

Music Horizons

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President: Dr. Chi-Chen Wu
Past President: Dr. James Margetts, NCTM
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Publicity:

President's Report



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Dear WMTA members:

It is hard to believe that we are in April. I hope everyone's teaching and learning are going well. In the absence of any nominees, and in accordance with WMTA Bylaws, I have appointed Cindy Peterson to be our President-Elect, and she has accepted this appointment.

. I have also appointed Lisa Rickard to fill Cindy's position as our Secretary, and she has also accepted this appointment. Also, Barbara Basinger has agreed to become our new MTNA Competitions Chair, replacing Kristen Lenth. Please express your appreciation to these wonderful individuals for their willingness to serve our state organization! I am also excited to share with you that four instructors at Vibes, a well-developed private music school in Casper, recently joined WMTA and thirteen students from the school came down to Laramie to perform at AAD on March 4. We look forward to having more instructors from Vibes join us.

Our member Carolyn Deuel and I were at the national conference in Baltimore. In the Division meeting, I presented a report and exchanged ideas about how to grow the state association with other state presidents. Our state conference this year is a joint event with the Colorado MTA at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley on June 1-3. More information about the conference can be seen in the President-Elect's report.

Have you gotten a chance to look at our newly launched website at www.wyomingmta.org? I would like to urge you to make an effort to

MISSION STATEMENT OF WMTA

WMTA, acknowledging the value of music in our lives, seeks to advance musical knowledge and education, and to nurture professional growth and fellowship of independent music teachers.

Be sure to check out our new website! It's getting lots of attention! Dr. Jim Margetts would love to hear from you about how you are using it and what you would like to see on it. Be sure to email him at margettsjames@gmail.com

keep our site active by sending photos of events (performances, meetings, group lessons, etc.) and any exciting news you would like to share with our state members to our Immediate-Past President and Website Manager, Dr. Jim Margetts— jmargetts@csc.edu. WMTA needs your participation to create an active electronic network for all of our members!

Sincerely,

Dr. Chi-Chen Wu
WMTA President

From your President Elect:

Conference is coming! This year WMTA is privileged to join with the Colorado State Music Teachers Association for their **state conference in Greeley, CO at the University of Northern Colorado, June 1 - 3, 2017**.

This is such a bargain for us. Even though the cost is slightly more than our Wyoming conferences, we will have our choice of two sessions each hour. Conference clinicians include the Lomazov Racker Piano Duo, and Vanessa Cornett-Murtado. Please read their bios on the conference web site. If you register **before May 1st**, the cost is \$115 and includes our Saturday business luncheon.

The conference will kick off with our own **State Board Meeting**, so if you are currently leading your local association, or holding any WMTA leadership position, please plan to arrive on campus, **Thursday, in time for our 11:30 a.m.** brown bag lunch meeting. For all others, the sessions begin at 1:15 p.m., June 1st. The conference will conclude with our **Wyoming State Achievement Day on Saturday, June 3rd, 2:30 - 5:00 p.m.**, in a beautiful recital hall, so talk this up with your students.

As you scroll down the housing options, be sure to notice at the bottom is the budget option of staying in one of the residence halls--a small private room with a shared bath, for only \$50.25, OR four people in one suite for \$80, so bring three others from your chapter! Rooms are limited so reserve soon.

To register, have your MTNA membership number handy, and visit either wyomingmta.org or: www.comusicteachers.net/conference

I look forward to seeing all of you there! And serving you as your President Elect.

Cindy Peterson, of Laramie, WY

SAD information – please notice this email sent by Jani about SAD. You should have received this along with an attached form which I will send out again separately from Horizons- Lynette

Dear WMTA Teachers and Officers,

Attached is the application form for 2017 SAD to be held in Greely, Saturday June 3rd.

Notice the May 12th date for applications due. If you can't have them by then, Please call me, so I will know how many students to plan on.

If numbers are similar to the last few years, your students will probably be in a morning session, with an honor's recital at 1:00 in the afternoon. Again, until all applications are in, I won't know specific times.

It would make it easier for me if you would send the forms in the mail (snail mail) I had problems with computer with our AAD.

Any question, email or call.

Looking forward to seeing you at Conference.

