



# National Society of Arts and Letters

Supporting young talent in the performing, visual, and literary arts since 1944

*The sound of the horn is the soul of the orchestra.*  
-Robert Schumann

## CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING 2026

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Dear NSAL Members,

Please join us May 14-16 in Little Rock, Arkansas for the NSAL 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting and first-ever High Brass Award Competition.

It has been a good year for NSAL. We have a lot to celebrate!

Our membership is growing, slowly but we are growing. Hurrah!

The amount of award, scholarship and support money distributed to young artists continues to increase. Our national programming and financial support to young artists is expanding. This year National awarded over \$100,000: \$45,000 in Annual Awards, \$55,000 in scholarships (Winston 2-D Visual Art - \$17,500, Winston Classical Voice - \$17,500, Martorella Classical Voice - \$10,000, NSAL Writing Scholarship \$10,000) and \$5,000 for career award opportunities. Hurrah!

At a recent meeting with the Strategic Planning Committee, Ron Ivey pointed out a basic truth: the young people we serve are our clientele. With that in mind, we need to improve and adapt the way we communicate with our clientele to meet their needs. This year Andy Lunsford, Chair of Winston Classical Voice, offered a centralized online application (as well as a printable application). The centralized application compliments the outreach and application distribution happening at the chapter level. So, in addition to the local applicants chapters attract, national will help attract more applicants and distribute them to the chapters the applicants select. This year Andy received 71 applicants through the online application process. Hurrah!

We improved the way we match contestants to share rooms at the national competition. Previously, we matched contestants as we received their registrations. Now they are matched in a similar manner, but we reach out to them and learn if they are interested in sharing. The answer is almost always yes. Then we share the email



Robinson Center, site of High Brass Awards Banquet

address of their prospective roommate so they can get to know each other and learn their itineraries prior to the competition. This works. No one has been awoken at 3 am by a stranger with a key to their room. Thank you, chapter competition chairs. Hurrah!

Late last summer NSAL learned that the Nicholson-Nielsen Endowment Fund did not complete its 501(c)3 application. It did have its own EIN number but hadn't completed the process to obtain a designation. With the help of attorney, James Warren and the Board of Trustees, the proper forms were completed, submitted and accepted. The NSAL Nicholson-Nielsen Endowment Fund received a favorable determination in January. Hurrah!

The National Bylaws have been updated and just need National Board Approval. Hurrah!

Thank you, NSAL Little Rock! The Little Rock Team is hard at work putting together an exciting Annual Meeting and High Brass Competition. Hurrah!

Special shout out of Thank You's to Dr. Brent Shires, Paul Wigley, Dr. Laura Hutchins, Mary Robertson, Harold Dean, Sherry Henderson and Vincent Henderson.

It's been a good year for NSAL!

Best always,  
*Twyla Martins*  
NSAL National President

# NATIONAL NSAL ANNUAL MEETING

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

MAY 14-16, 2026



*Arkansas Symphony Orchestra – Morgan Hall,  
Stella Boyle Smith Music Center*

Dear NSAL Members,

We are excited to welcome you to Little Rock for the NSAL 2026 Annual Meeting and High Brass Competition. The last time the NSAL Annual Meeting was held in Little Rock was in 1985 along with the modern and ballet dance competition. Prior to that the annual meeting was held in 1956. So for most of you this annual meeting may be the first time that you've had the opportunity to visit our lovely city that has a "small town feel with big city amenities." It's also a first for NSAL as we hold the first-ever high brass competition for trumpet and French horn.

The Arkansas and Kentucky Chapters, co-hosts for this event, have joined together to organize a wonderful event for you. Hotel accommodations have been arranged at the Holiday Inn Presidential Hotel in downtown Little Rock where the General Session, the President's Reception, the "Meet and Greet" Dinner, and the Presidents' Luncheon will be held. The competition will take place in the newly constructed Arkansas Symphony Orchestra Stella Boyle Smith Music Center. The Awards Reception will be held in the Palisades Room at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel and the Awards Banquet will be held in the Still Ballroom A in the Robinson Center overlooking the Arkansas River.

