

**MINUTES GWINNETT COUNTY MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
Executive Board Meeting**

August 27, 2025

PianoWorks

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

President – Kimber Kwiatkowski called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. She thanked the officers and chairs for assuming their roles, and she is looking forward to a good year.

President-Elect – Kathy Dawal – Texas Galan will be the speaker at our September meeting. You will find more information about our programs for the year in our newsletter.

Secretary – Tina Darden – The minutes were approved as posted on the GCMTA website.

Treasurer – Nancy Morris – Nancy reported that the current balance is \$27,803.32. She has found some discrepancies in the bank balances in reports that she received from the former treasurer. She and Cathy Thacker will meet with Christina to find an explanation for the discrepancies.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Advisory – Gloria Park – No Report

Anti-Trust – Mary Ann McTier – No Report

Certification – Yanni Chan – Yanni needs a current list of GCMTA teachers who are Nationally Certified. She plans to encourage teachers to pursue certification at monthly meetings and through articles in the newsletter.

Digital Resources – Kathy Dawal – Kathy is getting all updates to the webmaster following this meeting. Since GCMTA currently has no sponsors, the Sponsors page will be removed from the website. Susan Andrews made a motion that Kathy Dawal, in consultation with the webmaster, investigate the possibility of archiving some of the newsletters on the website. If this can be done without significant expense, all newsletters prior to August 2021 will be archived. Melissa Slocum seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Directory/Internet – (Open)

Federated Festivals – Melissa Slocum – Melissa thanked everyone who is helping with Federated this year. A virtual option will be available for students who are unable to perform in-person at one of our three Federated districts. This virtual event will be scheduled for the Saturday following the last in-person festival. There will be one judge, and the cost will be divided among the three districts. There will be no high school competition for the virtual event.

There was discussion about the work requirements for Federated Festival, and no changes were made.

West – Becky Bonam – The West Gwinnett festival is Feb. 28th at Berean Baptist Church, 1405 Hewatt Road SW, Lilburn, GA.

All judges have been selected. Marcia Rygh is doing the certificate order. Mary Marshall Dekkers is doing the cup order. Cathy Thacker will oversee hospitality. Troy Thompson is scheduling. Rebecca is ordering the theory tests.

North – Melissa Slocum/Young Lee – No Report

Central – Kathy Dawal/Lisa Ogg – No Report

GMTA Auditions – Sun Hee Kim – All students who earn an OP at our Local Auditions are eligible to receive a trophy, regardless of their GATE score. Teachers may pay for these trophies by Zelle or by check. Kathy Dawal made the motion that students who receive OPR at any Local Auditions are ineligible to receive a cash award at Music Day in the same year. Susan Andrews seconded the motion. The motion passed.

GMTA/GATE Theory – Rie Hosoi – GMTA Theory Exams at Music Day (November 15, 2025)

Registration Deadline: October 1, 2025, Online

Fee: \$15.00

GATE at Local Audition (February 14, 2026)

Registration Deadline: January 15, 2026, Online

Fee: \$15.00

Hospitality – Sarah Peterson – No Report

Junior/Senior Scholarship – Cathy Thacker, NCTM Jr./Sr. Scholarship is set for Saturday morning, April 18, 2026, at PianoWorks. Dr. Geoffrey Haydon from Georgia State University will be the judge.

Registration is online, and the firm deadline is March 13, 2026; please see the website at <https://gcmta.org/home/index/student-activities/juniorsenior-scholarship> for the information and repertoire requirements. This is a reminder that students must

participate in at least one other GCMTA-sponsored event during the school year to be eligible.

If you have questions, please contact Cathy Thacker, NCTM, Chair, at <mailto:csbt88@gmail.com>.

MED/PED Scholarship – Kathy Dawal – Kathy plans to create an online application for this event.

Member-at-large – Susan Andrews, NCTM – No Report

Membership – Deb Hughes, NCTM— Deb explained the steps she takes when new members are added. These include sending a welcome note, providing information and inquiring if the new member would like to have a mentor. The 2024-2025 fiscal year ended with 95 members.

Deb will print new business cards to give to potential new members.

There was discussion about the inaccuracy of the membership Directory on the website. Deb will provide a list of current members in good standing to the webmaster, after which he will delete inactive members and add new members as they join the association.

Music Day –Yulia Soboleva - Music Day is scheduled for November 15th. Registration opens September 1 and closes October 17. Payment may be made by check (postmarked no later than October 22) or through Zelle. Please check the website for information on Virtual submissions, work requirements, etc.

Music Link – Chris Morrow -- MusicLink is a non-profit organization that links teachers who are willing to teach at a reduced tuition rate with underprivileged students who otherwise would not be able to afford a musical education. It also accepts used instruments and helps these students to get access to an instrument whenever possible. If any of you are already teaching at a reduced rate to help a family, please consider joining MusicLink. It's a national program, and offers discounts for teachers from many organizations, as well as reduced or free music for the students. Contact Chris Morrow for further details.

MTNA Foundation/GMTA Awards – Mary Ann McTier – Mary Ann will be gathering items at our next two monthly meetings for a gift basket to donate for the GMTA conference. We settled on the theme of Leisure and Relaxation. Items like teas, puzzles, and games all follow this theme. Kimber said we had been asked to help with hospitality at the conference and asked for volunteers.

Newsletter – Diana Cleland Passmore

Performance Day – We are going to put an article in the newsletter and on the website asking for someone to chair this position. We will include a summary of their responsibilities. If no one accepts, we will table this event.

Teacher of the Year – Gloria Park - Nominations for the 2026 Teacher of the Year are due by December 31. Information and forms are available on our website. Please submit forms to gloriapark4@gmail.com

Old Business – NFMC report: Deb Hughes reported that GCMTA won in 5 of the categories that we entered last year for a total of \$600. We won 2nd place (\$200) for American Parade and \$100 each for American Music, American Women Composers, Jazz and Sacred Music. Deb will bring the winning booklets to the meeting in September.

This coming year, we will compete for NFMC's American Parade and the American Music Awards. The American Parade event is scheduled on Saturday, November 29, 2025, at Piano Works from 10:30 to noon. For the American Music award, one person will perform American music at each GCMTA meeting, beginning with Yulia Soboleva at the September meeting.

Susan Andrews made a motion to use the NFMC Award funds to increase the high school piano scholarships in the 3 Federated districts. Each district, which is currently budgeted \$1000, will now be able to award 4 high school piano scholarships in the amount of \$500/\$350/\$250/\$100 for a total of \$1200. Kimber seconded the motion. The motion passed.

New Business –

Good of Order -

Motion to Adjourn –The meeting was adjourned at 11 :55 am

Attendees: Susan Andrews, Becky Bonam, Yanni Chan, Tina Darden, Kathy Dawal, Rie Hosoi, Debra Hughes, Sun Hee Kim, Kimber Kwiatkowski, Young Lee, Shin, Melissa Slocum, Mary Ann McTier, Nancy Morris, Gloria Park, Yulia Soboleva, Cathy Thacker

All actions for this **Executive Board Meeting OR Business Meeting** were taken in accordance with the stated purpose of the organization and in accordance with the Bylaws.