

WSMTA NEWSLETTER



October 2023

Upcoming Events & Deadlines

Thursday, Sep. 28, 9:30 AM
AIM Theory Packet Stuffing
Home of Lynette Zelis

Thursday, Sep. 28, 10:00 AM
WS Joint Board Meeting
Home of Marcia Lehe

Thursday, Oct. 5, 9:00 AM
Meeting & Program
"AIM Theory Judging Session,"
Lynette Zelis and Janel Greaves (mandatory for all AIM teachers)
Windsor Park Auditorium

Saturday, Oct. 14
AIM Theory Exams
Wheaton College Conservatory

Thursday, Oct. 19, 9:30 AM
Teacher Performance Group
College of DuPage

Sunday, Oct. 22
ISMTA North Competition
Harper College

Thursday, Nov. 2, 9:00 AM
Meeting & Program
"Listening through Soundtracks," Ruth Mudge
Windsor Park Auditorium

Friday-Saturday, Nov. 3-4
ISMTA State Conference
Northern Illinois University

Thursday, Nov. 9, 9:30 AM
Teacher Information Exchange (TIE) Meeting
Home of Marcia Lehe

Sunday, Nov. 12, 1:30 PM
Student Recital
(Entry deadline November 1)
Windsor Park Auditorium

Thursday, Dec. 7, 9:00 AM
Meeting & Program
"The Piano Music of Charles Griffes," Dr. Michael Fritsch
Windsor Park Auditorium

From the President...

Dear members,



Well, we're off and running with another school year! September's WSMTA meeting was terrific. Dr. Peng Krol's energetic presentation was a great way to kickstart our year, and I enjoyed seeing so many of you after the summer break. I was also thrilled to meet in our new location. Thank you to our member, Dr. Bill Phemister, who connected us to the staff at Windsor and helped us transition to meeting there.

Our October 5 meeting will be focused on AIM theory exams. If you are entering students in the exams, you are required to attend. If you have not entered students in these exams, but are curious about AIM, we'd love to have you join - this meeting is a great step in learning more.

Many parents today in our area are looking for structured evaluations for their children in their music study. Our Illinois AIM curriculum is one of the best systems I have encountered. I have been teaching the curriculum for 20 years now, and I can wholeheartedly say that using the syllabus has made me a much stronger teacher.

Other upcoming events include:

October 19 - Teacher Performance Group coordinated by Karol Sue Reddington

November 3-4 - ISMTA conference at Northern Illinois University

November 9 - Teacher In Exchange meeting coordinated by Marcia Lehe

November 12 - Student Recital - entry is free for your students!

I look forward to seeing many of you at our next meeting on October 5,

Janna Williamson

P.S. If you didn't attend in September, don't forget that we now meet in the auditorium at Covenant Living at Windsor Park, [124 Windsor Park Dr in Carol Stream](#). Because of the new location, we also have a new meeting time! **8:30-9:00 Coffee & Conversation ~ 9:00 Business meeting ~ 9:30 Program**

October Meeting & Program – Oct. 5, 9:00am

“AIM Theory Judging Session,” - Lynette Zelis and Janel Greaves



Our upcoming October 5th meeting will be the AIM Theory Judges Session. Attendance is required for any teacher with students registered for the October 14th theory exam and is highly recommended for those interested in learning more about the AIM program or planning to enter students in the future. We will go over current judging procedures, see if you can spot common judging mistakes, and hear from seasoned AIM teachers with tips on how to prepare students for different parts of the exam. If you have any specific questions that you would like to have answered at the meeting, please email Janel Greaves.

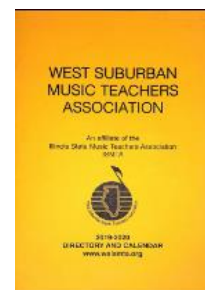
Membership Directory Supplement October 2023

Please note the following changes and additions for your directory:

Diane Jankiewicz: change phone number

Returning member:

Peng Krol

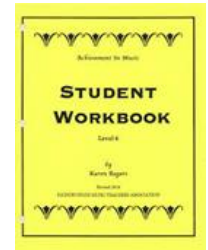


And please welcome new member:

Mila Taylor

Linda Krueger, Membership Coordinator

AIM Theory Exams, Fall 2023



The October 5th meeting is a required judge's session for all teachers entering students in the October AIM theory exams. We will discuss judging procedures, common judging mistakes, and tips for preparing your students. **Attendance is mandatory** for all teachers entering students in the fall theory exam. If you are planning to attend virtually, please let Janel know a few days in advance so she can email the necessary information and handouts used in the presentation.

