

The meeting of the Louisiana Music Educators Association Board of Directors was called to order at 9:30 a.m., May 18, 2019 with the following present: Carol Lupton, Scotty Walker, Fran Hebert Bruce Lambert, Greg Oden, Jessica Fain, Brett Babineaux, Katie Codina, Sharon Stephenson, Jim Trant, Michele DesLattes, Jessica Lizana, Joseph Nassar, Angela Jones, Katrice LaCour, Lee Hicks, Victor Drescher, Michele White, Ed McClellan, Carolyn Herrington, Pat Deaville, James Hearne, Sharon McNamara-Horne, Tom Burroughs, Tom Wafer and Angele Bienvenu.

Moved by Michele White and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ed McClellan to add State Solo/Ensemble to the agenda under new business. PASSED

Moved by Greg Oden and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michele White to approve the minutes. PASSED

Moved by Katie Codina and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jessica Lizana to approve the financial report. PASSED

Carol Lupton informed the board she would not be attending the NAFME national meeting this summer but would be attending the NAFME Southern Division meeting in September. She reported NAFME helped get music accepted as part of the ESSA, Every Student Succeeds Act. Carol stated the LMEA Conference planning meeting will be held on August 10 at 9:30 a.m. at the Crowne Plaza. NAFME officers will be attending the meeting. District directors are invited to attend. Joey Nassar, Lee Hicks and Angela Jones stated they had not received an email inviting them to the go-video conference with NAFME officers in March. Carol Lupton stated she had invited the LMEA Division Chairs to the go-video conference. Carol told the board Rosie Fournier, a retired band director from District VII, had recently passed away.

Fran Hebert reported Sharon Stephenson was elected as district director for District V and Michele DesLattes was elected district director for District VIII. Fran stated 155 LMEA members voted yes for the changes to the LMEA Constitution and By-Laws, 92 voted no. Since the vote was 62.7% yes, the vote failed. (66.7% yes needed for approval)

**District 1** – Greg Oden stated all is good in District 1. The district band and choir assessments and solo/ensemble assessments were larger than usual.

**District 2** – Jessica Fain reported District II had a great year. Solo/ensemble participation has increased. She thanked NSU for hosting the District 2 Band and Orchestra Assessments. Band and Choir Assessments were down this year. Fees could be the issue. First time for District 2 to host an orchestra assessment. Jessica congratulated Johnny Walker and John Lee on their retirement. She asked the board to keep John Lee in their prayers. John has been in the hospital for three weeks. There are job openings for assistant band director at Pineville high, assistant band director at Natchitoches Middle Magnet and assistant band director at Natchitoches Central High School. District 2 directors liked having three judges in sight-reading.

**District 3** – Brett Babineaux reported District 3 directors like three judges in sight-reading. Brett thanked Fran Hebert for running all the vocal assessments. Fewer choirs are attending the District 3 Assessment because of higher costs. Brett asked the board for guidance in dealing with a director that does not turn anything in on time. The director also has a history of not showing up or showing up late for performance at LMEA Assessments causing delays in the schedule. The board suggested he place the group last on the schedule in case he needs to drop the group from participating in the district assessments.

**District 4** – Katie Codina reported participation was up in District 4. District 4 directors love having 3 judges in sight-reading. Katie stated more vocal clinics are needed for the LMEA Conference. Barbara Walker, a vocal teacher in District 4, had some articles published in a national publication.

**District 5** – Sharon Stephenson stated everything went really well in District 5 this year. The instrumental solo/ensemble assessments are bigger. District 5 directors like three judges in the sight-reading room.

## **District 6 - Absent**

**District 7** – Jim Trant reported everything is good in District 7. District 7 directors like the three judges in sight-reading. Jim stated the board may need to consider reducing assessment fees for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> groups at Large Ensemble Assessments.

**District 8** – Carol Lupton presented a plaque to Mark Minton at the District 8 Band Directors meeting in May. The plaque was for his service on the LMEA Board of Directors. Carol welcomed Michele DesLattes to the LMEA board of directors. District 8 had great Band and Choir Assessments this year. There were fewer elementary choirs this year.

**District 9** - Jessica Lizana thanked Sharon McNamar-Horne for running the District Choral Assessment. The District Choral Assessment dropped from 18 groups to 8 groups because of cost. Jessica reported that one of the directors in District 9 does not like ASS'N on the LMEA medals.

**Band Division** – Joey Nassar reported Richard Clary from Florida State will conduct the 2019 All State Symphonic Band. Dennis Llinas from University of Oregon will conduct the 2019 All State Concert Band. Joey stated that most of the band directors he has talked with like three judges in sight-reading. He feels LMEA should stay with the current fees for LMEA Assessments until we get a better picture of the actual costs.

**Jazz Division** – Lee Hicks reported the deadline to upload the district audition recordings will be September 16. The new audition material, including jazz scales, prepared etudes and the play-along mp3 files for etudes, will be posted on the LMEA website by June 1. Vocal auditions will need to send in a video. Denis DiBlasio, head of Jazz and Composition programs at Rowan University, will conduct the 2019 LMEA All State Jazz Ensemble.