Thank you,
Jani Van Deusen

PO Box 62
Kaycee, WY 82639

jani@rtconnect.net
307-738-2320

From Immediate Past President Jim Margetts:

"We are looking for **nominations for the 2017 WMTA Teacher of the Year**. This award, which has not been presented for several years, provides recognition for an outstanding teacher that is an active member of WMTA. The nominations are due by May 15, 2017.

Please contact me with any additional questions. There are many deserving nominees out there. Thank you for taking time to nominate one of your hard-working and inspiring colleagues from across the state!"

(I will send out the nomination form again separately from the Horizons – Lynette)

Local Association Reports

From the Cheyenne chapter :

The Cheyenne Music Teachers Association has just wrapped up our Area Achievement Day event held in early March. Though attendance was lower than we had hoped, the day was a resounding success with many students achieving those coveted state-qualifying scores! We have also had several interesting and poignant guest speakers share their insights into topics such as composition, the Robert Pace method, and group music games and methods for young children at our monthly meetings. This coming month's meeting will be of special interest due to the subject, interpreting Chopin, and the performance by guest artist Adam Zukiewicz, an assistant professor of piano at the University of Northern Colorado. After the excitement and passion of Chopin dissipates, it will be time to focus on theory testing for AAD and preparation for our annual conference in Greeley, for which our own Jerilynn Seifert will be presenting. We hope to see you all there!

Southwest Chapter:

The Southwest Music Teachers Association held our annual AAD on April 22. Although our numbers are few – only 5 teachers - we had 57 students participate who all did a wonderful job! The adjudicators were from Rock Springs and BYU. Our Honors Concert that evening featured 24 of our outstanding students and was very well attended and enjoyed by all!

We are saddened that one of our teachers Therese Bertrand accepted a job in Oregon and so has moved away from us – we will miss her.

We are looking forward to our Ensemble Festival which will be held in Oct.

A Note from our Northwest Division Certification Chairman

What Are the Parents Looking For?

While attending the National Conference in Baltimore this March, I could not help noticing the many young people, obviously new, or soon-to-be college graduates. Of course, there were people of all ages and levels of experience, even some who looked quite elderly. In considering reasons for seeking certification, I thought about the teachers at both ends of the age categories. For young people who are just launching their teaching careers, I wonder what parents think when they interview with these very youthful appearing people. Undoubtedly these teachers will have an impressive bio indicating all the competitions they have won, the awards they have received and the college degrees they have earned. But what about their teaching experience? What indications are there that these well-educated, well-trained teachers are knowledgeable about teaching, about transferring their knowledge and skills to another, about dealing with people of different backgrounds and learning styles, of having developed a practical teaching philosophy, of having established a professional approach to all aspects of their teaching experience? We all know about those who profess to be teachers, who have established illustrious performance careers, but who are clueless, or worse, very negative in their attempt at teaching. Being an excellent musician does not, by definition, mean being an excellent educator. If these young teachers are nationally certified, they have a proven record of their knowledge and skill as teachers. Their pedagogical qualifications have been verified by the comprehensive certification process. Any parent seeking more details regarding the certification requirements can visit the MTNA website to confirm the teacher's qualifications as a professional educator, fully capable of successfully imparting to students what they need to learn and how to achieve desired results. On the other end of the spectrum, I spoke with a person seated next to me at one of the Conference sessions and asked her about taking the steps towards certification. She informed me that she had thought about it, but since she planned to retire in several years, she felt it was not "worth it." At first I thought that sounded like a difficult position to counter. Then the next day, we were all treated to a dynamic speaker, David Cutler, who spoke about the Savvy Musician, and the Savvy Studio Shakeup. He indicated that to be "savvy", we need to be as, or more, inspired when we retire than when we started. He also stated that change is essential and not changing is suicidal. So, thinking back on my conversation the previous day, I realized that the points I should have presented were exactly along the lines of Mr. Cutler's statements. Close to retirement, are teachers as successful as they could be? Are they embracing new ideas, improving their methods, receiving fresh inspiration, advancing their own skills? Working through the five projects after years of teaching can open one's eyes to new possibilities, renew one's approach, improve one's methods, infuse new ideas into the studio, incorporate better teaching strategies. Long time teachers must progress to be effective. Without progress, there is stagnation or decline, both undesirable and irresponsible towards students and parents. For well established teachers, the certification process can be an adventure and a discovery.