

HISTORY of THE NORTH DAKOTA FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

Eleanor Johnson, Historian

On October 16th, 1919 twelve delegates representing various music clubs of the state of North Dakota assembled in the music room of the Presbyterian Church in Grand Forks to discuss plans for forming a state federation of music clubs. Delegates present were Mrs. J. A. Jardine, Mrs. G. H. Weiler and Mrs. F. B. Hutchinson of the Fargo Amateur Musical Club; Mrs. J. A. Poppler of the Ladies Thursday Musical Club of Grand Forks; Mrs. Jessie Finley Riley of the Wednesday Musical Club of Minot; Misses Pfist and Falley of Wahpeton; Mrs. Upham and Miss Hattie Anderson of the Amateur Musical Club of Grafton; Mrs. L. W. Meyers of the Marion Musical Club; and Mrs. W. H. Steele and Mrs. A. G. Jacobson of the Thursday Musical Club of Bismarck.

Mrs. Jardine was appointed chairman and Mrs. Jacobson secretary. A committee of five was appointed to draft a constitution, which was read and adopted by unanimous vote at the next meeting, October 17th, subject to the approval of the clubs represented by the group. Miss Clara Pollock of Fargo was added to the list of delegates at that meeting.

The first officers were President - Mrs. Jardine, Fargo; Vice President – Mrs. Poppler, Grand Forks; Treasurer - Mrs. Hattie Anderson, Grafton; Recording Secretary - Miss Clara Pollock, Fargo; Corresponding Secretary - Mrs. Jacobson, Bismarck. The stated aim of the organization was to obtain an organized effort among the music clubs of the state, to inspire higher ideals and true musicianship, to promote an appreciation of music and to stimulate a desire for musical expression among the musically interested people of the state.

The first meeting of the executive board of the North Dakota State Federation of Music Clubs was held November 15th, 1919 in Fargo at the home of Mrs. Jardine. At this time the Jamestown Music Club was admitted as a charter member and the state was divided into districts. The executive committee adopted the slogan "A musical club in every town".

During the first year of the State Federation's existence, departments of work were arranged similar to those outlined by the National Federation of Music Clubs and chairmen were appointed. The first annual meeting was held October 5th, 1920 in Bismarck. Organization of Junior Clubs was discussed. A state contest for young artists was planned at a meeting on January 8, 1921.

The First Biennial Convention took place in Grand Forks on May 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 1922. The opening day featured a song recital by Edward Johnson of the Metropolitan Opera Company. The National contest winners, Enrique Ros, pianist and Herman Rosen, violinist appeared in concert as did North Dakota artists, including a two hundred voice state chorus that performed "Hiawatha's Wedding Feast". Reports were presented by the officers and department heads. Mrs. Jardine spoke of the work before the Federation; the organization of Junior Clubs, the development of community singing and the building up of a scholarship loan fund. At that time the club directory included the Thursday Musical Club of Bismarck, the Cole Harbor Musical Club of Cole Harbor, the St. Cecelia Club of Dickinson, the Fargo Musical Club, the Apollo Club and Omicron chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota of Fargo, the Amateur Musical Club of Grafton, the Ladies Thursday Musical Club and Mu chapter of S. A. I. of Grand Forks, the Jamestown Music Club of Jamestown and the Lamoure Music Club of LaMoure. A club from Valley City was added to the list at the convention.

The Second Biennial Convention, April 8th, 9th and 10th, 1924, was also held in Grand Forks with a board meeting on the 7th of April. A highlight of that convention was a concert by the Polish pianist, Paderewski. The Third Biennial Convention took place March 3rd, 4th and 5th, 1926 at Fargo and the Fourth Biennial Convention was held at Valley City, May 2nd, 3rd and 4th, 1928. At that time Mrs. J. A. Poppler of Grand Forks was elected president to succeed Mrs. Jardine.

During these years the State Federation and its member clubs were active sponsors of musical growth in the state encouraging young talent through festivals, the Young Artists' Contest and the Scholarship Loan Fund, encouraging the formation of orchestras and opera groups in the state, presenting programs and protesting such things as a tax on concert tickets and a movement in some parts of the state to abandon supervised music in the public schools. The group introduced the observance of National Music Week in the state. Membership of both Senior and Junior Clubs steadily increased. In 1929 there were thirty eight clubs in good standing with 787 adult members and 267 Junior members.

The North Dakota State Federation of Music Clubs saw its first president, Mrs. J. A. Jardine become corresponding secretary and then vice president of the National Federation. She served as chairman of the biennial convention in Minneapolis in May, 1933 and at that convention was elected president of the National Federation of Music Clubs.

Mr. John C. Howard of the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks was elected president of the State Federation in 1930 and Mrs. B. H. Kroeze in 1938. In 1940 Mr. Howard again became president and served in this office until 1942. During the war years the North Dakota State Federation of Music Clubs took part in the national project of sending phonographs to army camps and equipping remote arctic outposts with records. The Past Presidents Assembly was organized in 1943 under the chairmanship of Mrs. J. Bustin of Grand Forks, and this group took on the project of encouraging and assisting the winners of the Young Artists' contests to attain a broad education and, in a few cases, even concert careers. At the time of the convention in May, 1944 about thirty members were included in this group and were added at that time. In 1950 Mrs. Bustin (then Mrs. W.J. Dunkel) received a gold pin and citation from Mrs. Charles Pascoe of the National Federation, "for outstanding work in North Dakota in securing six new charter groups". The new chartered groups were Grand Forks, Fargo, Minot, Williston, Devils Lake and Dickinson.