**Orchestra Division** – Katrice LaCour stated he received good comments from orchestra directors about three judges in sight-reading. He said set IV will be used for the 2019 All State string auditions. Deadline for string auditions is postmarked by September 18. Larry Livingston with the University of Southern California, will conduct the 2019 LMEA All State Orchestra.

**Vocal Division** – Angela Jones reported Dr. Stephen Futrell will conduct the 2019 LMEA All State Mixed Choir. Dr. Kevin Johnson will conduct the 2019 LMEA All State Women's Chorale. Angela has received contract and repertoire from the All State conductors. Information has been updated on the website in the All-State Choir section, First Round Piece: Richte Mich, Gott by Mendelssohn, Second Round Piece: Dolcemente Dormiva by Monteverdi. Second Round pre-registration deadline is September 30th. Only students listed on the pre-registration form submitted by the deadline will be eligible to audition. A new form for districts to submit for second round will include the top nine on each part with each singer's total score including tiebreaker (sightreading). Alternates will be selected using a formula that Jim Trant has devised that will compare scores from the different districts. Angela presented a chart showing second round audition schedules for 2019 – 2024. The 2019 second round audition schedule will be districts 3,1,5,6,7,9,8,4,2. Second round auditions will be held at Pineville High School.

**Elementary Division** – Michele White reported Dr. Andrew Paney will be the elementary division main clinician at the LMEA Conference. Diane Carlson-Engle will be the secondary clinician. Michele is trying to get Lamar Robertson to present at least one session at conference. Starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, Ava Brown from Lake Charles will be the new president for LAKE. Michele will retire from CPSB at the end of May this year. Her program at R.W.Vincent Elementary has been cut to a half day position next year.

**University Division** – Victor Drescher reported Southeastern Louisiana University will be the guest university for the 2019 LMEA Conference. Southeastern will provide performing groups for all divisions.

**Collegiate NAFME** – Ed McClellan stated he was recovering well from his surgery. He is receiving proposals for the 2019 LMEA Conference. Ed reported this is the 30<sup>th</sup> season of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra in New Orleans. The Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra is interested in working with LMEA.

**Public Relations** – Carolyn Herrington reported everything is looking good for LMEA Conference exhibits. The new All State program was well received by the universities.

**Hall of Fame** – Tom Burroughs thanked Tom Wafer for his many years of service as LMEA Hall of Fame Chairman. Tom stated the LMEA Hall of Fame needs more visibility. A new LMEA Hall of Fame nomination form will be put on the LMEA website. A list of current LMEA Hall of Fame nominees was presented to the board. The Hall of Fame committee will vote on the nominees at 1:00 today, May 18.

**Webmaster** – Sharon McNamara-Horne said questions have been asked about using a Zoom (GoToMeeting) for some or all board meetings. She recommends GoToMeeting Pro as the level we should purchase if we decide to go this route. Sharon is working with NAFME IT to get a handle on the registration/login issues. The source of the problem was the design of the website template, not NAFME. She hopes to have this fixed by the end of the summer. Sharon asked the board to get handbook changes and corrections to her by June 1<sup>st</sup> so she can get the LMEA Handbook updated.

**Conference Coordinator** – James Hearne stated June 10<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for submitting proposals for the 2019 LMEA Conference. He has received 35 proposals, 9 of them vocal. The 2018 LMEA Conference offered 52 clinics, 8 ½ were vocal. James reported the LMEA All State Women's Chorale will perform on Saturday, November 23, before the LMEA All State Mixed Choir.

**Editor** – Pat Deaville stated the LMEA Newsletter will go out Tuesday, May 21. He asked all district directors to get their district calendars to him by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**LBA** – Angele Bienvenu stated the LBA All Star Bands will be held June 2 – 4 at Tioga High School. Tim McMillen will conduct the All Star Jazz Band. Evan McCormick and Michael England will direct Blast. Amy Williams, Apryl Gadd and Tyler Grant will conduct the All Star Concert Bands. Jessica Fain will be the LBA president next year.

**AOSA** – Kelly Stomps submitted a report for Red Stick Orff. The Red Stick chapter was named a Chapter of Distinction this year by AOSA, the highest recognition a chapter can receive. Kelly reported the chapter has created a Facebook page: Red Stick Orff. There are four workshops planned for next year: September 7, 2019 – Chris Judah-Lauder, October 19, 2019 – Kelly Stomps and Lisa Blaney, February 15, 2020 – Rachel Aupperle, March 21, 2020 – Chapter Share. Check out the Red Stick website for updates and biographies.

## **Old Business**

Jim Trant presented new adjudication sheets for large ensemble stage and sight-reading performance. Jim used the sheets this year for the Bayouland Concert Festival and received very positive feedback from both the instrumental and choral directors. After much discussion, Carol Lupton formed a committee to come up with new LMEA Large Ensemble adjudication sheets for stage and performance. The committee will consist of all district directors and all division chairs. Fran Hebert and Scotty Walker will be on the committee. Scotty Walker will head the committee. The committee will report back to the LMEA Board of Directors in October.

