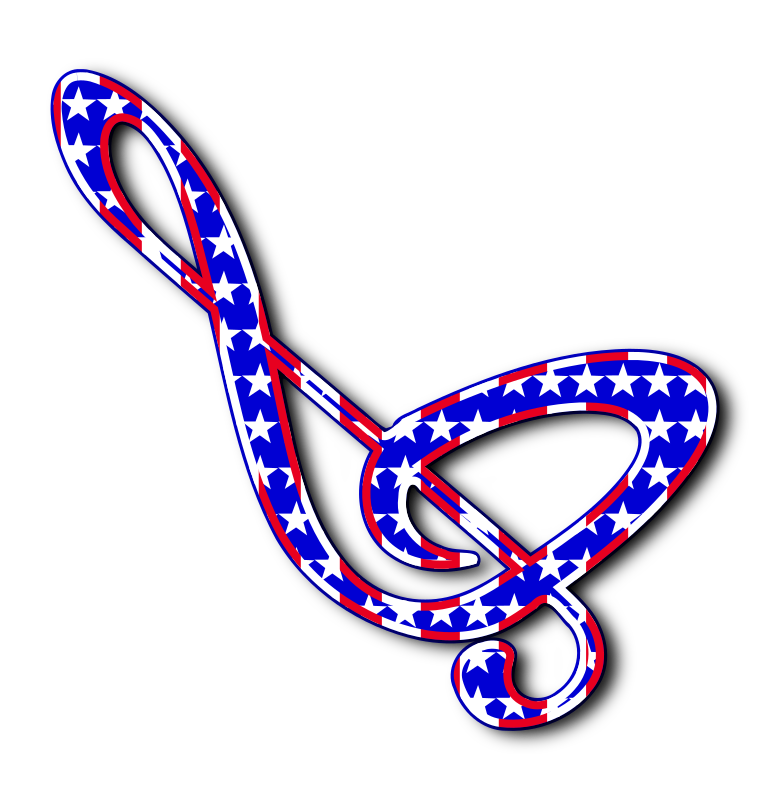
**GATEWAY ARCH EAST CHAPTER** **NEWSLETTER**

June/July 2017

[http://gatewaymusicteachers.org](http://www.gatewaymusicteachers.org/)

Illinois State Music Teachers AssociationPresident:[LeAnn Halvorson](mailto:halvorso@htc.net?subject=President); Vice President/Programs Gill Cerbin; Secretary: Tara Wright; Treasurer: Karen Koch

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat, July 15 Summer of Play at the Schmidt Gallery, SWIC, 2 PM

Fri, August 18 GAE Pot Luck Luncheon, Apps & Chats, Miller Music, Swansea, 10:00-Noon-plus.

SWIC DAY OF PLAY

Although the June Day of Play was cancelled due to lack of entries, next Saturday will see several teachers and their students performing at the Schmidt Art Gallery. Heidi Shepherd, 618-632-4192 is accepting performers for this year’s “Summer Play at the Schmidt”. This is an enjoyable opportunity for students to visit the beautiful Gallery and play on the grand piano there.

WELCOME TO SCHOOL YEAR 17-18!

Mark your calendar for Friday, August 18 for the opening GAE Pot Luck and Discussion “Scheduling Students and Using Apps in our Teaching”. If you have a favorite app, please be prepared to share. Programs for the year will be revealed, and we hope to get acquainted with some new members who have joined. Bring a friend! Budget Attached!

MAY DAY TO MEET, GREET, EAT

 The May 19 meeting was mildly spiced with several points of discussion and food of choice. At left, our secretary Tara Wright enjoys the ‘eat’ part of meet-greet-eat! Official business included

- Current officers will all serve another term.

- Dr. Joseph Welch was nominated as our Member of the Year in recognition of his highly lauded presentation at the ISMTA Conference.

- As a result of ISMTA changes (see article below) GAE student enrollment fees beginning 2017-18 will be $20 for Levels 1-2 and $25 for Levels 3-12.

- Local chapter dues will remain $10, though the state dues will be increasing by $3.

-Gill Cerbin has already started preparing an impressive lineup of programs for the upcoming year. The general consensus was that money spent on programs is money well spent, and that although $800 has been tentatively budgeted, our local treasury is healthy enough to accommodate more if the quality of the presenter warrants.

- A line item will be added to the budget to pay $100 for ISMTA Convention expenses for the GAE Member of the Year. In the past this has been taken out of “Miscellaneous Expenses”.

- In appreciation of the facilities provided by SWIC to accommodate AIM exams, a $100 donation to the SWIC music department as budgeted was reaffirmed.

- In appreciation of the Summer of Play Days opportunities for our students, offered by the Schmidt Art Gallery at SWIC, the budgeted $100 for that was also reaffirmed.