Mr. Joseph Black of Jamestown was elected state president in 1942 Mrs. Harley King of Minot assumed the office in 1948. Mrs. W. S. Shaw of Fargo served two terms as president in 1952 and then went on to represent the state on the National Board. She was followed as president by Mrs. J. B. Bridston of Grand Forks in 1956 and Mrs. Eloise Halvorson in 1958.

During these years the individual clubs of the North Dakota State Federation of Music Clubs built up traditions in their own communities. They presented Christmas programs, often in conjunction with other musical groups; gave programs of works by American composers; sponsored concerts by local and state artists and by artists from other parts of the country; gave scholarships; encouraged Junior Clubs and in general enriched the musical life of their communities. The State Federation sponsored auditions for the Edgar Stillman Kelley and the Marie Morrissey Keith scholarships and supported these funds. In 1953 there were sixty nine Senior, Student and Junior Clubs in the state.

The 1960's were active years for the State Federation. In 1961 the Northern Lights District of the National Federation of Music Clubs was made responsible for a program and one

of the dinners during the National Convention in Kansas City. This district includes North and South Dakota, Minnesota and Nebraska. North Dakota clubs held various fund raising projects to raise part of the money to send the University Bards to perform on the convention program. The Concordia College Choir also appeared representing both Concordia College and the Concordia Conservatory in Fargo. The two groups appeared separately and as a *massed* chorus. Mrs. W. S. Shaw was national choral chairman for the convention. A Scandinavian theme was used for the dinner at which Mrs. Shaw was master of ceremonies.

Mrs. R. E. Burns became president in 1962 and that year also marked the beginning of the observance of North Dakota Federation Days at the International Music Camp at the Peace Garden. At that time declaration was made of the Agnes Jardine Scholarship of \$500.00 to be given annually to the International Music Camp. Mrs. Jardine represented the national president, Mrs. Dorothy Bullock at this event, and Mrs. Shaw was chairman and master of ceremonies.

In 1964 Mrs. Eckart J. Heid of Dickinson was elected president. The twenty third Biennial Convention in 1966 was attended by four national officers, Mrs. Clifton F. Muir of Coral Gables, Florida, national president; Mrs. W. S. Shaw, president of the Central Region, Mrs. Harley King of Minot, National Board member, and Mrs. J. B. Bridston of Grand Forks, president of the Northern Lights District. Mrs. Shaw had moved from North Dakota to Edina, Minnesota. At this convention a Practice Hut Luncheon was held to raise funds for a second practice hut to be given to the International Music Camp. Mrs. George C. Sturgeon was elected president at this convention.

Mrs. Charles M. Pollock of Fargo became president in 1968, Mrs. Walter Brusven of Bismarck in 1970 and Mrs. James Randall of Dickinson in 1974. After completing her term as president, Mrs. Pollock became North Dakota's representative on the Nation Board.

Mrs. James Randall of Bismarck served as president of the North Dakota Federation of Music Clubs throughout 1975 and was re-elected to that office at the biennial convention at Fargo, April 30th through May 2nd of 1976. At that time the senior clubs were Thursday Music Club of Bismarck, Carrington - New Rockford Music Club, Devils Lake Music Club, St. Cecelia Music Club of Dickinson, Fargo Music Club, Fargo Fine Arts Club, Thursday Music Club of Grand Forks, Jamestown Music Club, Schumann Music Club of Minot, McDowell Music Club of Stanley, and Thursday Music Club of Williston. There were five student clubs and over seventy Junior clubs.

Both the convention program and the programs of the various music clubs featured American music to celebrate the Bicentennial. A high point in the state's contribution to this event was the concert by the International Music Camp Tour Band and Choir in the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. They received a standing ovation. In Addition, North Dakota was represented in a concert in the foyer by the Frank Scott Band from Fargo. Its appearance was made possible through contributions from individuals and civic groups throughout the state and through the efforts of Stella Pollock, North Dakota's representative on the National Board, who was responsible for securing funds to send the Fargo group to Washington.

During the Bicentennial celebration and the several years following a special effort has been made by the State Federation to bring the works of North Dakota composers before the public. Barbara Laybourn negotiated with the National Music Council to put together a series of ten half hour tapes for radio, nine of which featured compositions by North Dakotans, while the tenth is of the Kennedy Center concert by the International Music Camp Tour Band and Choir. These were broadcast by various radio

stations in the state. Martha Hoghaug, chairman of Women Composers and Opera, collected manuscripts from North Dakota women composers and put them on file.

The North Dakota Biennial Student Auditions held February 4th, 1977 on the University of North Dakota campus had the largest participation of recent years with eleven students entering. The winners, Kathryn Power of Beulah - women's voice, Nancy Shafer of Valley City - orchestral winds, and Kenneth Putz of Harvey - men's voice advanced to the Northern Lights District Auditions at Macalister College in St. Paul, where they represented their state very well. Miss Power was declared a district winner.

