

# ***West Virginia Music Teachers Association***

**Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association**



**[www.wvmta.org](http://www.wvmta.org) WVMTA News Volume 61, Issue 2, June 2026**

## **Notes from the President**

### **Dr. Johan Botes and Dr. Yuhsuan Liao, NCTM**

Hello to all! Summer is here! This is a time that many of us take to renew, refresh, and reinvigorate. Enjoy the wonderful weather and remember to take care of yourself as well!

I want to remind our members to think ahead to the fall conference in Morgantown October 23-24, 2026. President-Elect Rayme Pullen has a great schedule of guests lined up, including the possibility of a member/student recital. The competitions will go on as planned, in person (thanks to First Vice President, Dr. Henning Vauth!), and I wish all the competitors good luck in their preparation!

I also want to thank the board members for helping Dr. Yuhsuan Liao and myself as we're trying to keep head above water in "running the show" since our president moved to Colorado. I can assure you, it takes a village!

Finally, please take a moment to send me your nomination for Teacher of the Year. The deadline has been extended to August 31<sup>st</sup>. Nominations can be e-mailed to me [japbotes@gmail.com](mailto:japbotes@gmail.com)

Happy Summer! - Johan Botes and Yuhsuan Liao



## ***Notes from President-Elect, Rayme Pullen***

Dear colleagues across the state,

The 2026 WVMTA State Conference will be held on October 23 - 24 on the campus of West Virginia University. I am so grateful to Dr. Hooi Yin Boey for her work as the site coordinator; she has been working for months with WVU to secure the dates and use of the classrooms for the conference presentations. Thank you, Dr. Boey!

This is my first year serving in this position, and while it has been daunting at times, it has also given me opportunities to connect with my WVMTA colleagues in new and meaningful ways as I have been planning the conference presentations. I've had many insightful conversations with instructors in other districts over the past few months, which inspired this year's lineup of conference presentations (listed below). I booked Joy Morin in hopes that her session on music learning theory and audiation will resonate with instructors like myself who are often teaching very young and beginning pupils. I booked Dr. Amy Simpson in hopes that her session on music learning in neuroscience will resonate with all of us, across the spectrum of private teaching, to public school teaching, to college level and beyond. I booked Dr. Elizabeth Etnoyer in hopes that her session on finances as a freelance musician will offer practical help and solutions to those of us who do not hold full-time jobs in this field. Lastly, I booked Jason Young in hopes we can learn how to better steward our responsibilities as WVMTA board members for a bright future; I am a board member with Jason right now for The Cultural Foundation of Harrison County, and his leadership has transformed our scope and impact across the county in recent years.

### **2026 Conference Presentations:**

**Joy Morin** - Ann Arbor, MI

Michigan MTA, author of *"Keys At Play"*, Pianist/Composer/Pedagogue

**Topic: Nurturing Audiation and Artistic Performance in Developing Pianists**

**Dr. Amy Simpson** - Pittsburgh, PA

Carnegie Mellon University Prep School Program, Adjunct instructor at WVU School of Music, Author of *"Music on Your Mind: What Musicians Need to Know to Play with Success"*

**Topic: Neuromusic Technique: Music Learning in Neuroscience**

**Dr. Elizabeth Etnoyer** - Carlisle, PA

Dickinson College, PMTA, Private Instructor, Collaborative Pianist

**Topic: Budgeting and Financial Decisions as a Freelance Musician**

**Jason Young** - Clarksburg, WV

Vintage Theater Company (Rustic Mechanicals Shakespeare Troupe), Chair of The Cultural Foundation of Harrison County

**Topic: Improv(e) Your Board Dynamics**

Instead of a concert artist, we are making plans to offer an Honors Recital opportunity to WVMTA students across the state. I am still sorting out the nomination and selection criteria and processes with Dr. Hooi Yin Boey and Dr. Henning Vauth. When we have the information for this recital opportunity, we will make that available to our members. Stay tuned!

I have also been working extensively with website designer Hailey Lemon since February of this year. She has been collecting data for updating the site map and is now beginning the process of sketching wireframes/mockups and the new visual design of the WVMTA website. I cannot wait until the new site is live. This project should be wrapped up by the end of the summer months.

Although it's still 5 months away, I have reserved a block of rooms for the state conference for two nights, Oct. 22 - 23, at The Holiday Inn which is about 2 miles from the Canady Creative Arts Center. The conference rate is \$133.00 for a single room with a king bed and \$144.00 per night for a double room with two queen beds. (People may wish to split the cost with another member for a double room to save on lodging costs). The booking link is included below which will lead you directly to the book with the conference rate. If you call the hotel to book, simply mention that you are booking for the WVMTA State Conference.