GAE EXECUTIVE BOARD ACTIVITY

Your four GAE officers met for a tea brunch meeting (very British and delish) at the spacious home of VP Gill Cerbin on July 1 to share preparations for the coming year. Gill detailed her progress on booking of programs and Karen presented some figures for preparation for the new budget. Several ideas and issues were tackled. The year’s programs will be finalized and announced at the August meeting. The 2017-18 Proposed Budget (all on one page) is attached so that members can look it over and begin to understand how our GAE uses its resources. Be prepared to ask questions and vote on the budget in August.

STATE ISMTA BOARD ACTIONS THAT MAY AFFECT YOU

In addressing the financial challenges of the state organization, the ISMTA Board has made the following changes.

1. Beginning in 2017 as a pilot program there will be just two districts in the state competitions—north and south—each with its own competition and separate winners.
2. The Composer Commissioning Program specifies that the “established composer” be at least 22 years of age.
3. State dues for 2018 will be raised from $32 to $35.
4. AIM student fees paid by local associations will be raised to @$3 for Levels 1-8 and @$5 for Levels 9-12. Plaques that are awarded to Level 9-12 students will cost $12 each.
5. Updated AIM string and voice syllabi are in the works.

WHAT DO I GET FOR MY DUES??

Why have you become a member of GAE? Here are the answers that we received from current members in response to that question:

LeAnn Halvorson: “*Our profession is very solitary and it is important to have an organization of peers who are encountering the same successes and problems in our area of expertise. We need each other and learn from one another.*

Robert Raymond: *I joined GAE so I could enter my students in the annual AIM Exams. These tests have inspired my students to work hard at their repertoire and pull important music theory information together. The Aim tests have created a positive goal for the students.*

Barbara Kramer: *I became a member of GAE to ensure a continuing access to colleagues who share my occupation, and all that entails.*

Susan Stanard: I was encouraged by my friend and colleague Barbara Kramer.

Louann Murphy: *I think that GAE is a vital organization and a wonderful support for*

*music teachers. However, as of May 20, I am no longer teaching private music lessons, so will no longer be a member. The pipe organ part of our business has grown a lot in the past four years, and the Highland Community Chorus, which I direct, takes up more and more of my time.  I still feel I am contributing a lot to the world of music through these two endeavors.*

Kate Braatz: *I wanted to continue to learn as an educator and connect with other professionals committed to the same level of excellence!*

Debbie Meier: *Joining GAE has helped make me a better teacher as I have gained much knowledge, support and encouragement from other piano teachers through sharing ideas pertaining to teaching and promoting the love of music.*

Ruth Stith: *I joined GAE so my students can participate in AIM!*

Kathy Gallagher: *I had been a member in the past and wanted to rejoin.  Although I am working during the day, and cannot make it to the monthly meeting, I hope to take part in some of the activities this coming year.*

Karen Koch: Teaching *ideas, AIM, encouragement, friendship, professional identity, an opportunity to grow and serve, and, of course, to give me something to do in my excessive spare time!*

At the time of this writing, GAE has received notice of paid dues for 25 members. There’s still time. . .

*[[1]](#footnote-1)*

A FREE RECITAL VENUE. . .WITH A GRAND PIANO!

In accordance with the mission of the Schmidt Art Gallery at Southwestern Illinois College to promote and support all the arts, Nicole Dutton, Curator and Facility Administrator, has extended an invitation to GAE members. The Gallery will be happy to host performances by members or their students using the grand piano AT NO CHARGE! There are two conditions, however. The event must be held during the gallery’s regular hours, and it must be understood that the public is not restricted from access during the event. (After-hours events in this venue involve a $500 fee.) Information about Gallery hours, bookings, and location is available at [Schmidt Art Gallery](http://www.swic.edu/sac/) .

SUMMER LEARNING FOR TEACHERS

Thursday, August 3 9:30 AM-11:30 AM Lori Bastien on Bastien New traditions All In One Piano Course. Steinway Gallery 2616 Metro Blvd, Maryland Heights MO. Free with refreshments and snacks. RSVP to Mark Schellenberg, 314-291-4686, Email [music@midwestsheetmusic.com](mailto:music@midwestsheetmusic.com).

TIDBITS

News from **LUANN MURPHY** is that she and husband Richard are not taking any new piano tuning customers, although they will continue to serve current customers.  “We are

encouraging and passing business to Ian Hayden and Keith Wehmeier, part-time

piano tuners from Edwardsville. A few years ago, they were work-study students at SIUE under Richard, and that is how they got started with learning to tune and repair pianos (they also move them!). They both do a fine job, while teaching music at Althoff and playing reeds professionally in the area(Ian) and teaching at Lindenwood and singing professionally (Keith). Here is their contact info: Ian Hayden 618.719.1830; Keith Wehmeier 636.697.5636.” She also welcomes new singers for the Highland Community Chorus, which she directs.