The 1977 Spring Board meeting took place April 16th at Jamestown. Congratulations were extended to Dr. Merton Utgaard and the International Music Camp for the recognition given them by the National Federation of Music Clubs in the form of a Merit Award for the Promotion of International Relations in music through the International Youth Band Festival sponsored by the camp during the summer of 1976. On November 9th Dr Utgaard also received the first annual Governor's Award for the Arts, after being nominated for this honor by the board. Federation Day at the camp was July 15th, 1977 with the Thursday Music Club of Williston as hosts.

National Music Week was observed May 1st to 8th, 1977 with Mrs. Richard Johnson as chairman. The Theme was "Reaching Mankind Through Music".

NDFMC helped to host the President's Reception at the National Federation of Music Clubs Convention in Kansas City April 22nd through 27th, 1977. Stella Pollock, National Board member, and Margaret Randall, state president, attended. Mrs. Randall acted as a page to the national president and also served as a hostess for the reception.

The 1977 Fall Board meeting was held September 27th in Fargo.

The 1978 Biennial Convention and Spring Board meeting took place April 21st to 23rd at Devils Lake with the Carrington-New Rockford Area Music Club assisting. A highlight of that Convention was a concert by Peter Zazofsky, 1977 National Federation of Music Clubs Young Artist Auditions winner. Mrs. Hale Laybourn, Fargo was elected president. National Guest was Mrs. Frank Vought, National President. The Bismarck Thursday Music Club accepted the responsibility of hosting Federation Day, July 14, 1978 at the International Music Camp.

The 1978 Fall Board meeting was held September 26th in Grand Forks. Stella Pollock was re-elected for her seventh term as state representative on the National Board of Directors. It was decided to nominate Lawrence Welk for the NFMC Distinguished Musician Award.

The 1979 Spring Board meeting was held March 26th in Bismarck. Participation in the Junior Music Festivals at various points in the state has continued to grow under the direction of Mr. Otto Muecke, State Junior Festivals chairman. Mr. Muecke resigned at this meeting due to work pressure.

At the N.F.M.C. Convention in Portland, Oregon in April, 1979 North Dakota was selected as one of the three states to be honored by honoring a distinguished Musician. Mrs. Frank Vought, President of the N.F.M.C. announced Lawrence Welk's selection at the final banquet of the Convention

The 1979 Fall Board meeting was held October 2nd at Jamestown. Lydia Hanson moved and it was passed to instigate a "Family of the Year" Award. It was reported that the Agnes Jardine Endowment Fund, in honor of N.D.F.M.C.'s first president who became the thirteenth president of

the National Federation of Music Clubs, has reached the goal of \$8,000. This now ensures that \$500 will be sent annually to the International Music Camp for scholarships.

The 1980 Convention was held in Williston, April 18th through the 20th. Lydia (Mrs. Norman) Hanson of Carrington became president. The fifteen past presidents of the state federation were honored at the formal banquet. Mrs. Harley King who was the sixth president (from 1948 to 1952) was in charge.

Mrs. Hanson was succeeded in 1982 by Mrs. Grace Williams of Fairmount at the Convention in Grand Forks. The Convention bulletin was dedicated by the Thursday Music Club to Anna Jo Bridston, past president of Thursday Music Club and of the state federation, life member and past Northern Lights coordinator.

The 1984 Convention in Dickinson, April 26th through the 28th held some surprises. It was probably the only time there were more members attending the pre-convention board meeting than attended the Convention, also the only one in which the host club was conspicuously absent and the scheduled performing delegates all failed to appear. The program, dedicated to Margaret Randall, faithful member of the St. Cecelia Club and past state president and treasurer, wasn't distributed until after the Convention. It wouldn't have helped to have it earlier because it wasn't followed. The problem was a late season blizzard that completely buried board members' cars and held the members themselves captive in the Holiday Inn, Convention headquarters, until one day after the Convention was to adjourn. By Friday morning the Dickinson board members who had gone home after the board meeting couldn't get back. Eloise and Ernie Halvorson, who were in a motel across the road had to be helped with a jeep to get to the Holliday Inn. Nevertheless let it go down in history that we did have a Convention with business meetings, informal luncheons and dinners, a memorial service and improvised programs that really tested the ingenuity of the members including one program open to the public (the public being the other stranded guests at the motel who really appreciated being entertained).

For one of the numbers on the program Doris Lambie, Martha Hoghaug and Esther Sturgeon formed a trio and really amused the audience with Doris' parodies on several folk tunes, one of which was "We're Held Captive By a Snowstorm Down in Dickinson" to the tune of "I've Been Working on the Railroad". They really were good. At the end there was a sing-a-long with the motel providing song books.

North Dakota has traditionally held its Conventions in even numbered years, but it was decided that since National Conventions are held in odd numbered years, often making it necessary for a state officer to work with two different individuals holding the same office on national level during her term, it would be better to change to odd numbered years to comply with national.