### **The Holiday Inn**

[1188 Pineview Dr. Morgantown WV 26505](#)

Phone: (304) 241 - 6649

### Booking Link:

[https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/find-hotels/select-roomrate?fromRedirect=true&qSrt=sBR&qSIH=MGWPD&qRms=1&qAdlt=1&qCiD=22&qCiMy=092026&qCoD=24&qCoMy=092026&qGrpCd=MXC&setPMCookies=true&qSHBrC=HI&qDest=1188%20Pineview%20Drive,%20Morgantown,%20WV,%20US&showApp=true&adjustMonth=false&sr\\_b\\_u=1&qRmFltr=](https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/find-hotels/select-roomrate?fromRedirect=true&qSrt=sBR&qSIH=MGWPD&qRms=1&qAdlt=1&qCiD=22&qCiMy=092026&qCoD=24&qCoMy=092026&qGrpCd=MXC&setPMCookies=true&qSHBrC=HI&qDest=1188%20Pineview%20Drive,%20Morgantown,%20WV,%20US&showApp=true&adjustMonth=false&sr_b_u=1&qRmFltr=)

Please reach out to me at any point if you have any suggestions for improving the state conference experience for our members. It is my deepest desire to serve our organization well in preparing for the 2026 conference. I truly appreciate the input of all of our members in WVMTA. I encourage all of our members to email, call, or text me if I can be of service in any way.

[raymepullen6@gmail.com](mailto:raymepullen6@gmail.com)

(304) 695-8520

Gratefully submitted,

Rayme Pullen, President-Elect



WVMTA President-Elect Rayme Pullen and family





2026

WVMTA

Conference

OCTOBER

23 - 24



CANADY CREATIVE  
ARTS CENTER

The 2026 WVMTA State Conference will be held on the campus of WVU. Clinicians from WV, PA, and MI will present sessions on Friday, Oct. 23. More info to come!

Mountain State and MTNA competitions will take place Saturday, Oct. 24.

- \$37 WVMTA MEMBER REGISTRATION FEE
- \$42 NON-MEMBER REGISTRATION FEE
- \$17 STUDENT MEMBERS OF MTNA OR NAFME

hooiyin.boey@mail.wvu.edu - Site Coordinator  
vauth@marshall.edu - Competitions Chair  
raymepullen6@gmail.com - Conference Coordinator



## *Notes from the Membership Chair, Dr. Jerry Lee*

- From January 1, 2026, through March 31, 2026, there was 1 membership renewal, and 1 new member joined WVMTA.
- With view to the 2026-2027 membership year, using the month of April 2026 as a starting point, according to dues paid during April 1 – April 30, 2026, WVMTA confirms 10 members. This number usually increases significantly over the summer months.
- Membership updates from January 1, 2026 – April 30, 2026:
  - WVMTA welcomes Anthony J. Miley, from Princeton, WV, as a new active member specializing in elementary music.
- Please encourage and recruit new members to join WVMTA so that our organization stays as strong and active as possible!
- To join online and to learn more about specific member benefits, please visit the following website and click on the link towards the top of the page, “Join + Renew”: [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org)
- The text below is from MTNA, describing the benefits of membership:

### *Choices for a More Musical Tomorrow*

*MTNA offers a number of membership types for teachers, students and those involved in the music industry.*

*For well over a century, MTNA has been the backbone for a collaborative community of music-teaching professionals, connecting both the seasoned educator and those at the beginning of their career.*

*Membership with MTNA does more than simply complement your career as a music professional—it supports, supplements and shapes it. It empowers music teachers nationwide to become better educators through networking, leadership, mentoring and educational opportunities.*

### *MTNA Membership Delivers:*

- **Peer Connections**—a network of outlets, forums and channels for like-minded individuals in the music profession to collaborate and communicate, both locally and nationally
- **Ongoing Education**—conferences, events and advice on teaching tips and pedagogy, technology and web trends, master classes and informational sessions
- **Invaluable Resources**—access to countless benefits, from Certification, publications and consultation services to competitions, teacher enrichment grants and insurance

## ***WVMTA Treasurer's Report***

Dear WVMTA Members,

Over the past few months, my wife Rayme (President-Elect) and I have worked extensively with DeNeil Hartley (District 5 Chair) to update several aspects of the Treasurer's position and duties. In February, Rayme and DeNeil set up a TechSoup account for WVMTA so that we now have a discounted QuickBooks subscription. DeNeil has been instrumental in the organization and setup of the QuickBooks account, and we are extremely grateful for her expertise and time! This will make treasurer reports for all future treasurers a simpler and more accurate process moving forward. We are also up-to-date on the 990-N (e-Postcard) filings with the IRS.

