

WBDI General Meeting  
Thursday, December 18th 2025, 11:00-2:00PM  
Hyatt Regency McCormick; Chicago, IL  
Minutes

*Members Present:* Bethann Adams, Johanna Anderson, Samantha Andrejcisk, Carrie Backman, Alondra Bahls, Julia Baumanis, Amy Belluomini, Marilyn Bennett, Kimberley Benson, Emilie Bertram, Amy Bovin, Brittan Braddock, Debbie Bradley, Gail Brechting, Kate Bredwell, Lauren Calkin, Tara Cappelletti, Karina Carlsson, Meijun Chen, Holly De Caigny, Marisa Dinino-Fernandez, Kristy Domico, Susan Eckerle, Taylor Ely, Joselynn Garrison, Emma Germann, Emma Greenwood, Erick Guillen, Ashley Hawk, Lauren Helmer, Crystal Hoisager, Ashley Hokenson, Carrie Jensen, Lindsey Kemp, Rebecca Kilgore, Pam Klena, Melissa Kret, Andrea Mack, Kathy McCullough, Jillian McLeod, Hailee Milmine, Shemeka Nash, Carol Nendza, Katie Newmiller, Dollie O'Neill, Lucy Pascasio, Ruth Petersen, Dawne-Marie Powers, Katherine Prihoda, Wendy Reeves, Ann Reinhard, MJ Robinson, Jennifer Rose, Catherine Ruiz, Denisse Santos-Gooden, Angela Schroeder, Kimberly Scully, Tim Sexton, Shannon Shaker, Alex Shapiro, Fran Shelton, Steve Sherman, Val Sherman, Donna Smith, Natalie Smith, Courtney Snyder, Roxanne Stevenson, Michelle Styles, Linda Thompson, Chiyo Trauernicht, Rachael Urquhart, Amy Wemhoff, Braeden Weyhrich, Sarah Whitlock, Donna Wirth, Kimberly Wise, Nicole Wright, Lisa Zemlock

1. Call to Order-Pam Klena called the meeting to order at 11:04 AM
2. Approval of Minutes-Courtney Snyder moved to approve the minutes from summer 2025, it was seconded by Fran Shelton. The membership voted yay.
3. Welcome & Introductions-Pam Klena welcomed everyone to our luncheon and recognized the Past Presidents and introduced the Executive Board. Heather Hastings was recognized as the winner of our Commission Competition.
4. Recognition of the Corporate Sponsors-Pam Klena thanked DeMoulin Brothers, Quinlan and Fabish, and Yamaha Corporation of America.
5. Board of Directors Reports-Pam Klena recognized the Board of Directors and encouraged the membership to see their reports accessible via QR Code
6. 2025 WBDI Highlights-
  - a. WBDI has made intentional strides toward preserving and archiving the organization and its members through the formation of the Legacy Planning Committee and through steps taken toward assembling a permanent archive. Through the foundation, money was approved to support archival services which will be assembled at the University of Maryland Special Collection in Performing Arts.
  - b. In 2025, a \$500 monthly stipend was approved for the Executive Secretary. This stipend is in line with other organizations.
  - c. WBDI has created a Policies & Procedures document that is under review.

- d. WBDI has shown growth and connection via national gatherings. Our new and expanded meeting spaces as well as the “sponsor a friend” option are evidence of our growth and efforts to create a welcoming and inclusive community.
  - e. WBDI has demonstrated strategic financial stewardship via the approval of the 2025-2026 budget. The addition of our rolling membership model has contributed to a healthy and stable budget allowing the organization to plan responsibly and invest with intention. These decisions ensure that WBDI remains accessible, financially sound, forward-thinking, and responsive to current and future members.
7. 2026 Initiatives-
- a. MJ Robinson spoke about the historical curation initiatives at the University of Maryland. John Davis will serve as the primary contact for the project and Dawn Farmer will chair the effort and provide leadership and oversight.
  - b. MJ Robinson thanked the Julia Baumanis and Brittan Braddock for laying the groundwork in the Mentorship Committee and welcomed the new Co-Chairs Jenny Neff and Laura Doebler.
  - c. MJ congratulated Amy Bovin (Florida) and Lindsey Bogats (Nebraska) on the formation of their state chapters.
  - d. On behalf of Lesley Moffit, MJ Robinson recognized the presenters of this year’s professional development sessions.
  - e. Chiyo Trauernicht and Amy Wemhoff spoke about the Summer Conference *Building Foundations*. Highlights include a reading session, keynote speaker Paula Crider, a middle school lab band, the Omaha Zoo, *Jazz on the Green*, and an afternoon at the Art Museum. Registration opens on January 10th.
8. Honoring the Legacy of Gladys Stone Wright- The Past Presidents each presented a white rose in honor of Gladys. Her niece Nickki Kehoe presented a single red rose. Linda Moorehouse gave a tribute to Gladys which was followed by a moment of silence.
9. WBDI Scholarship Awards-Shannon Shaker and Meijun Chen reported that the Board and the WBDI Foundation granted additional scholarships as well as increased scholarship amounts. After the review of 163 applications, 8 scholarship recipients were selected. Information about the winners can be found in the Winter Reports document.
10. WBDI Membership Awards-Bethann Adams presented the following awards:
- a. Lifetime Membership Awards
  - b. Certificates of Appreciation to Dr. Courtney Snyder & Kathy Cox
  - c. Citation of Merit to Dr. Catherine Rand
  - d. The Silver Baton Award to Ruth Petersen and Tara Cappelletti
  - e. The Outstanding Service Award to Fred Parker
  - f. The Loyalty Award to Nikki Jo Kehoe
  - g. The Al G. Wright Award was presented to Dr. Joe Scagnoli by Fran Shelton and Sue Creasap
  - h. Hall of Fame Inductee Dr. Susan Creasap
  - i. The President’s Plaque to Dr. Pamela Klena

11. Transfer of Leadership-Pam Klena introduced the new Executive Board: Dr. MJ Robinson, President; Dr. Lucy Pascasio, President-Elect; Dr. Shayna Stahl, Vice President; Ruth Petersen, Executive Secretary; Tara Cappelletti, Recording Secretary
12. Call to Adjourn-Dr. MJ Robinson adjourn the meeting at 12:16

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Tara Cappelletti*

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