A mini-convention, one day plus a pre-convention board meeting was held in Carrington April 26th and 27th of 1985. Conventions from then on would be in odd numbered years.

In 1980 during the Williston Convention a "Musical Family of the Year" was selected for the first time with various clubs sending in nominations. The Thornton family of Dickinson was the first to be selected. Their son, Scott subsequently won the high school Stillman Kelly auditions on national level playing the horn. The Russ Pearson family of Devils Lake won the honor in 1982. The Virgil Severson family was chosen in 1984 but was unable to attend the Convention because of the storm so they received the award in Carrington in 1985.

The Kenneth Peterson family of Grand Forks won the honor and Reverend and Mrs. Peterson attended the banquet at the Convention in Bismarck May 7th, 8th and 9th, 1987. The program booklet was dedicated to Stella Pollock for her years of dedicated and faithful service to the federation and for her encouragement and inspiration. National president, Mary Prudie Brown attended the 1997 Convention. Odee (Mrs. Gordon) Maier who was elected president in 1985 accepted another term of office.

One change that took place during the 1980's was the disbanding of the Schumann Club of Minot. The Minot Music Teachers formed a federated club to insure the continued participation of their students in the Junior Music Festival.

The North Dakota Federation of Music Clubs celebrated its seventieth anniversary in 1989, the same year that the state of North Dakota celebrated it's hundredth anniversary. Both events were remembered at the 1989 State Convention, May 11th, 12th and 13th in Fargo and throughout the year.

The 1989 Convention booklet was dedicated to Eloise Halvorson, past state president and for many years Gold Cup Chairman for her years of dedicated and faithful service. Barbara Irish, treasurer of the National Federation of Music Clubs was the official guest and the Convention was also attended by Lydia Hanson, North Dakota's representative on the National Board of Directors. Doris Lambie of Grand Forks was elected president. Revisions to the constitution were gone over. Merton Utgaard made a motion that the revisions be tabled until each member is given proper notification of the revisions. The motion was seconded and passed. Corrected revisions were approved and passed at the Fall Board meeting September 9th in Jamestown.

The 1990 Spring Board meeting was held April 21st in Carrington, and Beiseker Mansion, a bed and breakfast place was the meeting place for the Fall Board meeting in Fessenden on September 22nd.

The Minot Piano Teachers' Federated Music Club was host for the 1991 State Convention April 25th, 26th and 27th. Virginia Allison, first vice president of the National Federation of Music Clubs was a guest. The program booklet was dedicated to Gay King of Minot for dedicated and faithful service to the Federation throughout the years. Dee Meisner of Bismarck was elected president.

The winter, 1991 edition of Music Clubs Magazine contained an item about the International Music Camp with a picture on the cover of students attending the camp and Esther Sturgeon, State Chairman of Scholarships to the International Music Camp. She attended the Federation Day event there and presented Agnes Jardine Scholarships ten students.

The 1991 Fall Board meeting was September 14th and the 1992 Spring Board meeting was May 2nd. Both were held at the Captain Meriweathers in Bismarck. A highlight of the Fall Board meeting was a boat ride on the Missouri River and a highlight of the spring meeting was the music of Louise Zuern, harpist who played melodies from Broadway musicales during the luncheon.

The 1992 Fall Board meeting was held at Carrington. At that meeting Lenora Jenson, chairman of the Musical Family of the Year Committee brought out problems with this program. After much discussion a motion was made and seconded and carried that we leave the program

as it is for the 1993 Convention which will honor a professional family. In the future it will be left up to the individual clubs to do as they wish about it. It will not be a state program.

The 1993 State Convention was held in Grand Forks. The official program was dedicated to Esther Sturgeon, former state president, treasurer and long time Board member. Richard Glazier, pianist was the National Young Artist appearing in a concert. Vicki Willman of Bismarck was elected state president.

The 1993 Fall Board meeting was October 2nd at the Doublewood Inn in Bismarck. The Doublewood Inn was also the site of the 1994 Spring Board meeting, April 23rd. The State Federation received a substantial gift from the estate of Gay Gidley King, long time board member and former state president. Its use was discussed, but since the committee that was to look into plans to expend these funds was not present, this report was postponed until the Fall Board meeting.

The Fargo-Moorhead Area Music Club celebrated its centennial in November 1994 with a banquet and an evening of music presented by Dr. Richard Glazier which was entitled "An Evening with the Gershwins". Virginia Allison, National Federation of Music Clubs president, and Frances Christman, regional vice president were guests, along with members of other music clubs in the state.

The 1994 Fall Board meeting took place in Fargo on November 18. Since it was right after Fargo's Centennial celebration Virginia Allison and Frances Christman were still in Fargo and able to attend. Doris Lambie and Merton Utgaard presented a request to the group to purchase a grand Piano for the International Music Camp to be placed in the new auditorium. After considerable discussion about the care, location, use, recognition of the gift, dedication, etc., Odee Maier made a motion that we purchase the piano with some of the money that we had received from the Gay Gidley King estate. This was seconded and carried. The piano is a seven foot Baldwin Grand and includes a deluxe adjustable bench, heavy duty cart and quilted cover.

