is currently our State MTNA president and is on the faculty at Minot State University. The title of the workshop was "Cultivating Persistence in Young Music Students." Dr. Anderson's performance of Beethoven's Sonata in F Minor, Op. 57 was her debut of this, the "Appassionata" Sonata.



L to R Jean Guenther, Carma Kulish, Jennifer Goettle, Becky Schwartz, Priscilla Keogh, Cheryl Dockter, Sandy Weisenberger, Sharon Gegelmann, Dr. Dianna Anderson, David Poffenberger

The recital was open to the public and we had a nice turnout. We had a marvelous time learning and listening! We haven't had a lot of musical events lately and this one gave everyone present a wonderful presentation of what we all have been missing!

Carole Flatau January 21, 1935 - October 2, 2020

By Sharon Wesbrook

Carole Flatau was my good friend and mentor just as she had been to so many of you. We were all so sorry to hear about her death.

I first met Carole in 1974 when I attended a workshop at NDSU. But it was at a NDMTA State Convention later in the 70's that I really got to know Carole. It was held in Valley City and she and Marie Amlie gave a presentation on how to teach a piano lesson. Marie was the teacher and Carole was the student. It was a hoot. Carole wore a baseball cap and sat at the piano kicking her legs, chewing gum and avoiding eye contact with Marie. They had the whole convention laughing and clapping!

From 1985 to 2000 Carole left the state of North Dakota when she accepted the opportunity to work for the CPP Belwin Publishing Company in Miami. As she said "from the doorsteps of Valley City to the big city of Miami" where she was hired as a keyboard editor of the national company. What a huge achievement for this teacher and composer! She lived and worked in Miami but also traveled all over the world representing the Belwin Company.

(Carole Flatau, continued on page 5)

(Carole Flatau, continued from page 4)

In the 90's I was teaching a young student with many disabilities who enjoyed playing Carole's music. I got an idea of having him write to Carole. Wouldn't you know it, Carole was in Rome, Italy but took the time to send him a stack of her music all specially signed and accompanied by a long letter. He was so excited.

When I heard that Carole was back in Valley City in 2000, I just happened to be President of the NDFMC for the state and I needed a Folk Chair. I knew how much Carole loved folk music and would be the perfect fit for the position. I called her and she said "but I'm not a member of the NDFMC" and I said "that would be no problem I'll just pay your membership and you can join us!" She accepted not knowing that she would be part of the NDFMC board and would be experiencing more "adventures": (1) Coming to her one of her first board meetings which was held in Hillsboro, she got her first speeding ticket at about the age of 70 and, (2) at one of the state's conventions I had all of the board members dress up in the Hillsboro High School Cheering uniforms and perform a rowdy cheer for all of the members. Carole said she had always wanted to be a cheerleader but didn't expect the sweater to fit so tight!



Left to Right: Carole Flatau, Carolyn Nelson, Sharon Wesbrook, Dawn Lawrence

What a caring and productive person. She went from Valley City to Miami, Florida and traveled all over the world and back to Valley City; then became a publisher of her own company Noteworthy Publications; became a valued figure and speaker on the National Board of the Federation of Music Clubs; by serving as National Folk Chair plus editor and publisher of "Together We Sing". All this time she remained a valued chartered member of the NDMTA who positively impacted piano students, friends, colleagues and publishers -- who adored her but even more important respected her for all of her wonderful values and good advice without ever being judgmental. This is truly a person who cannot be replaced but will forever live in our hearts.

As Bach would say "Glory to God" for the life of this wonderful and faithful servant.

Competitions Report

By Sue Nagel, Competition Chair

ND Competitions were held on YouTube this year! Due to our venue cancelling because of Covid restrictions, the students graciously made videos of their performances. They did a wonderful job, along with their teachers. The Division and National competitions will all be online this year too. Here is the list of participants and winners:

Young Artist Woodwinds

Winner

- Katelyn Cermack (flute) from UND. Lisa Bost-Sandberg, teacher



Alternate

- Briele Vollmuth (oboe)
University of Mary. Tanya Mertz, teacher

Honorable Mentions

- Rachel Dockter (saxophone)
Minot State University. Charles Young, teacher.
- Mikayla Frazier (oboe)
Minot State University. Charles Young, teacher.

Russ Peterson, Concordia College, was the judge.

Young Artist Brass

Winner

- Michael Harrison (trombone)
Minot State University.

Alternate

- Tyler Irmien (tuba)
Minot State University

Teacher of both students is Dr. David Rolandson,
Minot State University



Ken Jimenez, Valley City State University, was the judge.



Young Artist Piano

Winner

- Julia Beck
Minot State University

Alternate

- Anthony Mahler,
Minot State University
Teacher of both is Dr. Dianna Anderson,
Minot State University
Jay Hershberger from Concordia College was the judge.

(Competitions, continued on page 7)

Update on 2021 Foundation Fellow, Marge Johnson

Submitted by Vangie Johnson Parker, NDMTA Foundation Chair

We have reached and exceeded our goal to fully fund Marge as a Foundation Fellow! As of November 13, 2020, the amount of donations received are \$1855.00.