## **New Business**

Johnny Walker is working with one of his local legislators to prepare a bill for the Louisiana Legislature, taken from Texas HB 5 that limits pull-out of students from one class for remediation in another class. The

bill was passed in 2013 by the Texas Legislature. The law reads: A district may not remove a student from a regularly scheduled class for remedial tutoring or test preparation if, as a result of the removal, the student would miss more than 10 percent of the school days on which the class is offered, unless the student's parent or another person standing in parental relation to the student provides to the district written consent for removal from class for such purpose. As this bill is prepared, Johnny will bring it to the LMEA Board of Directors for feedback and support.

Moved by Brett Babineaux and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Greg Oden to change the wording in the LMEA Handbook for Sight-reading Requirements for Band, Orchestra and Choir. *Sight reading is optional for all other groups. However, in order to qualify for State/Regional Assessment participation, groups must sight-read at the district assessment will be removed from the handbook Add: Ensembles that opt for Comments Only on stage will be required to sight-read for Comments Only. They will have the option to sight-read one level below the required selection, if one exists.* PASSED

Katie Codina presented the board with a proposal for LMEA certification of assessment adjudicators. Her proposal included reasons for the training, requirements for certification and maintaining certification. Co-sponsors of the proposal are Joseph Nassar, Jessica Fain, Brett Babineaux, Jessica Lizana and Craig Millet. A certification committee consisting of the sponsor, co-sponsors and additional members appointed by the LMEA president, would coordinate at least two workshops, collect applications, maintain a master list of certified judges and follow up on eligibility.

During discussion of the proposal, Fran Hebert reminded the board she had presented an adjudicator workshop for vocal teachers several years ago. She stated at that time, the LMEA Board of Directors did not like the use of the word certification as part of the training.

Moved by Katie Codina and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jessica Fain to create a Committee of Standards of Adjudication tasked with the purpose of training and certifying adjudicators for LMEA Assessments with a standardized approach to the adjudication process. PASSED

Moved by Jessica Fain and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Katie Codina that LMEA require at least one certified adjudicator serve on the stage panel by the 2021 LMEA assessments. This shall apply to band large ensemble assessment only. (YES – Scotty Walker, Jessica Fain, Brett Babineaux, Katie Codina, Michele DesLattes, Jessica Lizana, Joseph Nassar, Lee Hicks, Victor Drescher, Michele White - - NO – Fran Hebert, Greg Oden, Sharon Stephenson, Jim Trant, Angela Jones, Ed McClellan - - ABSTAIN – Katrice LaCour) PASSED

Carol Lupton presented the names of two school administrators that are nominated for the 2019 LMEA Outstanding Administrator Award. The nominees are Jason St. Pierre, Principal at Walker High School and Owen Clanton, Principal at F.K. White Middle School in Lake Charles. Moved by Michele White and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Scotty Walker to accept both nominees for the Outstanding Administrator Award. PASSED

Brett Babineaux asked the board to form a committee for the purposes of establishing Honors Ensembles for LMEA. The committee would be responsible for setting rules, procedures and guidelines as it pertains to Honor Ensembles. Brett Babineaux, Scotty Walker and Carol Lupton will serve on the committee and will present information about Honor Ensembles to the LMEA board in October.

Brett Babineaux stated the vote to separate from NafME and have LMEA collect it's own dues did not reach the 2/3 majority needed, but a majority of LMEA members wanted to see LMEA move in that direction. Brett will attend the NafME meeting this summer and hopes to have a better understanding of the NafME connection with LMEA. This will help him decide if a new proposal to separate from NafME is warranted.

Brett Babineaux asked the board to look into a "larger" venue for LMEA Conference/All State. Pat Deaville recommended that districts present ideas for venues available in their district. They should be cost effective

for directors and students. Jessica Fain moved and Jessica Lizana 2<sup>nd</sup> to form a committee to investigate “larger” venues for the LMEA Conference/All State. PASSED

The Conference Venue Committee will be headed by James Hearne and will include all district directors, Scotty Walker and Bruce Lambert

Lee Hicks discussed recording 2<sup>nd</sup> round auditions for All State Band and All State Choir. The All State Jazz and All State String auditions are already being recorded. Carol Lupton appointed a committee to explore recording All State Band and All State Choir auditions. Lee Hicks will head the committee which includes Angela Jones, Joey Nassar, Greg Oden and Jim Trant. The committee will report back to the board.

Tommy Burroughs announced three directors selected by the Hall of Fame Committee for induction at the 2019 LMEA Conference. New LMEA Hall of Fame inductees are: Rosie Fournier, Johnette Parker and Scotty Walker.

Scotty Walker talked briefly about reinstating State Solo/Ensemble Assessment. He will work on a proposal and get back with the board.

Moved by Greg Oden and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Scotty Walker to add a \$125 non-member fee to LMEA Assessments. PASSED

The board talked about Lee Hicks and the Fontainebleau Jazz Ensemble being selected to perform at Midwest Band Clinic this December and at the International Jazz Conference in January 2020. What an outstanding accomplishment. The board asked James Hearne to see if there was some spot in the LMEA Conference this November that we could feature Lee and his jazz ensemble.

Meeting adjourned . . . . .