The 1995 State Convention was held *in* Dickinson and was hosted by the St. Cecelia Music Club. Andrew Armstrong, pianist and NDFMC young artist, gave the Convention concert on the evening of May 5th. The Convention continued the next day. The St Cecelia Music Club chorus provided special music. Donna Koppenhaver of Grand Forks was elected state president. Odee Maier is our representative on the National board and Doris Lambie is National Representative of Scholarships to the International Music Camp, and Regional Junior Festivals chairman.

The 1995 Fall Board meeting of the North Dakota Federation of Music Clubs took place September 9th at the Dakota Inn in Jamestown. Odee Maier, National Board member announced that the Centennial book by Lucille Ward, "100 Years - a Legacy of Music" is now being distributed. A copy has been ordered for NDFMC and will be placed in the president's files. She also announced that the NDFMC 1996 Fall Board meeting will be held in Burlington, Vermont.

A report on the International Music Camp was given by the National representative for the Agnes Jardine Scholarships chairman, Doris Lambie. This is the camp's 40th year and there were 2,778 persons in attendance from six provinces, twenty three states and twenty foreign countries. The ten Agnes Jardine Scholarships were awarded during a reception hosted by the Minot Piano Teachers Club.

The 1996 Spring Board meeting was held April 27th and was also at the Dakota Inn in Jamestown. A letter from NFMC president Barbara Irish concerning the Centennial Fund and a thank you note from Maria Williams for our support and encouragement as she entered the Metropolitan Opera Auditions, were read.

Donna reported that she sent notes of congratulations to the Thursday Musical Club of Williston for their 75th anniversary, to Anna Jo Bridston, a past state president, past Northern Lights District president and life member on her hundredth birthday and to two regional junior composer winners from North Dakota.

The 1996 Fall Board meeting was held in Grand Forks. A thank you note was read from NFMC Development director Diane Dawson for the gift of \$500.00 for the "Embrace the Future" Fund. National board member Odee Maier reported on the recent NFMC Fall Board meeting in Burlington, Vermont. Doris Lambie reported the Federation Day at the International Music Camp was July 26th. The Fargo-Moorhead Area Club was hostess for the reception for the ten Agnes Jardine Scholarship winners. President Donna Koppenhaver presented a \$500.00 check to Mr. Joe Alme.

The 1997 Spring Board meeting and Biennial Convention originally scheduled for mid April was postponed to June 17th and 18th due to extensive spring flooding in the Red River Valley. It was held at the Holiday Inn in Fargo. The Convention program was dedicated to Gertrude Haskins, a very active and dedicated member of the Fargo - Moorhead Area Music Club. The Fargo Moorhead Club presented a performance of "The Mikado" by Gilbert and Sullivan using local talent.

Carolyn Nelson of Fargo was elected president. Other officers elected were Joanne Schlanser of Fargo, vice president; Odee Maier of Fargo, treasurer; Bette Hildebrand of Fargo, recording secretary; and regional vice presidents Mary Christine Larson, Northwest District; Joanne Dahl, Southwest District, Patricia Sondrall, Southeast District; and Sharon Westbrook, Northeast District.

On July 19, 1997 Dr Merton Utgaard was honored with a Life membership in NFMC at a special event held at the International Music Camp. On July 24 the first annual Gay Gidley King Scholarships were awarded to ten campers. This will be done annually on Federation Day held the last Friday of July.

The NDFMC 1997 Fall Board meeting took place Saturday, September 6th at the Dakota Inn in Jamestown. The annual Junior Festival Fall workshop was held in conjunction with this meeting (attendance by a representative of each senior club sponsoring a Junior Festival is required).

The board voted to place the historical materials of the organization in the ND Institute of Regional Studies archives in Fargo. The state historian has duplicates of much of this material so it is available from both sources.

Doris Lambie, state representative on the National Board; Odee Maier, member at large on the Board and Carolyn Nelson, North Dakota State president reported on the National Board meeting held in August in New Orleans. The executive committee was given the responsibility of developing criteria for NDFMC's involvement in the National Centennial celebration. Each local club was asked to reserve Sunday, January 25th as Federation Sunday with special music scheduled for churches, and steeple bells and handbells to be rung.

Most of the senior clubs celebrated the Centennial during January. Special recognition goes to the MacDowell Club of Stanley, Thursday Music Club of Williston and Thursday Music Club of Grand Forks. Other clubs reporting Centennial activities were the Fargo-Moorhead Area Music Club, St. Cecelia Music Club of Dickinson, Devils Lake Music Club and Thursday Music Club of Bismarck-Mandan.

The 1998 Spring Board meeting was held May 2nd at the Holiday Inn in Fargo and featured the NDFMC youth day auditions. Students chosen to play in the National Centennial competition were Janelle Mueller (Hillsboro), Christie Morlock (Grand Forks), Sarala Nagala (Oakes) and Jennifer Donelson (Dickinson). Board members discussed a "North Dakota Salute to Agnes Jardine" at the National Convention.