A hearty thank you goes out to the following NDMTA members for contributing to Marjorie Johnson's Foundation Fellow Fund:

Mariann Astrup	Bandlands Chapter	Maxine Beseler
Gloria Bethke	Susan Clambey	Ellen Croy
Eileen Geske	E. Jean Guenther	Tamara Jasperse
Kathleen Johnson	Vangie Johnson Parker	Michelle Kallod
Priscilla Keogh	Beth Klingenstein	Amy Mercer
Anne Morris	Cathie Scheid	Linda Wallevand
Mary Motta	Darla Sheldon	Michael Olson

If you still wish to donate to the MTNA Foundation Program, *be sure to designate your donation to Marjorie Johnson*. These donations fund grants and awards which support music educators and MTNA affiliates. You can donate on the MTNA website <https://www.mtnafoundation.org/contribute/contribute-now/>

or send your check to:
Jennifer Thomason
MTNA Executive Assistant
600 Vine St Ste 1710
Cincinnati, OH 45202



(Competitions, continued from page 6)

State Representative, Sr Brass

Ethan Kessler, Senior Brass, trumpet. Oak Grove High School.
Jeremy Brekke, teacher.

Ethan will receive comments from Division judges, and will go directly to the national competition because no other states have a senior brass participant.

All winners will have the option to re-do their videos for further competitions.

NDMTA Executive Board Meeting, October 31, 2020

President Dianna Anderson called the meeting to order. Roll call: Vangie Johnson-Parker, Sharon Gegelmann, Michelle Kallod, Mary Motta, Anne Morris, Amy Mercer, Jean Guenther, Sheryl Kjelland, Lisa Schuler, Priscilla Keogh, Karen Okerland, Kathleen Johnson, Cheryl Dockter, Gloria Bethke, Laura O'Rourke, Sue Nagel, Karen Dalager .

Officers Reports

Secretary: Minutes from the June 4, 2019 board meeting were posted online. Lisa Schuler moved, seconded by Laura O'Rourke to accept the minutes. Motion passed.

Treasurer: Michelle Kallod reported assets of \$44,879.76 income of \$4,307.96 and expenses of \$100.00. She has filed form 990n with the IRS and will need to find someone to audit the books.

Vice-President/Commission Composer: Mary Motta reported the Nick Meyers will be recording his composition via video and mp3 formats before the December 1 deadline. Sean Neukom is working on a composition for 2021. This will be presented at our 2021 conference.

President: Dianne Anderson reported that she attended the MTNA Leadership summit virtually this year. The next National Conference (originally scheduled for Atlanta) will also be held online. She also presented a workshop and performed at Badlands MTA in October.

Committees

Conference: Dianna along with Charlie Young (woodwinds professor at MSU) are working on budgets and contracts for the 2021 State Conference to be held in Minot.

Advertising: Anne Morris reported that the total of ad sales this year is \$1675.

Certification/Service to the Profession: Amy Mercer is our new chair. She has received the materials from Corrine Nustad. No Service to the Profession award was given out this year due to the cancelled conference. If you had submitted a name for the 2020 conference it can be resubmitted for the 2021 conference.

Competitions: Sue Nagel reported that the competitions originally set for October 17 at VCSU had to be switched to a video format due to Covid-19. All videos are in and have been forwarded to the judges. We had one entry in Sr Brass which will go straight to the national competition due to no other entries in the division.

Directory: Michelle Schumacher reported that the directory is at the printers and will be mailed soon.

Foundation: Vangie Johnson Parker noted that \$905 has been raised for Marge Johnson our 2021 Foundation Fellow. The deadline to meet the \$1500 goal is January 20. Lisa Schuler has been nominated as the 2022 Foundation Fellow. She has accepted the nomination. Please think about who you would like to nominate for 2023 Foundation Fellow.

Historian: Jean Guenther reported that she prepared a press release for Dianna's workshop/recital. Also a newsletter article was sent to Michelle and an update for our website to Kathleen.

IMTF: Sheryl Kjelland reported that the IMTF library materials are at her home. Nothing has been checked out this past year.

Membership: Lisa Schuler reported that we currently have 100 members, up 3 from last year. She has sent out three 25-year and two 50-year Membership Certificates. She is updating our Facebook page with upcoming and past events. She would like to see more members on Facebook. She encouraged local chapters to reach out to colleges/universities and talk to pedagogy students about the benefits of joining MTNA. We need to replace lost membership with new and active members.

Newsletter: Michelle Kallod is working on getting out a fall newsletter as soon as reports from the fall board meeting and photos and winners from the NDMTA competitions come in.

Nominating: Priscilla Keogh - nothing to report at this time.

Popplers Competition: Karen Okerlund reported that no competitions were held last spring. Currently is waiting to see if competitions this year will be live or in video format.

Rally: Sheryl Kjelland reported that Langdon MTA is planning a virtual Rally in November.

Technology: Kathleen Johnson reported that she has sent letters to renew the advertising on the NDMTA website.

Old Business

No old business to report.

New Business

A discussion was held regarding holding the 2021 State Conference virtually or in person. We feel that a decision should be made by March 1. The decision will be made at the February state board meeting.

The location for the 2022 State Conference was also discussed. Grand Forks is on the schedule for the 2022 conference. Since Grand Forks recently had the state conference and the 2020 conference in Fargo was cancelled we could possibly switch the 2022 conference to Fargo. A motion was made by Mary Motta to table the discussion Vangie Parker seconded. Motion passed

Local Association reports were given.

Motion made by Laura O'Rourke to adjourn. Seconded by Vangie Parker Johnson.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Gegelmann

Upcoming Events

2021 MTNA National Conference	March 13-17	Virtual
2021 Popplers Music Competition	June 2	Minot State University
2021 NDMTA Conference	June 2-4	Minot State University

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