

ROPA Conference 2026: Standing Together
Hilton Garden Inn
Dallas, TX
General Session: July 28-30, 2026
(subject to change)

Saturday, July 25

3pm-6pm ROPA Executive Board Meeting

Sunday, July 26

9am-5pm ROPA Executive Board Meeting

1pm-5pm Conference Registration

Monday, July 27

8:30am Coffee/Hot water available

8:30am-6pm Conference Registration -

9am-5pm *Negotiating Orchestras Workshop* - AFM Symphonic Services Division, Rochelle Skolnick, Director

4:15-5:45pm Legislative Committee Open Meeting - San Jacinto Boardroom

6:30pm Local Mixer
City Tavern
1514 Elm Street right across from the hotel

9pm - 11pm Hospitality Suite - **Room 914**

Tuesday, July 28

8:30am Coffee/Hot Water available

8:00am Registration/Information Table open -

8:30-9:15 am New Delegate Meet and Greet
Coffee and donuts available

9:30am Opening Session -
 Roll Call - Karen Sandene
 Local 72-147 Welcome - Stewart Williams, President
 Announcements - Amanda Swain
 President's Report - Steve Wade

10:00am *Keynote* - Lorraine Montemayor, Secretary-Treasurer, Texas AFL-CIO

10:25am Nathan Kahn Award

10:30am *Media Landscape* - Megan Elk, Director of Organizing and Communications,
 Chicago Federation of Musicians

11:30am Lunch on your own

12:45pm MAL Group Breakout Meetings (Closed Sessions)
 Brooke Beazley - 714
 Steve Heitlinger - 614
 Lisa Davis - Conservatory
 Marjorie Goldberg - 914
 Richard Kelly - San Jacinto
 Laura Winters - Brazos
 Ann Rule - Trinity
 Beverly Setzer - 814

4:15pm Break

4:30pm Topic Breakouts (Closed Sessions)

5:30pm End

6:00-6:10pm Meet in hotel lobby for guided transportation via light rail
 (tickets will be round trip)

6:30 pm Cocktail Hour and Dinner
 Reunion Tower
 Crown Room
 300 Reunion Blvd. East

9:00-11 pm Hospitality Suite - **Room 914**

Wednesday, July 29

8:00am Coffee/Hot water available

8:00am Legislative Meeting – San Jacinto Boardroom
 Coffee/Hot water available, bring your own breakfast

8:30am	Registration/Information Table open
9:00am	Standing Committee Reports ROPA EDI Workgroup - Alana Wiesing, Chair Conductor Evaluation Bank - Lisa Davis, CEB Administrator Leading Tone - Judy Naillon, Editor
9:15am	Player Conference Reports Heather Boehm, President, TMA Keith Carrick, Chair, ICSOM Allen Fogel, President, RMA Bob Fraser, President, OCSM Nate Omdal, President, Freelance Musicians' Association (FMA)
10:00am	<i>Connections That Count: Effective Networking Across Constituencies</i> - Stewart Williams, President, AFM Local 72-147; Martine Elyse Philippe, Director of the Office of Arts and Culture, Dallas; Amy Bishop, Midday Host and Marketing Manager, WRR and KERA Dallas; Diana Ramirez, Executive Director, North Texas Area Labor Federation
11:15am	Break
11:45am	AFM President's Address - Tino Gagliardi, President, AFM
12:10pm	AFM Legislative and Political Report - Ben Kessler, AFM Director of Government Affairs (Zoom)
12:20pm	AFM Organizing Update - Gabe Kristal, International Director of AFM's Organizing Services Department.
12:30pm	Delegates - Lunch on your own - Wear/bring a Union/Orchestra/ROPA T Shirt for photo later in the afternoon. AFM, SSD, ROPA Board Luncheon meeting - Media Luna, upstairs
2:00pm	<i>Legal Landscape</i> - Naomi Bensdorf Frisch, ROPA Legal Counsel, Partner at Asher, Gitler and D'Alba, LTD, Chicago Group Photo of All Attendees
3:00pm	Break
3:15pm	Business Meeting Vice President's Report - Amanda Swain Secretary's Report - Karen Sandene <i>Approval of 2025 Conference Minutes</i> Treasurer's Report and Budget - Rick Basehore

Resolutions - Alana Wiesing
Nominations for Board Officers
Nominations for the 2027 Conference Site

5:30pm End

9-11pm Hospitality Suite - **Room 914**

Thursday, July 30

8:30am Coffee/Hot water available

9:00am *Tools for Challenging Conversations* - Jessica Schmidt, Orchestrate Inclusion

10:10am Nominees for Office - Speeches

10:30am Break

10:45am *Symphonic Services Division Focus*
Rochelle Skolnick, Director
Debbie Newmark, Director of Symphonic Electronic Media
Laurence Hoffman, Wage Scales and Conditions Database Administrator

12:00pm Elections, lunch on your own

1:30pm *Understanding Your Orchestra's Finances* - Rick Basehore, ROPA Treasurer and
AFM/SSD Financial Analyst, Richard Kelly, Member at Large, ROPA
Executive Board

2:30pm *Musicians Foundation* - Jeremy Morrow, Program Director

2:40pm Orchestra Spotlights
Opera San Jose - James Pytko, Delegate
Dayton - Amy Lassiter, Delegate
Chicago Sinfonietta - James Sanders, Delegate
Palm Beach Opera - Laura Winters, ROPA EB Member at Large
Ocean City Pops - Steve Heitlinger, ROPA EB Member at Large

3:40pm Audit Report, Election Results, 2027 Conference Site

3:50pm Oath of Office

4:00pm Adjourn