

## **2026 Administrative Division- Deborah Freeman, Chair**

### **Archives - Dr. George Keck**

The Archivist worked in the NFMC Archives for one week in June 2025.

Archival material valuable to the collection continues to be collected and added during the past year.

Work continues to sort and identify photographs in the collection.

The noted scholar, Dr. Marion Wilson Kimber, completed research in the Archives in August 2025 for her planned book, *Clubwomen Activists and the Making of American Music*, forthcoming from University of Illinois Press, which reveals the influence of women's clubs on the musical repertoire heard across the United States before World War II.

### **Arts Advocacy - Dr. Valerie Harris**

This year, the Arts Advocacy Committee focused on encouraging active participation in arts advocacy efforts at every level of the National Federation of Music Clubs. At the national convention, I presented a session to the Arts Advocacy Committee emphasizing the importance of empowering local clubs and state federations to become active advocates for the arts within their communities.

Throughout the year, I contributed a monthly article to the national newsletter, each highlighting a different aspect of arts advocacy and providing practical ideas for clubs and states to implement. These articles encouraged members to recognize the vital role the arts play in strengthening communities, breaking down socioeconomic barriers, supporting education, improving healthcare outcomes, and enriching quality of life for people of all ages.

Special emphasis was placed on helping states establish stronger advocacy structures and goals. State federations were encouraged to:

- Appoint a State Arts Advocacy Chair
- Incorporate Arts Advocacy goals into state planning and mission statements
- Collaborate with state Arts Councils and Arts Commissions
- Monitor legislation impacting the arts and arts education
- Work with local clubs to develop advocacy plans
- Complete NFMC Form AD-2-2

Local clubs were encouraged to:

- Appoint an Arts Advocacy Chair
- Collaborate with regional arts councils, school boards, and city councils
- Support local performing arts organizations, schools, music therapy organizations, veterans organizations, and other community arts initiatives
- Support legislation benefiting the arts and raise community awareness
- Share information about local arts events
- Complete NFMC Form AD-2-1

Members were also directed to [Americans for the Arts](#) as a valuable resource for information about local arts advocacy opportunities, legislation, and community engagement.

The Arts Advocacy Committee continues to encourage all NFMC members to serve as ambassadors for the arts in their communities. Through advocacy, collaboration, and education, we can ensure that the arts remain a vibrant and essential part of American life.

The following senior club reports were submitted:

Etude Music Club, Texas

The Etude Music Club supports legislation promoting the arts. They have actively used the [www.americansforthearts.org](http://www.americansforthearts.org) website to locate local legislation. They also support, monetarily and with promotion, the Youth Orchestra of San Antonio.

Musical Art Society, Pennsylvania

The Musical Art Society supports community orchestras and choirs. They advertise club events to the community through PFMC website, local newspapers and on social media. They incorporate club strategies that promote local arts.

### **Bylaws - Lana M. Bailey**

The Bylaws Committee is charged with receiving, reviewing and formatting Bylaw/Standing Rule amendments for presentation to the Board of Directors and to the Convention/Conference.

Prior to presentation to the appropriate body, communication and discussion involve the NFMC Bylaws Committee, Parliamentarian, and President.

Bylaw amendments were received, Committee-approved, and Executive Committee-approved in September and will be presented to the Conference voting body in Scottsdale. Standing Rule proposals were received, committee-approved and will be presented to the Board in Scottsdale

A list of 2025-26 Standing Rule Updates, Housekeeping updates, and an updated Standing Rules Table of Contents was posted on the website after the Austin Convention.

The Bylaws Committee: Lana M. Bailey, Chair; Dr. Ouida Keck; Cynthia Elmore; Lucinda Lear; Deborah Freeman, President/ex-officio member; and Wanda Sims, Parliamentarian.

### **Chaplain - Gloria Lien**

My focus is preparing and presenting the Memorial Service on Saturday, June 13. I've contacted state presidents for a list of the deceased, Valerie Harris sent out emails to state memorial chairs and notice was in the Music Clubs Magazine.

I've worked closely with Heidi Hong, Ashley in the national office, President Deborah Freeman and Cheryl Langley.

It's been an honor to serve in this way.

### **CODA - Harriet H. Coker**

The primary goals of CODA are to coordinate the work of the nine division chairs and to produce the NFMC Manual. It has been a pleasure to work with such an outstanding group of division chairs and NFMC President Deborah Freeman. Following the 2025 NFMC Austin Convention, division chairs were responsible for contacting each committee chair to update information for the 2025-2027 manual. This information was then forwarded to the Coordinator of Divisional Activities for the compilation of the new manual.