As part of the Conference Registration Fee, those registered for the annual meeting may tour either the Clinton Presidential Library and Museum or the ESSE Purse Museum and Store. Immediately following the High Brass Clinic, which ends around noon on Saturday, May 16, you may choose to travel to the Clinton Presidential Library and Museum for lunch on your own at the restaurant 42 Bar and Table. This will be followed by a tour of the Museum exhibits and artifacts including a replica Oval Office and the Cabinet Room. There is also a 12-minute orientation film which is a biographical documentary of Bill Clinton's life and presidency.

A shorter tour with less walking involved will take place a little later that afternoon at the ESSE Purse Museum and Store which showcases the 20<sup>th</sup> Century American woman's evolution through the handbags she carried. Those choosing this tour will travel back to the Holiday Inn Presidential Hotel for lunch on your own. The ESSE Purse Museum and Store highlights the changing roles of women from the early 1900s through the feminist movement and the rise of women in the workforce. It exhibits a century of women's handbags from 1900 – 1999.

There are other tours that are free that you might choose to do on your own. Nearby you will find the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts, the Old State House Museum, and the Historic Arkansas Museum. You might choose to go to the River Market for lunch, visit the Witt Stephens Jr. Central Arkansas Nature Center, or ride the Little Rock Trolley which takes you on a trip across the Arkansas River and back.

We hope that you will attend the NSAL 2026 Annual Meeting and High Brass Competition for a wonderful experience of Southern Hospitality in downtown La Petite Roche, the Little Rock.

Sherry Henderson, Arkansas

National Annual Meeting Co-Chair

Twyla Martins, Kentucky

National Annual Meeting Co-Chair

# NATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### HOLIDAY INN PRESIDENTIAL HOTEL

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: APRIL 6, 2026  
HOTEL RESERVATION DEADLINE: APRIL 10, 2026



*Holiday Inn Presidential Hotel*

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Thursday, May 14

Registration	10:00-1:00	Hallway by Washington 1
General Session	1:00-4:30	Washington 1
Four-Year Planning Session	4:30-5:30	Washington 1
Contestant Orientation	1:00-5:00	ASO Music Center
President's Reception	6:00-7:00	Washington 2 & 3
Dinner "Meet and Greet"	7:00-9:00	Washington 2 & 3

### Friday, May 15

Presidential Breakfast	6:00-8:30	Camp David Restaurant
High Brass Competition	9:00 -1:15	ASO Music Center
Presidents' Luncheon	2:00-4:00	Washington Ballroom
Chapter Presidents' Meeting	4:00-5:30	Lincoln Room
Evening on your own		

### Saturday, May 16

Presidential Breakfast	7:00-9:00	Camp David Restaurant
High Brass Clinic	9:30-11:30	ASO Music Center
Lunch on your own		
Take Afternoon Tour (Optional)		
Annual Awards Reception	5:30-6:30	Palisades Room
Annual Awards Banquet	6:30-9:30	Still Ballroom A

### Sunday, May 17

Presidential Breakfast	7:00-10:00	Camp David Restaurant
Meeting for Incoming Officers	TBA	Lincoln Room
Check-out	Noon	

Holiday Inn Presidential Hotel  
600 Interstate 30  
Little Rock, AR 72202

Reservations: (501) 375-2100  
Booking link: <https://bit.ly/4rpbLAj>  
To reserve an accessible room click the wheelchair icon. If making reservations over the telephone, please identify yourself as part of the National Society of Arts and Letters (NSAL) room block.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY.

NSAL Annual Meeting Room Rate: \$125.35, taxes included. The hotel includes an on-site restaurant, free WiFi, and free parking. Each guest room includes a mini refrigerator, a microwave, a Keurig and a safe.

Reservations must be made with the hotel by Friday, April 10. NSAL rates may not be available after April 10.

