



NDMTA NEWSLETTER

December 2024

Letter from the President, Lisa Schuler

The NDMTA Executive Board met on November 2nd, and they continue to serve NDMTA well. We came up with a fun idea to have each board member invite a non-board member to our next meeting in February. Our hopes are that by seeing the behind-the-scenes work and the organization as a whole, these members will appreciate NDMTA even more. So, if you happen to be an invited member, we welcome you to the experience! There are no strings attached. Just sit back and listen.



The early bird rate for the MTNA National Conference in Minneapolis is December 16th. Please consider attending this awesome conference filled with



hundreds of sessions to choose from, hundreds of vendors, thousands of music teachers to network with, and inspiring competitions and recitals. Also consider buying a ticket to the Gala to honor Anne Morris, our 2025 Foundation Fellow. North Dakota members will have their own table at the Gala! With the conference so close, expenses will be much lower since we can carpool, not fly. We can share hotel rooms too, so find a slumber party buddy! Connect with others in your local and start making plans. I promise you won't be disappointed! You may contact me if you have any questions about national conferences. lschuler@utma.com

The next state conference is June 4th-6th at Minot State University. Dr. Dianna Anderson, conference chair, and I have already made some big plans! Our guest clinician will be Dr. Sara Ernst, piano pedagogue, teacher of all ages, and Associate Professor of Piano and Director of Piano Pedagogy at the University of Oklahoma. Another special guest will be our new MTNA CEO, Brian Shepard. These two guests plus the annual Popplers Music Competition, IMTF Luncheon, banquet, and recital is a must attend event! Be looking at future newsletters for more information. For now, mark your calendars for June 4th-6th, 2025.



*Dr. Sara Ernst,
NDMTA Clinician
June 5-6, 2025
Minot State University*

Finally, I would like to remind you again that Dr. Beth Klingenstein of Bismarck has been nominated to be our MTNA President-Elect. Please vote in February!

Closing quote:

**"...for music alone
can abolish differences
of language or culture
between two people
and invoke
something indestructible
within them."
-Irene Nemirovsky**

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Competitions Report

By Oswald Johnson, Competition Chair

The state MTNA competitions were held Saturday, October 20 at the beautiful Center for the Arts at VCSU.

Two competitions were held: SR woodwinds and YA woodwinds. Jennifer Flores from Bismarck was the woodwinds adjudicator and Dr. Jay Hershberger from Concordia College was the piano adjudicator.

Here are the results:

YA Woodwinds

- ♫ Winner is Kimberly Knutson, saxophone. Student of Charles Young at Minot State University.
- ♫ Alternate is Bryce Dahle, oboe. Student of Charles Young at Minot State University.

YA Piano

- ♫ Winner is Kevin Vandal, Minot. Student of Dianna Anderson at Minot State University.
- ♫ Alternate is Lily Savelkoul, Minot. Student of Dianna Anderson at Minot State University.

SR Piano

- ♫ Winner is Grant Gellner, Minot. Student of Dianna Anderson at Minot State University.
- ♫ Alternate is Katelyn Toomey, Fargo. Student of Amy Mercer.

North Dakota Representatives

- ♫ SR Woodwinds, Enoch Orukotan, saxophone, West Fargo. Student of Russell Peterson, Concordia College.

All winners and representatives will send in their performance videos for West Central Division (WCD) competition.

Thank you to Valley City State University for allowing NDMTA to utilize their wonderful facilities!



The performance hall at VCSU



*Minot State students, left to right
Bryce Dahle (oboe),
Kevin Vandal (piano)
Kimberly Knutson (saxophone),
Lily Savelkoul (piano)*



*Grant Gellner,
SR Piano winner*



*YA Piano, left to right
Kevin Vandal, advancing to WCD
Dianna Anderson, teacher
Lily Savelkoul, alternate*

News from your NDMTA Foundation

By Tamara Bertram, Foundation Chair

Michelle Kallod has been teaching piano lessons to students ages four through adult for the past 28 years. For the last several years, her studio has hovered in the 50-75 student range. Originally from Hillsboro, ND, she attended the University of Northwestern, St. Paul and graduated from Minnesota State University Moorhead with a minor in Music and a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology - a degree which she uses every day. An avid learner, she continues to enhance her teaching by actively participating in MTNA, NCKP, NDMTA conferences and webinars.