I have transferred the Truist accounts to my name and ordered new debit and credit cards. I have also been taking deliberate steps to streamline the communication and processing timelines for the treasurer's duties as it relates to reimbursement requests from our local districts. If you were unaware, all communications may now be sent via email to [wvmtastatetreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:wvmtastatetreasurer@gmail.com), and you will receive a confirmation email from that account when I send out checks to fulfill those requests.

Thank you all for your patience during this transition. It has been a busy few months of work behind the scenes to update these procedures, but they will only continue to serve this organization in positive ways for future years. I look forward to continuing in this important work alongside my WVMTA colleagues.

Respectfully submitted,  
Trevor Pullen



## ***District Reports (District Photos follow the reports.)***

### **District 1 Report**

District One Theory Test was held on Friday, April 10, 2026, at the College of Creative Arts and Media and Media, WVU. 27 students participated in the event and successfully passed the test. Participating teachers include Mary Morrison, Natalia Liston, Tatyana Heis, Savannah Wright, John Morrison, and Hooi Yin Boey.

32 students participated in the Spring Adjudicated Performances on Saturday, May 9, 2026, at the Bloch Hall, College of Creative Arts and Media and Media, WVU. Dr. Peter Amstutz, WVU Professor Emeritus, was the adjudicator. Participating teachers include Mary Morrison, Natalia Liston, Tatyana Heis, Yiwen Zhang, Savannah Wright, and Hooi Yin Boey.

Hooi Yin Boey, Chair

### **District 2 Report**

On Saturday May 16, District 2 held the annual Spring Adjudicated Performances on the campus of Fairmont State University. Dr. Juliana Yap of Morgantown Piano Academy adjudicated the performances of both recitals. District 2 students from the studios of John Morrison, Eve Flint, Robert Ellis, and Rayme Pullen performed beautifully, and we are grateful for the comments and ratings from Dr. Yap. Overall, there were twenty-one submissions which included nineteen solos and two duets. Three students earned their first trophy: Kaius Hart (instructor: Rayme Pullen), Henry Fullen (instructor: John Morrison), and Will Fullen (instructor: John Morrison). Five students earned their second trophy: Elijah Coleman (instructor: Robert Ellis), Magda Palko (instructor: Rayme Pullen), Zofia Palko (instructor: Rayme Pullen), Lila Sowards (instructor: Rayme Pullen), and Aslyn Sowards (instructor: Rayme Pullen).

District 2 did not host testing this spring, but students Henry Fullen and Will Fullen registered for testing in District 1. We are proud of their dedication! And we extend thanks to Dr. Hooi Yin Boey for allowing them to test in District 1.

District 2 continues to grow in participation and enthusiasm. We are so proud of the students in the district who continue to register for events and grow in skill and musical maturity. We look forward to another prosperous academic year in the fall.

Submitted by Rayme Pullen, co-chair with John Morrison



## **District 3 Report**

Our Theory Test was administered on Saturday, March 14, at Kanawha United Presbyterian Church. Twenty-one students participated, representing three studios.

The Spring Adjudication for District Three was held on Saturday, April 18, at Cavendish Hall. Nineteen students representing three studios participated. Dr. Johan Botes served as adjudicator. We awarded Small Trophies to Isaac Ludlow and Charlotte Harris, a Medium Trophy to Christian Mork, and a Large Plaque to Tali Bennett.

Vicki Cavendish, Chair

## **District 4 Report**

Mid-Ohio Valley MTA District 4 held Theory and Technique tests at the Wood County Public Library in March. Theory tests were given to 17 students, and 20 students submitted to Technique tests.

District 4 Spring Performances were presented May 9 at Trinity Episcopal Church in Parkersburg. Rayme Pullen was the adjudicator for 18 students. Participating teachers were Laura Hamm, Barbara Heckert, and Amy Rice.

Laura Hamm, Chair

## **District 5 Report**

March 14, 2026

- Grace Gospel Church, Huntington
- Technic tests-32
- Theory tests-46
- Students participating-51

April 18, 2026

- Johnson United Memorial Church-Bruce Rous, host
- Vocal judge-Cadence Weaver-Deering
- Students participating-4
- Piano judge-Beth Davenport
- Students participating-6

The following students received a 1 rating at Spring Auditions:

Vocal Solos  
Ellie McKnight-Jr A  
Aidyn Hart-Jr B

Piano Solos  
Charles Chen-Jr A  
Orion Cheung-Jr A  
Owen Denning-Jr A  
Caroline Chen-Jr B  
Logan Hamilton-Sr High

Respectfully submitted,  
DeNeil Hartley and Kim Wiebe

## **District 6 Report**

***The Dr. Scott Beard Ensemble Festival*** was held on February 28, 2026, at Fellowship Bible Church in Shenandoah Junction, WV. 54 students of Gary Mullenax, Jenny Anderson, Natalie Sigety, Melissa Rickman, and Donna Coyle were involved. Students performed concertos, duos, and duets.