Check-in: 3 pm    Check-out: Noon  
For more information contact the front desk at the Holiday Inn.

# NATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARTS & LETTERS

MAY 14 - 16, 2026  
ANNUAL MEETING

ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION FORM  
APPLICATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2026

POSITION:  Natl. Board  Chapter President  Delegate  Member

Mr.  Mrs.  Ms.  Dr.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST/SPOUSE: \_\_\_\_\_

CHAPTER: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE : \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION: DEADLINE APRIL 6, 2026 (All attending must pre-register.)

Member Registration is \$400.00 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Guest/Spouse Registration is \$400.00 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION FEE is all inclusive:

All convention materials

Breakfast Daily

Thursday: President's Reception

Thursday: "Meet and Greet" Dinner

Friday: High Brass Competition

Friday: Presidents' Luncheon

Saturday: High Brass Clinic

Saturday: Tour Clinton Presidential Library \_\_\_\_ or Esse Purse Museum and Store \_\_\_\_

Saturday Evening: National Awards Reception

Saturday Evening: National Awards Banquet (Black Tie Optional)



Clinton Presidential Library



ESSE Purse Museum and Store

## INDIVIDUAL EVENT TICKETS

Thursday: President's Reception and "Meet and Greet" \$60.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Friday: Presidents' Luncheon: \$55.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday: National Awards Reception and Banquet: \$155.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Please make each day's meal selection.

Thursday: Chicken Piccata \_\_\_\_ Southern Pork Chop \_\_\_\_ Stuffed Portabella Mushrooms \_\_\_\_

Friday: Grilled Salmon \_\_\_\_ Beef Tips \_\_\_\_ Vegetable Pasta \_\_\_\_

Saturday: Chicken Marsala \_\_\_\_ Pan Seared Atlantic Salmon \_\_\_\_ Veggie Pasta Primavera \_\_\_\_

Dietary Restrictions: Food Allergy? \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check for conference payable to NSAL Arkansas:

Send completed forms to: NSAL 2026 Annual Meeting  
Sherry Henderson, Annual Meeting Co-Chair  
5116 Cantrell Road, Little Rock, AR 72207  
For Information: slhhsinger@yahoo.com

**Cancellation of Registration:** Cancellation must be made in writing to Sherry Henderson. Cancellations received prior to April 13, 2026 will be eligible for a full refund, less \$25 administration handling fee. No cancellation refunds will be accepted after April 13, 2026.

# NATIONAL CAREER AWARDS 2026 HIGH BRASS COMPETITION

## CONTESTANT REGISTRATION FORM

APPLICATION DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026

Sponsoring Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_ Competition Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Chair Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of National Finalist: \_\_\_\_\_

FINALIST'S CURRENT ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

FINALIST'S HOME ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS: Food Allergy? \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian? \_\_\_\_\_

Choice of meal for: "Meet and Greet"  Chicken  Pork  Vegetarian

Presidents' Luncheon  Salmon  Beef  Vegetarian

Awards Banquet:  Chicken  Salmon  Vegetarian

### CONTESTANT SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<u>Thursday, May 14:</u>	Contestant Registration	10:00 - 12:30	Hallway by Washington 1
	Contestant Orientaton	1:00 - 5:00	ASO Music Center
	Contestant Gathering	5:30 - 6:00	Lincoln Room
	President's Reception	6:00 - 7:00	Washington 2 & 3
	Dinner "Meet and Greet"	7:00 - 9:00	Washington 2 & 3
<u>Friday, May 15:</u>	Presidential Breakfast	6:00 - 8:30	Camp David Restaurant
	High Brass Competition	9:00 - 1:15	ASO Music Center
	Presidents' Luncheon	2:00 - 4:00	Washington Ballroom
<u>Saturday, May 16:</u>	Contestants' Dinner & Activiy	6:00 - 9:00	TBA
	Presidential Breakfast	7:00 - 9:00	Camp David Restaurant
	High Brass Clinic	9:30 - 11:30	ASO Music Center
	Lunch on your own at the Clinton Library		
	Tour of Presidential Library		Clinton Library
	Annual Awards Reception	5:30 - 6:30	Palisades Room - DoubleTree
Annual Awards Banquet	6:30 - 9:30	Still Ballroom A	

Dress: Presidents' Luncheon: (business), High Brass Clinic (casual) and Annual Awards Banquet (dressy, black tie optional).