She grew up in a musical family, listening to symphonies on reel to reels, singing the Messiah in four part harmony every Christmas, sight-reading Etude magazines with her cousin and finally beginning piano lessons at age 9. She intended to pursue a career in counseling, but quickly discovered her passion and aptitude for teaching piano when her teacher, Sharon Wesbrook, gave her 25 students to teach in a neighboring town.

Michelle currently co-chairs the local Festival for the Federation of Music Clubs and serves as Treasurer and Newsletter Editor of NDMTA where she previously served as Secretary. She has been accompanying groups since the age of 12 and is currently the accompanist for the Fargo-Moorhead Master Chorale. She has also accompanied collegiate students at NDSU, the National Choir Directors Association, numerous North Dakota All State Choirs, several area high schools choirs, various pit orchestras, and plays regularly with her church worship team.

When she is not teaching or accompanying, she enjoys spending time with her husband of 31 years, three adult children and son-in-law, cooking, catering, backpacking, kayaking and gardening.

You may give online via the MTNA website (be sure to request your donation to go directly to Michelle Kallod as Foundation Fellow nominee), or you can mail a check to MTNA. Please be sure to write Michelle Kallod in the memo section of your check.

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

Upcoming Events

2024 WCD Competitions	December	Video Performances
2025 MTNA Conference	March 15-19	Minneapolis, MN
2025 Popplers Music Competition	June 4	Minot, ND
2025 NDMTA Conference	June 4-6	Minot, ND

NDMTA Executive Board Meeting, November 2, 2024 (via Zoom)

President Lisa Schuler called the meeting to order. Roll call: Vangie Johnson Parker, Tamara Bertram, Michelle Kallod, Ozzie Johnson, Amy Mercer, Michelle Schumacher, Mia Presteng, Cheryl Dockter, Lisa Schuler, Sheryl Kjelland.

The agenda was accepted as presented.

Officers' Reports:

Secretary: Minutes from August 7 & 8, 2024 only included one motion.

M/S/C by Lisa Schuler, Anne Morris to increase Rally Registration fee from \$15 to \$20.

Treasurer: Michelle Kallod submitted Treasurer's Report.

Checking account balance \$25,669.10
Savings account balance \$15,271.46
Certificate of Deposit \$10,712.18 (Matures 1/17/2027)

Vice-President/Commissioned Composer: Isaac Lovdahl is our 2024 Commissioned Composer. He must get the recording of his composition to MTNA before December 1. Efrain Amaya is our 2025 Commissioned Composer.

President: Lisa Schuler reported the following:

She invited our new MTNA CEO to our NDMTA 2025 Conference in Minot on June 4-6 and he is coming!

Dr Sara Ernst will be the 2025 State Conference Presenter in Minot.

Lisa had explored grants from the ND Council on the Arts but has chosen to use the overage from last year's conference to cover Subzero Winds, the ensemble hired for the 2025 Conference.

Committees:

2025 Conference Update: Dianna Anderson is arranging the June 4-6, 2025 Conference in Minot.

Certification/Service to the Profession: Amy Mercer presented the 2024 Service to the Profession to Josh Gratton, owner of Popplers Music.

Advertising Coordinator/Directory Editor: Michelle Schumacher is taking care of both of these jobs and is finding out timing, etc. for both.

MTNA Competitions: Ozzie Johnson reported that there are 4 ND representatives (SR Woodwinds, SR Piano, YA Woodwinds, YA Piano) that will submit performance videos for the next level of competition.

Foundation Fellow/Past President: We need to email nominations for the 2026 Foundation Fellow person by November 6 sent to Tamara Bertram. She will have us vote and then the nominee needs to accept in writing and then an announcement will be put in the next Newsletter.

Historian: Lisa Schuler is covering that position for now. She has cleaned out totes and is hoping that someone will take this job soon.