Federation Day at the International Music Camp was held July 24th, 1998. Our National president, Dr. Barbara Irish had indicated an interest in visiting several summer music centers this year and the IMC was one. Arrangements were made for her to come the final week of the camp. This is the time of our Federation Day and the presentation of the National Agnes Jardine scholarships and the Gay Gidley King awards as well as the reception for recipients and faculty. Dr Irish especially enjoyed the evening outdoor band concert. As she said "It was a real touch of Americana". Other recitals were presented by string and orchestra small groups.

North Dakota was well noticed at the National Convention in Arlington Heights, Illinois, August 10-18. We had four talented young people in the national competition and Sarala Nagala won her division. Our float in the historic division of the Centennial parade won first place! The state officers in attendance all had "North Dakota" tee shirts. Our car had Federation magnetic signs. Our guest was Nancy Jardine, grand daughter of Agnes Jardine, NDFMC's president 1933-1937. We highlighted Mrs. Jardine's Federation scrapbook at the Centennial display. There were over thirty people from North Dakota registered for at least one day of the celebration.

The NDFMC 1998 Fall Board meeting took place September 19th at the Dakota Inn in Jamestown. Doris Lambie was reelected state representative on the National Board and Odee Maier was re-nominated as board member at large. Members agreed that the float trophy won by North Dakota at the National Convention should travel through the state and end up at the International Music Camp with a picture of Agnes Jardine.

We were saddened by the death of past NDFMC president Anna Jo Bridston on November 23rd at the age of one hundred and two. She as president of NDFMC from 1952 to 1956 after serving two terms as vice president. She also served the Federation as historian and extension chairman and as president of the Northern Lights District. In her obituary her son, Paul said, "Mom was still a whirlwind up to 3-4 years ago. She was a dominant force in Grand Forks music circles. I think she lived so long because of her completely positive attitude toward life."

Dr Merton Utgaard, founder and long term director of the International Music Camp, died December 19th. Joe Alme, who took over as camp director in 1983 after Dr. Utgaard's retirement, said, "We have lost a wonderful person in the arts, an innovator and a visionary. He was someone who really cared about kids and quality". Dr Utgaard founded the International Music Camp in 1956 and served as it's director for twenty eight years. By the end of 1998 more than 90,000 students from more than 63 countries and 55 states and provinces had attended the summer camp. Dr Utgaard served on both state and national boards of the International Relations Committee. In 1993 at the National Convention in Buffalo, New York, President

Virginia Allison presented him with a presidential citation for his outstanding work in foreign relations in music.

The 1999 Biennial Convention and Fall Board meeting was held June 14th -16th at Williston. NDFMC was honored to have Dr. Ouida Keck, president of the National Federation of Music Clubs, as a guest. The program was dedicated to Dr. Utgaard and a special tribute was paid to him following the dinner on June 15th. Election and installation of officers took place with Carolyn Nelson elected to a second term as president. Vice president is Sharon Wesbrook; secretary, Betty Hildebrand; treasurer, Kris Brugamy. Regional vice presidents are Northeast District, Sharon Wesbrook; Southeast District, Pat Sondrall; Southwest District, Ruth Heley; Northwest District, open.

The 1999 Fall Board meeting of the North Dakota Federation of Music Clubs took place September 11th, at the First Methodist Church in Fargo. Seven of eight clubs were represented. President Carolyn Nelson opened with an orientation on a "Legacy of Who We Are". She also explained the interpretation of the NDFMC symbol. Doris Lambie and Carolyn Nelson were pleased with the North Dakota representation at the National Convention in Huntsville, Alabama. A unanimous ballot was cast for the following to be NDFMC State board members at large: Dolores Loberg, Grand Forks; Barb Roberts, Bismarck; Noella Utgaard, Special Senior Member, Bottineau and Arnola Levenson, Minot. Motion carried.

Odee Maier presented a skit on recruitment, orientation and retention. She noted the importance of not only recruiting new members but also retaining those members. Local clubs are encouraged to find ways to implement "ROAR," in their clubs.

Marge Johnson reported that North Dakota's Past President's Club ranked third nationally with their contribution to the Young Artists Fund. She encouraged them to go for being first at the next Convention.

The 2000 Spring Board meeting was held June 12th at the Dakota Inn in Jamestown. The following were present: Carolyn Nelson, Sharon Wesbrook, Odee and Gordon Maier, Doris Lambie, Jan Stoffel, Noella Utgaard, June Skuza, Kathe Sorenson, Laurie Gunderson, Mary Christine Larson, Eleanor Johnson, Jeanne Sorenson, Jeanne Orke, Kris Brugamy, Carma Kulish, Della Heid and Ruth Heley. National reports were given by Carolyn Nelson, President, Doris Lambie, Board Member and Odee Maier, Board Member at Large. The amount of the National Agnes Jardine Scholarship to the International Music Camp has been raised to \$125 per student.

Odee talked about membership for the Millennium - the campaign to increase membership. Members will now be receiving the Music Club magazine as part of their dues.

Sue Clambey had 20 Junior Composers entries, one of the larger numbers of entries of all the states. We had a national winner, Sonja Nagala from Oakes, student of Eileen Geske of the Jamestown-Valley City Club. North Dakota had two entries in the Wendell Irish Viola competition, our thanks to Jane Linde Capistran. Jason Hohn, Bismarck, won \$100 state award.