#### CONTESTANT REGISTRATION FEE: \$400.00

Includes all events

HOTEL single room/3 nights: \$376.05 /4 nights \$501.40

HOTEL double room/3nights: \$188.03 /4 nights \$250.70

**IMPORTANT:** Please send TWO separate checks for Registration Fee and for Hotel. Make checks payable to NSAL Arkansas and note on each check whether it's for hotel or registration.

Mail to: Sherry Henderson  
5116 Cantrell Road, Little Rock, AR 72207  
Contact info slhhsinger@yahoo.com

Let us know if you need assistance matching your contestant with a roommate. See page 7 for more info.

#### WISH THE CONTESTANTS WELL

Support your chapter winner with an ad in the 2026 Annual Meeting and Competition Program  
AD INCLUDES YOUR FINALISTS BIO AND PHOTO

Full-page ad, 7 1/2" wide by 10" high - \$100

Half-page ad, 7 1/2" wide by 4 3/4" high - \$50

Either email your camera ready advertisement, or send Digital bio, Photo and Well Wishes files

To: Twyla Martins, trmarts@mac.com

Mail check, payable to NSAL Arkansas, to Sherry Henderson, Annual Meeting Co-Chair  
5116 Cantrell Road, Little Rock, AR 72207

DEADLINE FOR AD MATERIALS: April 1, 2026

# NATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARTS & LETTERS

## REPORTS AND DELEGATES

### Officers' and Chapter Presidents' Reports Due April 13

To all NSAL National Officers, Board Members, and Chapter Presidents: Your annual report is due Monday, April 13, 2026. Please email your report to both: National Secretary: Mindy Rossi-Stabler, mindystabler@gmail.com and National Historian: Sarah Moore, seomoore@yahoo.com

Chapter President reports should take the following form:  
Part I: What awards have you given and their amounts?  
Part II: How many times has your chapter met this year?  
Part III: How many members does your chapter have?  
Part IV: Any information you have about your chapter's former winners. We'd like to know as much as possible.

### Election of Annual Meeting Delegates

All members in good standing are cordially invited to attend the National Annual Meeting, but will not be voting delegates until elected as such by the Chapter membership. Delegate nominees must be active members in attendance at the 2026 Annual Meeting in Little Rock. Each Chapter may elect one voting delegate for every 10 members, not to exceed 5 delegates, in addition to the Chapter President (or alternate), past National Presidents, and Chapter members serving on the National Board of Directors. Please email your list of delegates to both Twyla Martins, trmart@mac.com and Harold Dean, deanharold@sbcglobal.net

### Recommendations for National Officers

The nominating committee has received the following recommendations for national officers for the 2026-2028 term to the executive committee. The slate will be voted on during the annual meeting in Little Rock.

#### Members being nominated are:

- Gail Fisher, National President, Arizona Chapter
- Judy Martorelli, National First Vice President, New Jersey Chapter
- Marilyn (Mindy) Rossi-Stabler, Second Vice President, Pittsburgh Chapter
- Janet Campbell, National Secretary, Pittsburgh Chapter
- Nominations are being sought for National Treasurer

#### Thanks to the nominating committee for their work. They are:

- Charles Altman, Chair, Pittsburgh Chapter
- Sherry Henderson, Arkansas Chapter
- Wayne Kischer, Iowa Chapter



### INSIGNIA

The Insignia of The National Society of Arts and Letters is a lyre in gold with three strings in the form of a pen in red, a brush in white and a pencil in blue. Resting against the base of the lyre is an open book upon which is printed the letters NSAL.