IMTF: Dianna Anderson is chair for 2024 & 2025. Then it moves to Upper Valley in 2026 & 2027, and Dickinson 2028 & 2029.

Membership: Mia Presteng is new at this position and is discovering how it works. There are 104 members listed now.

Newsletter: Due date for articles for the next newsletter is November 5 or beyond. Please submit any items of interest to Michelle Kallod for the November newsletter, which should be printed about November 10.

Nominating: Priscilla Keogh had nothing to report.

Popplers Competition: Priscilla Keogh and Dianna Anderson are the chairs for this competition, but due to the absence of Priscilla at the 2025 Conference, Tamara Bertram will co-chair with Dianna.

Rally: New Rally has just arrived from Illinois and will be distributed. Sheryl will check to see if Strings can be a part of Rally.

Technology: Kathleen Johnson was not able to be here.

Local Associations Reports:

Badlands: They are preparing for their Extravaganza and are working on their constitution/bylaws.

Bismarck/Mandan: No report received

Fargo/Moorhead: Busy with many things!

Greater Grand Forks: Trying to get more teachers to join.

Langdon: Planning Wynn-Anne Rossi Day in April

Minot: No report received

Northwest: Inactive

Upper Valley: Planning Wynn-Anne Rossi Day in April

Valley City: No report received

Business:

August Conference Review: There was a \$1500 profit from our August 2024 Mini-Conference at Popplers. Lisa Schuler will check with Eckroth in Bismarck to see if they would be willing to host a Mini-Conference. The Board agreed to invite Helen Marlais to be the 2026 clinician and possible recitalist. Wendy Stevens is a possibility for 2027.

Updating NDMTA Constitution & Bylaws: Lisa will look over those 6 pages and give a report at the February meeting.

MTNA Competitions: The discussion leaned toward leaving the competitions at Valley City.

There will be some questions about moving it to other places.

Endowment: Lisa Schuler & Michelle Kallod will ask some questions about endowments and we will consider using the CD of \$10,000 as that possibility. There are many more things to find out about endowments. It will be discussed at the February meeting.

Social Media Chair: Is this a position that we need? Or would someone on the Board cover it for us?

Announcements & Upcoming Events:

Board members are encouraged to bring a member to the February Board Meeting.

MTNA survey needs to be completed before November 22. All members should do it.

Vote for Beth Klingenstein to be MTNA President-Elect.

2025 MTNA Conference will be March 15-19 in Minneapolis, MN

2025 NDMTA Conference will be June 4-6 in Minot, ND

M/S/C Cheryl Dockter, Vangie Johnson Parker to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl Kjelland



Make your plans now to attend the MTNA National Conference in Minneapolis, March 15-19! Minneapolis is as close as this conference gets to many of us who live in North Dakota! Consider carpooling and sharing a hotel room with a fellow teacher to cut costs.

Hope to see many of you there!

ASCAP Music Licensing Agreement

By Lisa Schuler

All local associations should send their recital programs to Lisa Schuler by May 2025. By doing this, composers listed on those programs get monetarily compensated. What a great way to support our composers! A discussion I had with composer Jason Sifford at the fall Leadership Summit, inspired me to share this information so that we are indeed supporting this agreement. Read the explanation from MTNA below and all digital copies of your recitals can be sent to me at lschuler@utma.com.

Please note: This is only for recital programs sponsored by a local association, not independent studio recitals.

From MTNA:

MTNA has a special licensing agreement with the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP), granting MTNA and its Divisions, State and Local Affiliates a blanket license to publicly perform copyrighted music, if the copyright holder is a member of ASCAP, for the entire organization.

State and local affiliates are encouraged to send one copy (preferably digital) of any association-sponsored event program during which copyrighted music is performed by June 30 of each year to the MTNA National Headquarters at mtnanet@mtna.org. This is done to ensure ASCAP composers are properly credited for the performance. No attendance figures are required from the states. MTNA then submits a report, the licensing fee and the programs to ASCAP.

It's not too early
to start preparations for



**Grand Forks
June 2025**

**See NDMTA Handbook
for rules**