**KATE BRAATZ** sent the following message for us all: *Well, we've moved to Wisconsin, so that's pretty big news for us!  ;)  If you'd like to include it, feel free!  I'm very grateful for the camaraderie and opportunities to learn and better myself as a teacher that our organization has provided me.  You'll all be missed!*

We will miss her beautiful smile and wish them the very best!.

An annual event for **DEBBIE MEIER** and **LEANN HALVOSON** is the Keyboard Ensemble Technology Seminar in Edmond OK in June.Led by Susan Ogilvy, they learned many new things along with reviewing material from the last time. It was a great week of learning at the Clavinova, playing ensembles together, renewing friendships and working on a project to present to the group on the last day. (Did you sneak in a visit to that new OK grandbaby, Debbie?)

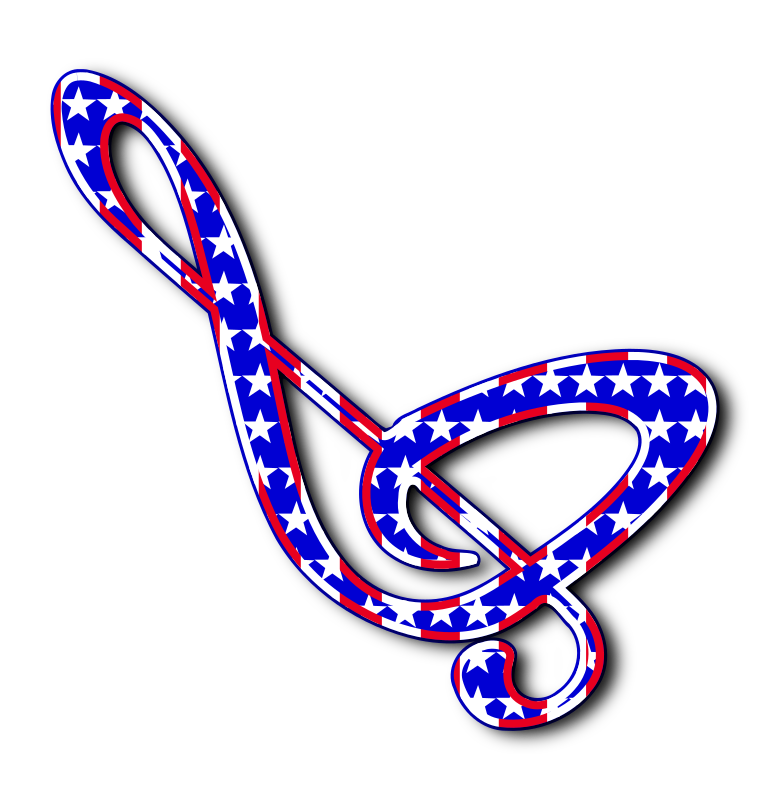
If you have an interest in a nice grand piano, **MARSHALL GURLEY (618-271-0201)** is the person to contact. He has a friend who wants to sell one.

**DR. STEPHANIE OWEN** reports the following wins for her vocal students: Jordyn Struense won two supporting roles in “Lion King” at St. Paul’s UCC Belleville; Chloe Schobert won the Grizzlies National Anthem Contest and will sing in August 2017; Connor Johnson was accepted to the second level of “The Voice” at St. Louis on Father’s Day.

Lauren Cerbin, daughter of **GILL CERBIN**, took first place in Great Composer Series “Best Rising Talent” competition for voice, singing Debussy’s “Nuit d’etoiles”. Gill is sending ten piano students to the MAMA competition in Kansas City at the end of July.

BONUS (from Certification Chairman, Karen Koch)



This quote by the current MTNA National President, Dr. Scott McBride Smith, NCTM, appears at the top of the MTNA website page describing the [MTNA Professional Certification Overview.](http://www.mtnacertification.org/certification-overview/)

Have you ever considered becoming certified? “Certification is a process that validates an individual's qualifications for a specific field of professional practice. It demonstrates to employers, clients, and peers that which the individual knows and is able to do. It signifies commitment to continued excellence in professional practice. In addition, it increases visibility, builds credibility, provides a goal for personal professional achievement and validates expertise for the individual and to those outside the field.”

The program is based upon a set of [**five standards**](http://www.mtnacertification.org/standards/) defining what a competent music teacher should know and be able to do.

GAE currently has 7 members (are there more?) who have already obtained the Nationally Certified Teacher of Music designation (Halvorson, Koch, Owen, Raymond, Sawyer, and Stanard). At least two additional members have expressed interest to me, and I would encourage anyone to read through the information that appears on the MTNA website in order to understand the requirements and benefits. The process is designed to educate, evaluate, and improve the teaching career of participants. I would equate its rigor to formal study, but formal college study is not necessary to earn it. There are many resources available from MTNA, online, and from supportive local teachers to make it possible to complete the program successfully. Why not jump into the NCTM pool this summer and get your professional exercise? The water is fine!

END

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)