The enrollment fee is \$30 per student and is due by October 5th. Please pay by check made out to WSMTA. (One check per teacher for all students, please!) This payment covers both the fall theory exam and the spring performance exam. Payment can be brought to the October 5th judges meeting or mailed by October 1st to Lynette Zelis at 203 E. Hawthorne Blvd., Wheaton, IL 60187.

The exams will take place on October 14th at Wheaton College Conservatory, Armerding Hall. All participating AIM teachers must judge or help in the office for a minimum of 4 hours. This amount increases with the number of students you are entering.

Make-up exams are an option for students who cannot take their tests on October 14. These make-up exams need to be completed by October 28th and cost an additional \$25 made payable to the judge. All teachers participating in AIM are eligible to judge for AIM make-up exams.

As a reminder, our policy will be as follows for out of state students:

Out of state students will pay the usual AIM fee, plus the \$25 fee for the makeup judges for both Theory and Performance exams. These exams will be in real time and judged online. Students must make arrangements with a judge willing to give the exams on zoom or facetime. The judge has to be a member of our Chapter. The written portion will be emailed to the student prior to the playing portion of the exam, then the student must send the completed work directly to the judge for grading along with the aural portion. The administering of the written portion will be completed and monitored by the parents of the student. Sight reading and harmonizations will need to be emailed to the student the day of the exam and not visible to the student until the exam is given.

For new teachers or teachers who haven't participated in AIM but may want to in the coming years, please feel free to contact Lynette or Janel to set up a time to volunteer in the office. This is an excellent way to see how AIM testing takes place and what the tests are like. It also gives you a chance to really get to know our teachers! Keep in mind, we always provide coffee, tea and snacks!

If you have any further questions, please contact Lynette Zelis

Lynette Zelis & Janel Greaves, AIM Theory Co-coordinators

AIM Hospitality



All teachers participating in AIM are asked to bring refreshments on the exam day, Saturday October 14. Healthy snacks are encouraged. There will be a sign-up sheet passed around at the monthly meeting on October 5. Food can be dropped off in the teachers' lounge on the first floor before you judge that day.

Liz Mackenzie
Hospitality Coordinator

West Suburban Music Teachers Association September 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes



The meeting was called to order at 9:02am by President Janna Williamson. Rita Brown presented some of her favorite teaching pieces as the monthly music. These included Sky Blue by Vandall, Miller's collection book "Take a Bow, Melody Bober's Dance of the Autumn Leaves and Great Lakes.

The TIP was given by Katrina Cline and included how to work on speed with students, including using drum track for students having trouble. Some websites included musica.com/drum-machine and the loopz app.

Minutes of the May 4 meeting were read by Dr. Anne Marie Kuhny and approved as read by Karol Sue Reddington and Carol Ishman.

Membership included no new members or visitors in attendance.

The financial report given provided our balance

Upcoming Events and Reminders:

President Janna Williamson went through upcoming key events including dates for AIM, Joint Workshop, Meetings, Berkley Pendell and more. Please see the yearbook for more details.

Upcoming events include:

- WS board meeting on September 14, 2023 9:30am at Janna Williamson's house
- Joint Board Meeting on September 28, 2023 10:00am at Marcia Lehe's house
- Packet stuffing on September 28, 2023 9:30am at Lynette Zelis's house
- AIM Theory enrollment is due September 15, 2023
- ISMTA North Competition is October 22, 2023

New Items:

- Please contact Judit Mohai if you are not receiving the directory.
- Please contact Linda Krueger or Janna Williamson about exclusion or inclusion in the 'Find a Teacher' section of the website. Please look at your current listing- a form will be sent with the ability to update.
- Karol Sue Reddington provided an update that the Berkley Pendell competition grew last year and expressed gratitude for all help and involvement. She reminded members of the festival and competitive level. It will be held on April 2024.

- Bill Phemister advertised a concert Thursday at Windsor with Paul Kenyon

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:30am and seconded by Anne Marie Kuhny

The presenter was Dr. Peng Du Krol who played and discussed Humor and Irony in Beethoven's Salieri Piano Variations.

Dr. Anne Marie Kuhny, Secretary

Quote of the Month



"Music is the wine that fills the cup of silence." — Robert Fripp

From the Editor

The WSM TA Newsletter is published monthly September through May, with one summer issue in July. The deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of the month prior to publication. For example: the September newsletter deadline is August 15 and is published by Aug. 20. Articles must be 'print ready' when submitted.



This newsletter is sent via the WS Google Group, wsmta@googlegroups.com. You must subscribe to the group in order to receive it and other important communication from our group. Past issues of the WSM TA Newsletter are available on the WSM TA website, www.wsismta.org.

Kathlyn Sbarboro, WSM TA Newsletter Editor

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