

Western Region Report June 2026

The Western Region of the NFMC comprises 12 states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington & Wyoming. While Hawaii is considered part of the Western Region, there are currently no Senior Clubs within the state. Of those 12 states, only Arizona, California, Idaho, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming have the requisite number of clubs to have a state representative. Alaska is working hard at promotion and we hope to see more clubs started there.

It is noteworthy that the Senior Clubs in the Western Region are almost entirely Festival Clubs. One exceptional example is the Monday Musical Club of Tillamook, Oregon. This club stands out as the only one in the Western Region that regularly brings local and professional entertainment to the music lovers in Tillamook County.

In regard to Federation (Junior) Festivals, I have not received a report from all of the states. In 2026, Alaska increased from 8 teachers to 11. Alaska is obviously benefiting from its extended outreach. Oregon and Utah had an increase in the number of events. In Idaho and Arizona the number of entries remained steady. In 2025 (the latest available numbers), the Western Region had 17,694 entries which was the 2nd highest by region (see Jr. Keynotes Fall 2025, Vol. 990, No. 1). The Western Region had 26% of the entries for the nation. There were 5 President's Cup Winners profiled in Junior Keynotes and 12 Grand Cup Winners.

For Junior Composers in 2025, Arizona had a First Place Winner in Class 2, California had an Incentive Award Winner in Class 3, and in Class 3 Oregon had an Incentive Award and California had an Outstanding Strings Award.

Junior Keynotes had 16 articles written by members of the Western Region. We could improve at highlighting our states in "State Buzz". There were 4 articles written by or about Western Region members in the Music Clubs Magazine.

Other Awards - Junior Achievement was well represented by California and Washington. Kristin Kim of Oregon took First Place in the Mary Alice Cox Award. Jennifer Kang of California took Second Place in the

Wendell Irish Viola Award and Hannah Girges of Washington State was the Western Region winner in this event. Alexander Hu from California was the Western Region winner for the Angie Greer Music in Poetry Award. Christina Bivol of Alaska, Evangeline Lien of California, Chelsea Lu of Nevada, Julia MA of Oregon, and Enya Zou of Washington State were the state winners for the National Music Week Essay contest. Susanna Valleau of Washington State was the 2025 winner of the Ouida Keck Award - Professional Development for the Independent Piano Teacher. Foster Patterson of Washington State was the 2nd Place winner of the Gretchen E. Roy Music Education Award.

In 2025-2026, the Western Region fundraiser, titled Practice for Hope, successfully raised \$400.00. These monies were raised to purchase ukuleles for the Dr. Alex Kim Foundation (www.alexkimfoundation.org) in Phoenix, AZ which provides free music lessons in Central Phoenix. This was far below what we hoped to raise. An analysis of this fundraiser will take place at the Western Region Luncheon.

The Western Region contributed articles to the Music Clubs Magazine and Junior Keynotes. This notable improvement can be directly attributed to the regular publicity Zoom meetings hosted by Julie Watson. Another reason for improvement is the reminder poster that Janie Gilliland makes for email distribution to our State Presidents. I am also proud to announce that two of the covers for Vol. 99 (2025-26) were created by talented students from the Western Region. The Fall issue was created by Irene Wang of Oregon (mislabeled as Washington) and the Winter Issue by Kai Sheen of California

Looking ahead to the next year, my goals are two-fold: 1. To hold a Zoom meeting with the State Presidents in early December. This will provide an opportunity for us to collaborate and problem-solve current challenges. 2. To send regular newsletters to all Western Region members, keeping them informed with the latest news and developments from National.

I am confident that the Western Region will continue to thrive and make its mark in the music community.

Respectfully submitted,
Wilma Hawkins
NFMFC Western Region Vice President