Our annual ***Theory and Technic Tests*** were held on March 18, 2026, at Zion Lutheran Church in Williamsport, MD. 40 students completed the Theory Test, and 42 students the Technic Test. Studios of Jenny Anderson, Gary Mullenax, David Loy, and Natalie Sigety were involved.

***Our Spring Recital*** was held on April 25, 2026, at Fellowship Bible Church in Shenandoah Junction, WV. 59 students of Jenny Anderson, Gary Mullenax, Natalie Sigety, Donna Coyle, Melissa Rickman, and Mary Love took part in the event.

***Our Spring Adjudication*** was held on May 16, 2026, at Zion Episcopal Church in Charles Town, WV. 21 students of Jenny Anderson, Gary Mullenax, Melissa Rickman, and Donna Coyle participated. Dr. Elizabeth Entoyer of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, served as our adjudicator.

***The following participants received Superior Ratings:***

Ava Miller, Evelina Baer, Vivienne Baer, Nellie Gamage, Faiyaz Ahsan, Grady McClain, Laith Al-Saleh, Juliet Owunna, Abigail York, Aurora Mallawaarachchi, Nathaniel Beal, Isabel Kuchera, Isabella Huffman, Cecelia White, KateLin Zappe, and Grace Lu.

Congratulations to all students and teachers for their hard work and accomplishments!

Jenny Anderson, NCTM  
Chair, District VI (EPTMA)

## District 1





## District 1





## District 2





## District 4





## District 6



## ***WVMTA Teacher of the Year Award***

August 31<sup>st</sup> is the deadline to submit nominations for the 2025 WVMTA Teacher of the Year. According to rules as set up by the WVMTA Administrative Board on October 25, 1996: "Nominations will be limited to three." Also according to rules, the qualifications are:

- Demonstrates innovative teaching and creative musicianship and,
- Has held membership in WVMTA for at least five (5) years.

### **Past Teacher of the Year Awards Recipients:**

|                                 |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1991 Peggy Johnston, NCTM       | 1992 Christine Kefferstan, NCTM |
| 1993 Carol Beall, NCTM          | 1994 Linda Seime, NCTM          |
| 1995 Lena Lim, NCTM             | 1996 Mary Wilson                |
| 1997 Ray Martin, NCTM           | 1998 Leslie Petteys, NCTM       |
| 1999 Ruth Carder, NCTM          | 2000 Catherine Crotty, NCTM     |
| 2001 Bonnie Miltenberger        | 2002 No award given             |
| 2003 Lya Cartwright             | 2004 Olive Meyer, NCTM          |
| 2005 Mila Markun, NCTM          | 2006 Scott Beard, NCTM          |
| 2007 Elaine Tutt                | 2008 Vicki B. Cavendish         |
| 2009 Harriet Tucker, NCTM       | 2010 Jan Jemison Smith, NCTM    |
| 2011 Mary Ellen Morrison, NCTM  | 2012 Hooi Yin Boey              |
| 2013 Christene Kefferstan, NCTM | 2014 Carole Kriewaldt           |
| 2015 No award given             | 2016 James Miltenberger         |
| 2017 Henning Vauth, NCTM        | 2018 Mary Wilson                |
| 2019 Jacob Womack, NCTM         | 2020 John Morrison              |
| 2021 Ian Jessee                 | 2022 Dr. Gerald (Jerry) Lee     |
| 2023 Robert Ellis               | 2024-2025 No Award Given        |

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## ***WVMTA Distinguished Leader of the Year***

- This award is based on accumulated years of leadership and service contributed to the organization, over and above 10 years.
- This award will be based on whether the award was or was not already received by a particular member previously. The award CAN be granted to the same individual more than once.
- This award will be based on the recommendation, every year, of the current committees' research and records (If you are interested in becoming a future member of the Awards Committee, please notify Dr. Yu-Hsuan Liao at [yliao@shepherd.edu](mailto:yliao@shepherd.edu)). The Distinguished Leader of the Year Award was begun in 2006 and replaced the "Member of the year Award."