Williston was chosen the 1999 outstanding senior club based on G5 annual reports.

Sharon brought up the need for a judges' workshop. The new Junior Festivals Bulletin has just been published and the timing is appropriate. The board voted to schedule statewide judges' workshops subsequent to the publication of each new Festival Bulletin. The board gave a round of applause for Sharon's work.

Carolyn Nelson, Doris Lambie, Sharon Wesbrook, Gordon and Odee Maier will be attending the organizational meeting of the new North Central Region at Eagan, Minnesota.

NDFMC held its 2000 Fall Board meeting September 23 at Valley City State University. Members present were Carolyn Nelson, Bette Hildebrand, Jan Stoffel, Pat Sondrall, Arnola Leverson, Lana Simon, Kris Brugamy, Eleanor Johnson, Noella Utgaard, Doris Lambie, Vivian Acuff, Odee Maier, Gordon Maier, Sharon Wesbrook, Carma Kulish, Ruth Heley and Jeannie Orke.

Carolyn noted that NDFMC historical records had not been stored at NDSU before the June flood so were not lost. She also shared some interesting bits of information and documents dated years back.

Reports on the fall board meeting in Roanoke, VA were given by North Dakota Board Member, Doris Lambie and Board Member at Large, Odee Maier. Doris also reported the following from International Music Camp:

- 2937 Camp Enrollment with 16 countries represented
- 30 states and 6 Canadian provinces
- 1542 (North Dakota)
- 539 (Manitoba)
- 33 different programs were offered
- 1185 students received scholarships
- 1801 girls attended, 859 boys, 277 adults

Arnola reported on the Festival judges' workshops held at different locations during the year. Members agreed that judges who do not attend the workshops must contact Odee Maier to make arrangements to view the video and go over other details.

Donna Koppenhaver was elected North Dakota National Board Member and Odee Maier was nominated for National Board Member at Large.

The 2001 North Dakota Federation of Music Clubs State Convention was held April 26th, 27th and 28th at the Best Western Townhouse Motel in Grand Forks. Devils Lake Club members were co-hostesses. Sharon Wesbrook was elected president; Dawn Laurence, Vice president; Deanna Qualley, secretary; Kris Brugamy, treasurer and Lila Gienger and Jeanne Orke, regional vice presidents. The officers were installed by the National Vice President, Elizabeth Parish who was a guest of the NDFMC Convention.

Clancy Newman, cellist, NDFMC young artist winner 1999, gave a concert as part of the Convention.

A tribute to Doris Lambie was given by Donna Koppenhaver. The program for this year's Convention was dedicated to Doris. A tribute to Esther Sturgeon was given by Joan Smith. Bismarck-Mandan extended an invitation for the State Convention in 2003.

Federation Days at the International Music Camp was hosted by the Devils Lake Club on July 27th, 2001.

The 2001 Fall Board meeting of the North Dakota Federation of Music Clubs took place September 22nd in Fargo.

The 2002 Spring Board meeting was held April 20th in Westminster Hall at Jamestown College. Present were representatives of the new club Valley Music Makers. JCI Scholarships were approved to winners of the ND Junior Composer Contest. Three winners went on to Regional and one to National.

NDFMC lost a very faithful and valued member in February, 2002 when Eloise Halvorson died. Eloise was a past state president and for many years, gold cup chairman. At the National level Executive Director Melinda Ulrich and immediate Past President Dr. Barbara Irish died. Gordon Maier was appointed Chairman of the Finance Division to complete Dr. Irish's term.

The 2002 Fall Board meeting was held on September 21st at Plummer House, the Trail County Museum in Hillsboro where members were treated to a tour of the historic house.

Bismarck was the host city for the 2003 State Convention April 25th and 26th. David Shimoni, young artist winner of 2001 was the guest performer.

Susan Clambey, Junior Composers Chairman was honored at a recital featuring Junior Composers, gold cup winners and the state winner of the 2003 National Music Week essay contest. Susan has chaired the NDFMC Junior Composer's contest for sixteen years and has worked hard to make it an outstanding success. Many contestants between nine and eighteen years old have gone on from local competition to be regional winners and four have been national winners.

Mary Christine Larson was guest of honor at an honors luncheon. Sharon Wesbrook gave a tribute to fifty year members and national and state board members. A tribute to Mary Christine was given by Doris Lambie.

The national guest at the 2003 Convention was Carole Langley who currently serves on the NFMC executive board as vice president of the South Central Region.

Officers for 2003 -2005 are President - Sharon Wesbrook, Vice President - Dawn Lawrence, Secretary - Dawn Penrose, Treasurer - Kris Brugamy, Eastern Division Vice President - Sally Nordlie Western Division Vice President - Lila Gienger.

The 2003 Fall Board meeting took place in Valley City on September 27th.

Nine members of NDFMC were elected to National offices at the National Convention in Nashville in July 2003. They are Odee Maier and Carolyn Nelson, elected to the National Board of Directors as members at large; Donna Koppenhaver, state member on the board of directors; Carole Flatau, chairman of the folk music department; Dawn Lawrence, NFMC festival cup chairman; Doris Lambie, chairman of the NFMC public relations department and designated representative to the International Music Camp, Eileen Jackson, regional chairman for Music in Poetry; Vivian Acuff, regional chairman for Opera. Gordon Maier was reelected to the NFMC Investments Committee.

