



NEW ENGLAND MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Date: June 6, 2026

Location: Online via Zoom

(<https://vsc.zoom.us/j/4755198060?pwd=NHM5MW5mWFJqMUI2WGZ5eFBGRHdyUT09>)

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Facilitator: Jennifer Chambers

NEMFA Executive Board Members/Attendance

Jennifer Chambers, President	Robert Gattie, S & E Festival	Sadie Jones, S
Eddie Wilkin, President-Elect	Steffen Parker, S & E Festival	Aimee Omeara
John Deeb, Immediate Past President	Tom Reynolds, Bulletin, Festival Host	Bridget Gattie,
William Sittard, Exec. Secretary-Treasurer	Frank Whitcomb, Librarian	Tony Brackett,
Lyvie Beyrent, Recording Secretary	Ray Churchill, Housing Chair	Wayne Spletts Manager
Amy Ranta, Interim Co-Chair Membership	Angelica Jackson, Co-Band Manager	
Lauren Churchill, Co-Chair Membership, Webmaster	Kevin Lam, Co-Band Manager	

Others in attendance:

Topic	Discussion	Next S
Welcome/Call to Order/Roll Call - JC & LB	Called to order at 9:38am	
Secretary's Report/Acceptance of 3/20/2026 EB Minutes	Lyvie will post correct minutes	Motion to accept
Association Member Comments		
- Recap of 2026 Festival	Thank you to everyone who pitched in and helped.	
Board Member Reports:		
Exec Sec/Treasurer - BS	Report Steffen asks if it is wise to keep this much in a non-investment account. Bill confirms he is waiting to find out some info before he deposits. Discussion	



NEW ENGLAND MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION (CONT'D)

Topic	Discussion	Next S
	about adding an assistant stipend for stage manager \$500. Steffen seconds. Amend to \$2,000 stipend to host for stipends. Lyvie accepts. Tabled.	
Ensemble Managers - Orch:TB Chorus: BG & AO, Band: KL & AJ, Jazz: WS	Orchestra - Tony makes a motion to accept program 1. Lyvie seconds. All in favor. Chorus - Working on getting programs together for approval. Band - Discussion about bassoon part in American Salute and moving it to bari sax and perhaps expanding band size. Quality over length requirements for this year's 100th. Amy makes motion to program 3. Lyvie seconds. Motion passes. Jazz Band: Wayne has signed John Fedchock as director and is working on a program.	Tony will get a list to Fran Bill will get contracts to co
President Elect - EW	NEMFA Constitution and ByLaw Summary.pdf Discussion of the process in approving our Constitution	
Bulletin - TR	Bulletin will come out this week - The bulletin will include the conductor's bio -	
Solo & Ensemble Festival - RG & SP	Hartford has agreed to host the Northern Site for 2026 with the caveat that there may be the latest round of PCB tests which may create some room issues - Access to Vocational Center and Middle School would be available to fill that need - RG has the banner!	
Festival Host - TR	Host site for 2027 is the same as the last time at this site - Can arrange a tour of Mechanics hall at September meeting - Also available to see July 12th to 15th as TR is hosting another event there	
Librarian - FW	Everything is fine - Band program in hand - Working on last Orchestra piece with Tony - Note to Chorus Managers about the folder preparation - That work done better in the summer - If chorus is increasing numbers, FW needs to know to order more pieces	
Membership - LC & AR	Should we have SWAG for the members as a commemoration of the 100th? T-shirt, bag, confetti? EW asked LC & AR to prepare a proposal to present at the next meeting - TB read a document on membership created years ago under John Kuhner that speaks about a scholarship opportunity (see	I have a proposal that I ju there for people to think a something that specificall and I may have mentione board, I really don't recall



NEW ENGLAND MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION (CONT'D)

Topic	Discussion	Next Steps
	Next Steps) - TB offered to work with LC & AR on developing a plan to put this into effect - Discussion of schools to target, people who can help, opportunities to connect teachers to our event, how success our efforts in the past have been in recruiting - RG asked about the financial costs followed by discussion that - Both AR & LC noted that they do not have the time to work on this - LC noted that we might consider focusing on one particular instrument that we have had low numbers for in the past - Further discussion	So the objective, of course, is to increase membership, especially for student participation in our programs and to recruit students from among the states as possible So my proposal is to identify schools that would include schools, youth programs, strong private community music schools, and other organizations in New England to send students to the Solo Ensemble Festival in December at no cost to them. We will guarantee at least one student invited to participate in the festival at no cost to them. Nempha agrees to share the cost of those schools and programs for a period of three years at no cost to the festival. In return the sponsors agree to sponsor the Solo Ensemble Festival at their expense And the concert principal, who is responsible that sponsors must register as a member and pay the annual fee.
Social Media - SJ (Sadie Jones)	No report	
President - JC	JC out with illness - EW covering	
Old (Unfinished) Business - JC		
• New Business - JC	JC has reached out to Decapo Technology to build the online platform for us for \$15k initial and \$3K annual. SP has been in contact with the company and have come up with some tasks that it can do and some that it cannot - Those would require manual administration - Discussion of positives of how this same company has provided tech for other associations - SP raised concern about adjustments and cost LC makes motion to accept their proposal - AJ second - EW asked WS about covering costs - Motion moved and passed - 9 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstained	



NEW ENGLAND MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION (CONT'D)

Topic	Discussion	Next S
	RC - Retiring from Griswold at the end of the year - Will remain our Housing Chair for the foreseeable future AJ - Ask about having a smaller meeting to discuss the selection process to clarify seating and making sure we provide the best possible ensembles - TR - We have always try to be as fair and sensitive to the kids' needs in our selection - A bit concerned that we make sure the new software remains fair to the students - LC - Concerns that students will all want to be in Band - Add a second choice to the application process - SP - Concern about capturing this additional information - EW - Queried the group to find a time to meet to discuss - August 3rd - 6 to 8 AR - Making sure that the bylaws are made more apparent to students to avoid last year's issue in dismissing the students EW - Move September meeting to 12th (to avoid Labor Day) - Boxboro	
EB Roundtable		
Adjournment		

Additional Questions/Concerns/Meeting Highlights

**Next Meeting – Saturday, September 5, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.
Location: Boxboro Regency, MA**

2026-27 EB Meeting Schedule	Future Concert Dates
June 6, 2026 - Online via Zoom	2027 - March 11-13
September 12, 2026 - Worcester, MA	2028 - March 16-18
December 11, 2026- Griswold, CT	2029 - March 15-17
March 20, 2027 - Worcester, MA	2029 - March 14-16