To order membership pins, President's pin with bar or Past President's pin with bar contact Insignia Chair for details:

Sherry Henderson  
5116 Cantrell Road  
Little Rock, AR 72207

Contact info: slhsinger@yahoo.com

Insignia will be available for purchase at the Annual Meeting.

### IN MEMORIAM

We ask each Chapter President to send the names of their members who have become deceased since May 2025 to our National Chaplain before April 13, 2026 so that they may be recognized at the National Annual Meeting.

Brother Gary Morris  
3140 Waiālae Ave #323  
Honolulu, HI 96816  
gmmorris@chaminade.edu

# NATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARTS & LETTERS INFORMATION

## The 2026 NSAL High Brass Competition

The 2026 National Society of Arts and Letters competition will feature High Brass, including trumpet and French horn. These instruments were chosen based upon the desire for variety from the past National competitions, which featured piano (in 2022), and woodwinds (2014 and 2018). After some searching, it was determined that the National instrumental competition, which is scheduled every four years, has never featured brass. As NSAL is an organization that supports young artists, it seemed like support for brass players as they continue their career was in order. There was discussion about which brass instruments, and how many different genres to pick - trombone, trumpet, tuba, French horn, or euphonium? Eventually it was decided that there would be good participation if the competition featured trumpet and French horn, both of which are highly soloistic instruments with a long history of excellent repertoire. Following that decision was the development of a judging rubric and scoresheet. Input from many extremely qualified professors of brass was the foundation of the adjudication materials. Judges and pianists for the National competition have been secured, all of whom are experts in their field. We await with anticipation the announcement of chapter competition results, and it will be an honor and a privilege to witness the artistry of these finalists in May.

Dr. Brent Shires, National Competition Chair  
Paul Wigley, National Category Chair



Arkansas Symphony Orchestra - Stella Boyle Smith Music Center  
Site of 2026 High Brass Competition

## TRAVEL TO LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

Holiday Inn Presidential Hotel  
600 Interstate 30, Little Rock, AR 72202

Little Rock is served by the Bill and Hillary Clinton National Airport (LIT). The travel distance to the Holiday Inn Presidential Hotel from the airport is 4.1 miles. Call (501) 375-2100 for free hotel shuttle. Catch the hotel shuttle from an area across the street from Exit D. Catch a taxi at Exit G and board Uber or Lyft at Exit F. Rental cars are also available on site.

I-30 and I-40 Intersect at Little Rock. Once here, set your GPS to the hotel's address on Interstate 30. The hotel is highly visible from the Interstate, making it easy to spot in the downtown area. Complimentary free self-parking is available to all guests with 6 Tesla charging stations and 8 electric vehicle charging stations available.

## 2027 DRAMA COMPETITION

The Kentucky and the Arkansas Chapters of the National Society of Arts and Letters are pleased to co-host the 2027 National Drama Competition and Annual Meeting in Lexington, Kentucky May 20-22.

The competition will be held in the William Farish Theatre located inside the Lexington Main Library three blocks from our hotel, the Hilton Lexington/Downtown, as our primary meeting and award banquet space.

We invite all NSAL members to attend and look forward to introducing you and our contestants to Lexington's Gatton Park, Thursday Night Live, Friday's Gallery Hop and Saturday's Farmers' Market all free and all happening within easy walking distance. We can't wait to welcome you!

Twyla Martins, President, Kentucky  
Sherry Henderson, Arkansas  
National Annual Meeting Co-Chairs



Lexington Main Library

NEED HELP MATCHING CONTESTANT for hotel accommodations? Ruth Albright has graciously agreed to help match chapters' finalists. Please email [ruthalbright@yahoo.com](mailto:ruthalbright@yahoo.com) with your finalist's contact information and how many nights they will be staying. Ruth will put the finalists on contact with each other prior to their arrival.