The Junior Composers Institute 2, sponsored by the North Central Region of NFMC took place July 7th through 12th at Northwestern College, St Paul, Minnesota. Participants from North Dakota were Janelle Mueller, Jacob Luithle, Carissa Karsky, Nathan Todhunter, Emily Hill, Emily Custer and Darcy Brandenburg. Adult NDFMC members who were involved were Susan Clambey, who taught some classes, Odee Maier, Dawn Lawrence and Carolyn Nelson.

The festival judge's workshop number two was held during the summer of 2003 at various locations around the state. Arnola Levenson was in charge.

The 2004 Spring Board meeting was held April 17th in Bismarck. Eight Junior Composers Institute scholarships were approved for Level 3 and 4 Junior Composer Contest winners. Funds were approved to support Louise Pinkerton's attendance at Inspiration Point and possible performance at the NFMC Convention.

The 2004 Fall Board meeting was held September 25th at the First United Methodist Church in Fargo. Receipt of the Evelyn Sampson Estate bequest of \$28,555.74 was reported by the Committee, with four proposed uses of the funds. Three were approved, including a National level JCI Scholarship, a grand piano for Minot Carnegie Hall and a contribution to the JCI Endowment Fund. Carolyn Nelson was nominated as the ND representative to the NFMC Board to replace Donna Koppenhaver at the end of her term. Odee Maier was nominated to continue as an NFMC Board Member-at-large.

Fargo-Moorhead Area Music Club hosted the 2005 Spring Board meeting and State Convention April 28 – 30, at the Moorhead Day's Inn and Conference Center. NFMC First Vice President Lana Bailey was the guest of honor, and speaker at the Convention banquet. The banquet was followed by a public performance of the Roo Duo, NFMC Young Artist winners.

The Board approved a Senior Club dues increase, the proposed 2005-2007 budget and a slate of nominations for office, to be presented to the Convention.

The Convention approved a \$1 increase in Festival fees, to \$10. A unanimous ballot was cast for officers for the next biennium, President: Gordon Maier, Vice President: Vivian Acuff, Secretary: Dawn Penrose, Treasurer: Kris Brugamy, Eastern Region Vice President: Sally Nordlie and Western Region Vice President: Ruth Heley. Doris Lambie asked for members' signatures on a Resolution of Support for Merton Utgaard to Receive the North Dakota Theodore Roosevelt Roughrider Award. Odee Maier's Dream #1, to create a State Newsletter, a State Roster and a State Web Site, was approved. Dream #2, to encourage entries in NDFMC Student Auditions and other Student level competitions and awards, and Dream #3, to raise \$25,000 for naming rights and use of an American Music Room in the new IMC building, were referred to the Executive Committee for action. A contribution of \$7,000 from the Gay King and Evelyn Sampson Funds, for purchase of a grand piano for the Minot Carnegie Hall, was approved.

The 2005 Fall Board meeting was held September 24th at the NDSU Alumni Center in Fargo. It was decided that Odee Maier's Dream #1 newsletter will go to all members and be published two or three times a year and that a state roster will be started. Dream #2 Student Auditions will be held in the even year of 2006 for evaluation. Dream #3 Music Room at IMC was referred to a committee for study and to bring recommendations to the Spring Board meeting.

The 2006 Spring Board meeting took place April 22nd at the Heritage Center in Bismarck. The IMC Music Room Committee reported on progress. The proposed room would be named "The Composers Center" and would house music and showcase North Dakota composers. Donation letters with a pamphlet would be mailed to all North Dakota members. It was moved and approved to raise \$25,000 needed to support the IMC building project by requesting outside grant money and then matching NDMFC membership donations at the rate of 50 cents on the dollar from the Gay King Fund, as needed. The new State Roster Directory,

listing all members, was presented. It was moved and approved to discontinue the State Festival Judge's Workshops. It was moved and approved to establish a Past Presidents Memorial Fund, consisting of \$100 for each of the 25 past NDFMC Presidents, from the Gay King Fund and future PPA dues. Also, to send a \$100 donation from the Fund to the IMC in honor of Past Presidents who pass away in the future.

The 2006 Fall Board meeting took place September 30th at the First United Methodist Church, South Campus, in Fargo. The IMC Composers Center fund raising committee reported that \$14,605 has been raised toward the goal of \$25,000, including NDFMC matching funds. The Standing Rules were revised and updated, and Bylaw changes were approved for action at the next State Convention. Carolyn Nelson was nominated to continue as our State Representative on the NFMC Board of Directors. Odee Maier and Carole Flatau were nominated to continue as Members-as-large on the NFMC Board of Directors. The NDFMC web site, www.ndfmc.org, was reported to be up and running. A resolution was adopted endorsing the candidacy of NDFMC Past President Carolyn Nelson for the position of First Vice-President of the National Federation of Music Clubs. It was also moved and approved to make available up to \$500 for Carolyn's campaign.