## Member of the Year Honorees

|                                |                                         |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1991 Mary Shep Mann, NCTM      | 1992 Bobby Loftis, NCTM                 |
| 1993 Judy Lambert, NCTM        | 1994 Jane Mangus, NCTM; Sandra Hastings |
| 1995 Mila Markun               | 1996 Marija Sommer, NCTM                |
| 1997 Marguerite Bostonia, NCTM | 1998 Jean Douglass, NCTM                |
| 1999 Connie Arrau Sturm, NCTM  | 2000 Olive Meyer, NCTM                  |
| 2001 No Award given            | 2002 No Award given                     |
| 2003 James Miltenberger        | 2004-05 No Awards given                 |

## Distinguished Leader of the Year Honorees

|                            |                                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2006 Barbara Heckert       | 2007 Carol Beall, NCTM         |
| 2008 Mary Wilson           | 2009 Karen Taddie, NCTM        |
| 2010 Gary Mullenax, NCTM   | 2011 Janna Kisner, NCTM        |
| 2012 Scott Beard, NCTM     | 2013 Mary Lynne Bennett, NCTM  |
| 2014 No award given        | 2015 Mary Ellen Morrison, NCTM |
| 2016 Laura Hamm, NCTM      | 2017 Gerald (Jerry) Lee        |
| 2018 No award given        | 2019 Hooi Yin Boey             |
| 2020 Vicki Cavendish       | 2021 Dr. Jacob Womack, NCTM    |
| 2022 John Morrison         | 2023 Dr. Henning Vauth, NCTM   |
| 2024 Dr. Johan Botes, NCTM | 2025 No Award Given            |

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## ***WVMTA Scholarship for an African American Applied Music Student (AAAMS Scholarship)***

Below is information on the AAAMS Scholarship:

- WVMTA will provide a \$500 scholarship for an African American applied music student.
- The scholarship will be awarded annually, if the WVMTA Budget Committee determines there are sufficient funds in the general WVMTA budget.
- Students cannot receive the scholarship in two successive years unless there are no other competitors.
- All African American students shall be eligible, regardless of age and performance

level, including pre-college, college, and adult students, and regardless of instrument or voice type.

- Eligible students must be students of a WVMTA member (“dues paid”) at the time of application or start lessons with a WVMTA member by the week after Labor Day.
  - A call for applications shall be included in the June Newsletter by the President.
  - Applications shall be due on or before August 8, and selections will be made by the WVMTA Budget Committee by August 15. Applications should be submitted electronically by email attachment to the President.
  - There is no application fee.
  - Selections will be made based on need and/or merit.
- 
- The student or legal guardians shall receive the scholarship in form of a one-time payment from the WVMTA Treasurer, postmarked on or before September 1.
  - If there are no applicants, the earmarked money shall go back into the general WVMTA budget.

Application:

- A formless one-page letter written by the student’s applied teacher, speaking to a) need and/or merit of the student, b) stating that the student either has already been studying with the teacher, or will start lessons with the teacher by the first week after Labor Day, and c) confirming that the teacher has paid WVMTA dues for the current fiscal year.
- Proof of the teacher’s dues payment to MTNA/WVMTA for the current fiscal year.

## ***MTNA Certification – WVMTA Challenge and Incentive***

### **\$200 Reimbursement Check Available for Any Newly Certified NCTM!\***

Yes, for anyone who successfully becomes a NEW NCTM! No stipulations. Receive a \$200 award from the WVMTA board for completing certification, which covers the entire fee! Find out the latest information on requirements for the National Certification Program at [www.mtnacertification.org](http://www.mtnacertification.org).

\*This award does not apply to people who complete their renewals or their permanent professional certificates. This award is only for new certifications. Contact [jwomack@concord.edu](mailto:jwomack@concord.edu) for more information.

## **Certification Drawing**

**Value: \$200**

Our Certification program has a drawing at each year's state conference to allow one person to win a free \$200 application fee for the MTNA certification. This year, any member (regular or collegiate) may enter your name in the drawing prior to the state conference and the winner will be drawn at the state conference. The winner does not need to be present to win, although we encourage all members to attend state conferences. Contact Jacob Womack, certification chair, to enter the drawing ([jwomack@concord.edu](mailto:jwomack@concord.edu)). Find out the latest information on requirements for the National Certification Program at [www.mtnacertification.org](http://www.mtnacertification.org). The winner of the drawing must submit their official certification application to MTNA within one (1) year and complete the process within two (2) years.

**Collegiate Members** are eligible to enter the certification drawing.

News is published quarterly online at [www.wvmta.org](http://www.wvmta.org) and e-mailed to members. If you have a change of street address or e-mail address, contact MTNA at [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org) or call 888-512-5278

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