

# **GWINNETT COUNTY MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION MINUTES**

**April 22, 2026**

## **Zoom Executive Board Meeting**

### **OFFICER'S REPORTS:**

**President** – Kimber Kwiatkowski called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. She wished everyone a Happy Earth Day! She thanked the Board for all their hard work this year. She also welcomed Serene Lee who has agreed to be our Music Day Chair.

**President-Elect** – Kathy Dawal – Kathy is planning our programs for next year's meetings. She will send out an e-mail soon with information about the May Luncheon.

**Secretary** – Tina Darden – The minutes were approved as posted on the GCMTA website. The award referred to in the March minutes as the American Composer Award should have been called the NFMC American Music Award.

**Treasurer** – Nancy Morris – The opening balance is \$39,831.53 and the closing balance is \$31,830.43. Income and expenses were itemized in the full treasurer's report which was emailed to the membership. The report was approved as emailed.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Advisory** – Gloria Park – No Report

**Anti-Trust** – Mary Ann McTier – No Report

**Certification** – Yanni Chan – No Report

**Digital Resources** – Kathy Dawal – Over the summer, Kathy will work with various chairs to streamline the information on our website.

**Directory/Internet** – (Open)

**Federated Festivals** – Melissa Slocum – Area Chair – The Federated Chairs met to discuss improvements to be made to next year's events. The Federated Chairs are considering imposing a deadline of November 30 for all new teachers' dues to be paid in order to enter students in the festivals. This would include GMTA, MTNA, GCMTA, and NFMC dues.

**West** – Becky Bonam – The West Gwinnett Federated festival is scheduled for February 27, 2027 at Berean Baptist Church in Lilburn. Becky has confirmed that Berean will charge GCMTA \$925 for usage of the building.

**North** – Melissa Slocum/Young Lee – There was discussion on how to address too many students and not enough teachers working the day of the event. There were lots of good ideas and they will be discussed more at length at the August Executive Board Meeting.

**Central** – Kathy Dawal/Lisa Ogg – Central Federated Festival: March 13, 2027, is the date that has been requested, but not yet, confirmed.

**GMTA Auditions** – Sun Hee Kim – We discussed teachers not picking up their students' certificates. If Sun Hee must mail the certificates, she will ask that the teacher cover the postage. There were not enough teacher workers for this event. She hopes by moving the auditions from the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in February (a long school weekend) to the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in February, this will solve the teacher's participation issue. She is reserving PianoWorks for Saturday, February 20, 2027 for next year's auditions.

**GMTA/GATE Theory** – Rie Hosoi is looking into other options for the ear training portion of this event.

**Hospitality** – Sarah Peterson – No Report

**Junior/Senior Scholarship** – Cathy Thacker, NCTM –

Jr./Sr. Scholarship took place on Saturday, April 18, 2026, at PianoWorks. Eight students registered and performed for Geoffrey Haydon.

Congratulations to the following winners:

1. Nicole Lee, student of Ping Xu
2. Andrew Chen, student of Ping Xu
3. Kale Maxwell, student of Gloria Park
4. Benjamin Vasquez, student of Susan Andrews, NCTM

Congratulations to the following Honorable Mentions:

- Aislin Burke, student of Kathy Dawal
- Andrew Tran, student of Kathy Dawal
- Victoria Mahecha, student of Cathy Thacker, NCTM

The 2027 event is scheduled for Saturday, April 17, at PianoWorks.

**MED/PED Scholarship** – Kathy Dawal – There are no applications at this time.

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

**Membership** – Deb Hughes, NCTM

We have 94 members. Twenty of our members are 70 years or older, so they pay the Senior dues rate of \$20. Dues for members less than age 70 are \$25.

Of the 100 business cards that were printed, thirty remain.

Our online directory only shows 78 members. It appears all our new members are currently missing from the directory.

About 4-5 years ago Deb surveyed incoming new teachers as to the reason(s) they joined GCMTA, and the vast majority mentioned Festival. But only 3 of our new members participated in our Festivals this year - 2 of them were voice teachers.

Most of our new members did not request a mentor, it would have been helpful if they would have taken advantage of having one. Thank you to Kimber for being a mentor this year.

When asked why some members did not renew their memberships, the reasons given were a negative interpersonal relationship, expense of dues, and desire to only participate in Federated festival.

**Music Day** - Serene Lee – November 14, 2026 has been requested, but not secured until we accept a proposal for the Church's new fee structure.

**Music Link** – Chris Morrow --No Report

**MTNA Foundation/GMTA Awards** – Mary Ann McTier – No Report

**Newsletter** – Diana Cleland Passmore – No Report

**Performance Day** – We are looking for someone to chair this event.

**Teacher of the Year** – Gloria Park – Everything is in place. Be sure to attend the meeting to find out who our Teacher of the Year is for 2026.

**OLD BUSINESS** – NFMC Awards Report:- Debra Hughes, NCTM - Deb sent in one award report (Parade of American Music) that was due in March. She will send in three more (American Music, American Women Composers and Jazz) before May 1. She will submit the mailing/envelope costs as approved by the EB.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

There was discussion regarding the proper procedure for making proposals. Debra Hughes suggested we follow Robert's Rules of Order. Nancy Morris suggested that we

make motions, second them, have discussion, then table the motion until the next meeting so everyone has a chance to read the minutes and consider the proposal. Serene Lee suggested we email proposals to the membership for a vote.

There was discussion on GCMTA Scholarship awards, and adjustments can be found in the Proposed Budget Discussion below.

Due to increased participation of vocal students in the North Federated Festival, Melissa Slocum made a motion that a \$100 voice scholarship be added. Cathy Thacker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Kathy Dawal made a motion to have both a \$100 fretted string instrument scholarship and a \$100 non-fretted string instrument scholarship in the Central Federated Budget. Cathy Thacker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Debra Hughes made a motion to increase the lunch budget to \$120 for all three Federated Festivals to help cover the costs of full day volunteers' lunch. Susan Andrews seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mary Ann McTier made a motion to increase the chair expenses for all three Federated Festivals to \$125. Kimber Kwiatkowski seconded the motion. The motion carried.

It was decided that pianos at Duluth First Baptist Church will be tuned before Music Day, but not before North Federated Festival. Melissa Slocum made a motion that the Music Day tuning expense be split between Music Day and North Federated Festival in the budget. Susan Andrews seconded the motion. The motion carried.

There was discussion on raising student fees for Music Day and on changing the format. It was decided to leave everything as is for 2026.

Kathy Dawal made a motion that GCMTA obtain a Dropbox account for use in Festivals and Archiving. Deb Hughes seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Once Nancy Morris has all the numbers, Kimber Kwiatkowski will send out the Proposed Budget for the Executive Board to vote on.

**Motion to Adjourn** –The meeting was adjourned at 12:37 PM.

**Attendees:** Susan Andrews, Tina Darden, Kathy Dawal, Rie Hosoi, Deb Hughes, Sun Hee Kim, Kimber Kwiatkowski, Serene Lee, Young Lee, Mary Ann McTier, Nancy Morris, Gloria Park, Sarah Peterson, Melissa Slocum, 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.***