The manual is available on the NFMC website. Any or all the manual may be downloaded and printed. There were changes in division and committee chairs, so be sure to take advantage of the latest edition of the manual.

Coordinating the work of the nine division chairs is accomplished by communicating with the chairs during the year and assisting them and President Deborah Freeman in any way possible. Many of the division chairs have provided articles for the *Music Club Magazine* and/or *Junior Keynotes*.

It is an honor to serve as Coordinator of Divisional Activities.

### **Council of State Presidents - Starla Blair**

Since taking office in June of 2025, this officer has been in contact with all NFMC State Presidents to collect and update contact information and disseminate pertinent Federation information to them.

In the spring, this officer worked on the state president's training sessions for the NFMC Conference to be held in June in Scottsdale, Arizona. Below is the agenda planned for that week.

Currently this officer is receiving reports from State Presidents and has been pleased to hear from over 25 state presidents. This officer looks forward to seeing many of these State Presidents in Arizona!

#### **Tuesday June 9th; 9:00am-12:00pm**

**9:00 Introductions** - Starla Blair

Get acquainted activity

Mission statement

Update information on state presidents contact

information Vote on VP and Secretary of the Council

Structure of NFMC

**10:00** Welcome from National President Deborah Freeman

Senior Clubs – How to Start a Club/ Types of Senior Clubs/Recruitment and Retention

Linda Maurhoff, presenter

Liability insurance - Heidi Hong, presenter

**10:45** Responsibilities of Regions; Responsibilities and Role of the Board of Directors Panel Regional VPs: Wilma Hawkins - W, Mary Wescott - NC, Chris Vitt - SC, Linda Maurhoff - NE, Joel Adams - SE

**11:15** Junior Clubs information & Vivace - Lori Jessen, presenter

**12:00** Lunch

#### **Thursday June 11 11:00am-12:00pm**

How to Host a Young Artist - Terry Blair, presenter

Lucinda Lear, presenter – 1. Treasurer information 2. Dues / “Where does the money go?”

3. Competitions and Awards

#### **Friday June 12 4:00-5:00pm**

Protocol - Marcia Chaplin, presenter

How to run an effective meeting/Parliamentary Procedures – Wanda Sims,

Wrap-up session

**Headquarters Chair - Dr. George Keck**

The following were completed by the Chair in 2025-2026

A new refrigerator was purchased for the kitchen.

A new disposal was installed in the kitchen. The NFMC President appointed the Headquarters Chair to represent NFMC on the Smith Valley POA.

The Smith Valley POA unanimously voted to hire a property management company, HH Management, David Vickray CFO/Owner.

The Smith Valley POA unanimously voted a Special Assessment of \$2,200 in May 2026 for the purposes to repair the paved parking lot, dredge the holding pond, and update the property landscape.

The interior of the headquarters building was thoroughly cleaned.

### **Historian - Marcia Chaplin**

I have interviewed many NFMC State Presidents for the following state history:

Most state organizations were formed in the 1920's and joined NFMC at that time or shortly after.

Wisconsin formed a state organization in 1905. I did not receive information from all the states, but this seems to be one of the earliest organizations.

Few states have a Historian but do have knowledge and interest in their state history.

Most of the states have an average of 10 clubs, but there are some states that have as few as 3.

Most of the clubs participate in the NFMC Federation Festival, which seems to be a core interest in teachers.

While the state officers meet twice a year, in person conventions are held every other year for most state organizations. This is mainly due to the financial cost of conventions.

Clubs continue to hold in person meetings, but less frequently than in the past.

State accomplishments range from community outreach, performing in assisted living facilities, providing scholarships to college students, donating music materials to under privileged communities, hosting a junior composers festival, updating web sites and communication with members.

### **Office Chair - Dr. George Keck**

The following were completed by the Office Chair during 2025—2026

Interviewed and hired Office Manager: Mrs. Ashley Mattingly was hired June 21, 2025.

Interviewed and hired Assistant Office Manager: Mrs. Tracy Hernandez was hired June 21, 2025.

The Office Manager worked with the Finance Chair, Carolyn Nelson, and the CPA firm to update and learn all financial accounts.

Worked with the Office Manager to purchase a new safe to store valuables in the office of the Office Manager and to purchase a new copy machine.

