

WBDI General Meeting
Monday, July 28th, 2025, 9:00 AM EST
Savvas Chamberlain School of Music, Maureen Forrester Recital Hall
Minutes

Members Present: Alondra Bahls-Mariles, Brittan Braddock, Kate Bredwell, Gabi Cathrae, Holly DeCaigny, Sarah Edwards, Sara Elliott, Emma German, Meryl Gillmore, Karen Gustafson Kaylie Hutcheon, Pam Klena, Allison Laibly, Dana Mandell, Holly McCoy, Kellie McInchak, Jillian McLeod, Shemeka Nash, Ann Reinhard, Amy Rever-Overle, Ashton Ritch, MJ Robinson, Nicole Sanford, Angela Schroeder, Shannon Shaker, Val Sherman, Brianna Smith, Courtney Snyder, Shayna Stahl, Lauren Staniszewski, Karen Summers, Krystal Williams, Tim Wright, Audrey Yosai.

Members Present via Zoom: Gina Abernathy, Marilyn Bennett, Tara Cappelletti, Kathy Cox, Lesley Moffat, Ruth Petersen, Fran Shelton

1. Call to Order-Pam Klena called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM
2. Approval of Minutes- Amy Rever Overly moved to approve the minutes from winter 2024, it was seconded by Courtney Snyder. The membership voted yay.
3. Welcome & Introductions-Pam Klena Invited the Past Presidents to introduce themselves
4. Committee Reports
 - a. Awards-On behalf of Bethann Adams, Pam Klena reported that the Past Presidents are working on awards that will be given at the winter meeting.
 - b. Commission Competition-Shayna Stahl reported that the piece will be premiered on September 30th with Susan Eckerle conducting. More information about the premiere will be shared via email and social media
 - c. Summer Conference: Leah McGraw shared that we had 47 people registered for the conference and that 17 people participated in the Conducting Symposium. The evening ended with a performance by the Wellington Winds
 - d. Corporate Membership-On behalf of Bethann Adams, Pam Klena reports that information about corporate membership can be found in the summer reports.
 - e. Microgrants-Shemeka Nash reports that there will be a grant to attend the Midwest Clinic that will open in August and awarded in September. Additional information from the committee can be found in their report.
 - f. Foundation Report-Sue Creasap provided an in-person report at yesterday's meeting and details about the foundation can be found in the summer reports document.
 - g. Historical Curation-Pam Klena reported that we are partnering with the University of Maryland to create a WBDI archive. We are looking into hiring an archivist and renting a storage unit where items can be shipped and are working with Dawn Farmer to create a logistical process of collecting and inventorying historical artifacts.

- h. Mentorship-Brittan Braddock reported that the committee is looking for additional members and a chair for this committee. There is a working plan in place for this committee and Brittan and Julia would be there to guide new leadership through the next steps.
- i. Midwest Booth-MJ Robinson reported that we will be expanding from a 10 x 10 booth to a 20 x 20 booth and that we have made several upgrades and personalizations. Members will have the opportunity to sign up for shifts at the booth starting in November.
- j. Professional development-Lesley Moffat reported that three sessions took place over the last few months and they can still be viewed on the website. Topics included work/life balance, Chat GPT, rehearsal strategies, and personal wellness.
- k. Scholarships: Shannon Shaker reports that scholarship applications will be open from September 1st to November 1st and encouraged the membership to publicize this to eligible students. The committee is looking for a person to take over as the chair of this committee and interested members should reach out to Pam Klena.
- l. Social Media-Emma Germann reported that followers have grown since the winter meeting. She is looking for ideas from the membership as well as committee members. Lastly, there is a shared google folder where attendees can share photos.
- m. State Chairs-Linda Thompson's report can be found in the summer reports document.
- n. Summa Cum Laude-Fran Shelton reports that this award was created by Gladys Wright to honor great bands from schools with smaller enrollment. Please encourage the membership to apply for this award. The award is presented at The Midwest Clinic.
- o. The Woman Conductor-Kathy Cox reports that the last few issues have been well received and that a few copies are still being printed for charter members. TWC is looking for a collegiate and middle school contributing editor. Updated guidelines for submissions can be found on the website.
- p. Website and MembershipWorks-Ruth Petersen reported that we moved up a level in MembershipWorks due to having more than 600 members. State Chairs can request a list of members and contact information. New pages on the website include a job board and keynote speakers from The Midwest Clinic. Linda Thompson also has banners that can be mailed out and used at state conferences.

5. Executive Board Reports

- a. President Report-Pam Klena reported that a WBDI Legacy Planning Committee has been formed and is dedicated to honoring the lives, service, and lasting contributions of members and leaders who have passed. This committee will begin meeting in the fall. A policies & procedures document has been established to ensure consistency during leadership transition. This document will be reviewed by the Executive Board and shared with the membership when it has been completed. Pam shared the Executive Board meeting topics for the next four months.

- b. Immediate Past President-On behalf of Bethann Adams, Pam Klena shared our Corporate Members and invited the membership to reach out with any connections for future connections
- c. Executive Secretary-Ruth Petersen reviewed the Financial Report. The switch to rolling membership has helped to keep our accounts healthy. Pam Klena reviewed the 2024-2025 budget and shared that the 2025-2026 will be available once it has been approved by the Executive Board. Ruth Peterson reported that our 501c3 status was reinstated dating back to 2010. Ruth reported that one year ago we had 335 accounts and we are currently at 636.
- d. Vice President-On behalf of Lucy Pascasio, Pam Klena reported about the new online Swag Store. The store has an abundance of styles and color choices and some winter professional workwear will be added shortly. Canadian residents can have their item shipped to Ruth Petersen who will then ship to Canada.

- 6. 25/26 FY Proposed Budget-Pam Klena reported that the new budget will be shared once it has been approved by the Executive Board.
- 7. 2025 Winter/Midwest Conference-Pam Klena reported that we will move to a larger, newer, more beautiful space within McCormick Place. We are looking to fill 150 seats so bring a friend! This new space is even less expensive than our last one. Col. Jason Fettig (WBDI Member & NBA President) will be our Keynote Speaker.
- 8. State Chairs & Committees-MJ Robinson reviewed open State Chair positions and provided a brief update on the 11 active committees.
- 9. 2026 Summer Conference-Pam Klena reported that the 2026 conference will take place at Omaha Central High School from July 8-11th 2026 and will be hosted by Chiyo Trauernicht.
- 10. 2027 Summer Conference-Applications will open this fall and committee members include Leah McGray, Shannon Shaker, and Ruth Petersen. There is a lot of support and information available to anyone who is considering hosting.
- 11. New Business
- 12. Call to Adjourn-Pam Klena moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 AM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tara Cappelletti