



MNSOTA

The Minnesota String and Orchestra Teachers Association (MNSOTA) is the state affiliate of the national organization, American String Teachers Association (ASTA).

In the spring of 1998, the Board of Directors of both MNASTA and MNSOA began working together to unify the organization at the state level. By the fall of 1998, the newly unified organization, MNSOTA, was up and running, ready to offer all events and services of the former organizations.

In February 2007, MNSOTA became a nonprofit corporation in the state of Minnesota. New Bylaws were adopted in the fall 2007, and were ratified by membership vote in the spring of 2008.

In 2005, 2007 and 2009, MNSOTA received the “Best Newsletter” Award from ASTA. In 2006, MNSOTA received the national “Best State Chapter” Award.

MNSOTA State Presidents

1998–2000	Barbara Lamb, Wayzata
2000–2002	Julie Guerber, Cottage Grove
2002–2004	Nathan Davis, Moorhead
2004–2006	Connie Aiken, Falcon Heights
2006–2008	Lorie Hippen, Mounds View
2008–2010	Sarah Chelgren, Plymouth
2010–2012	Nancy Bjork, Minneapolis

MNSOA

The Minnesota chapter of the National School Orchestra Association was founded officially in 1993, chartered at Midwest Band and Orchestra clinic, through the work of Elizabeth Deger, Stillwater; Gwen Armwood, Wayzata; Andrea Olijnek, Hastings; Lynne Bulger, West St. Paul; Jean Liss, Bloomington; Susan Scott, Roseville; Joe Mish, Pine Island; Barb Flooding, St. Cloud and Anne Marie Person, St. Paul.

MNSOA’s beginnings revolved around the idea of getting school orchestra teachers together to share ideas and to offer more opportunities for middle school string students. The Fall String Camp, New Music Reading Clinic and All-State Teachers Workshop began immediately. The Middle Level Orchestra Festival evolved from a three-orchestra event, held first in Stillwater in 1989.

MNSOA State Presidents

1993–1997	Elizabeth Deger, Stillwater
1997–1998	Andrea Olijnek, Hastings

MNASTA

The Minnesota chapter of the American String Teachers Association

was founded in 1951 following a string clinic held at the University of Minnesota in Duluth. Thirty-six members formed the charter group. Officers were president James E. Smith, UMD; vice-president Beatrix Lien, St. Olaf College; secretary Harry Nordstrom, Carleton College; and treasurer Lloyd Swartley, Duluth public schools.

Arnie Krueger recalls leaders from the ’50s included Dick Guy, Ted Brunson and John Bach, all from Rochester, and Howard Van Sickle from Mankato. Dick Sieber, who worked at the University of Minnesota and then directed MacPhail Center, was active in the ’60s and ’70s. When Arnie Krueger became president, his mission was to involve more symphony players in the organization, and so Jim Clute and Clifton Jackson both became president. Clifton Jackson recalls that Dick Sieber was an inspiration and helped make it a pleasure to be president.

Three Minnesotans served national ASTA. Howard Van Sickle became editor of the *American String Journal* in 1960, was national president from 1966–1968 and served again as vice president 1970–1972. Paul Askegaard was *ASJ* editor 1966–1968. Dick Sieber was national president 1974–1976.

MNASTA State Presidents

1951	James E. Smith, Duluth
1953–1955	Beatrix Lien, Northfield
1957–1958	Dick Guy, Rochester
1959	Howard Van Sickle
1960–1961	Clifford Brunzell, Minneapolis
1962–1964	Eli Barnett
1965–1966	Kenneth Davenport, Anoka
1967–1968	Dick Sieber, Minneapolis
1969–1972	Jim Berg, Minneapolis
1973	Arnold C. Krueger, Owatonna
1974	James Clute, Minneapolis
1975–1978	Clifton Jackson, Minneapolis
1979–1980	Paul Miller, Pine Island
1981–1982	Cheryl Paschke, Minneapolis
1982–1983	Dick Massmann, Minneapolis
1984–1985	Shirley Thomson, Minneapolis
1986–1987	Dean Dainsberg, Alexandria
1988–1989	Jim Hainlen, Stillwater
1990–1991	Stella Anderson, Minneapolis
1992–1993	Harry Dunscombe, Mankato
1994–1995	Ray Comstock, Duluth
1996	Bruce Wood, St. Cloud
1997–1998	Barbara Lamb, Wayzata