### **Protocol - Marcia Chaplin**

Protocol is the application of customs and regulations that address the etiquette for proper procedures and courtesies during meetings, conferences, and conventions. Correct protocol is

important for the smooth operation of an event. The newly revised *NFMC Protocol at a Glance* is available through Headquarters and is an invaluable resource for all Federation members.

The 2025 NFMC convention in Austin, Texas was successful. We look forward to the NFMC Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona. At that time, the committee will review and prepare for the week's events, and individual members will receive assignments. Place cards and reserved signs will be prepared in advance for the various events and meals. National President Deborah Freeman will instruct us concerning individuals who are to have specific seating for the convention events, and they will be notified.

### **Sergeant-at-Arms - Daryl Jessen**

On Tuesday, June 10, 2025, between 3:00 PM and 4:00 PM, those wishing to volunteer for the Sergeant-at-Arms group will meet. Please check your Conference Handbook for the specific location.

The goal of the Sergeant-at-Arms group is to ensure that good order is maintained. As with any convention/conference, numerous meetings and activities will occur at different times and locations during the convention. The work will be assigned on a voluntary basis. It is our goal to have at least one Sergeant-at-Arms group member at most of the activities.

We assisted with the following duties:

1. We were present to ensure that meetings and functions begin smoothly.
2. Monitor doors as needed.
3. Act as pages/messengers when information needs to be relayed to the head table.
4. Usher, take tickets, and distribute programs as needed.
5. Assist the protocol chair upon request.
6. Serve as escorts when needed.
7. Assist the president in expediting meetings as requested.
8. We were available to help solve any problem of disorderly conduct, medical emergency, or other similar situations that might arise in the general gatherings. Be on call for similar duty as requested in meetings of smaller groups.
9. Helped supervise voting and tabulation of same, if requested.
10. Assist the president as necessary.

All desiring to volunteer for Sergeant at Arms in Arizona will be welcomed. Hope to see you on Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

### **NFMC Representative to the United Nations Department of Global Communications - Dr. Liana Valente**

These continue to be tumultuous times for the United Nations and the organizations affiliated with the DGC. The Civil Society Resource Centre office in NYC remains closed, although work is being completed by a reduced staff. In 2024, the UN DGC Civil Society Unit, in close collaboration with the Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT), began developing a new platform to engage with civil society. This

platform launched in spring of 2026, providing new procedures for accredited organizations to submit reevaluation reports, apply for UN grounds passes, and apply for special accreditation to High-Level Meetings for CSOs that are not in consultative status with ECOSOC. In April 2026, I submitted the review that included brief reports documenting NFMC's activities with supporting documents for the last four years (2022 – 2025). President Deborah Freeman provided executive answers to questions about NFMC's communication engagement and plans to enhance or expand its engagement with UN communication priorities in the next four years.

The NFMC review was approved in late April, and I received the paperwork to retrieve my UN Grounds pass. As of this writing, I will travel to NYC in late May 2026, to renew the grounds pass and visit UN Headquarters. I plan to return to NYC for events and Civil Society briefings during the 2026 – 2027 year.

I continue to attend UN briefings and meeting via UN TV and Zoom and write informative articles about the work of the UN, especially the progress of Agenda 2030 and the Decade of Healthy Ageing, for Music Clubs Magazine and Junior Keynotes. This past year, following my address at the National Convention in Austin, and encouraged by articles focused on Agenda 2030 and the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing, I received correspondence from Senior and Junior club members about their work in support of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Lucy Murphy, President of the Waco Euterpean Music Club, sent a report and photos describing the outreach she and her club members participate in each month, including leading sing-alongs at local senior centers. She now includes an update on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals at each club meeting and has distributed DGF wheel pins to their members. California VP Virginia Feitelson again sent reports and updates about Staccato Stars Junior Club and their continuing efforts to learn about and promote Agenda 2030 at their club meetings and at Festival. Their UN Chair, Sydney Goldenberg, recently traveled to NYC and toured the United Nations grounds.

NFMC has been a part of Civil Society affiliated with the United Nations since the inception of the UN Department of Public Information in 1946. The work of the UN begins locally, and each member of NFMC can help to make our world more just, equitable, and sustainable. I urge our members to explore the many facets of **The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** on the UN website. <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

It is an honor to continue to serve NFMC as Representative to the United Nations Department of Global Communications. I am proud of the work of the Federation and am delighted to talk about our organization when I present at conferences and attend international meetings. Members are encouraged to contact me for more information about the United Nations, Agenda 2030 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and the Decade of Healthy Ageing.