

The meeting of the Louisiana Music Educators Association Board of Directors was called to order at 9:30 a.m., January 4, 2020 with the following present: Carol Lupton, Scotty Walker, Fran Hebert, Bruce Lambert, Greg Oden, Jessica Fain, Brett Babineaux, Katie Codina, Sharon Stephenson, Guy Wood, Jim Trant, Joshua Stearman, Joseph Nassar, Katrice LaCour, Lee Hicks, Victor Drescher, Carolyn Herrington, Pat Deaville, Sharon McNamara-Horne, Tom Burroughs, David Gambino and Michelle Wilkinson-Nelson.

Moved by Carolyn Herrington and 2nd by Fran Hebert to approve the agenda.. PASSED

Moved by Carolyn Herrington and 2nd by Fran Hebert to approve the minutes. PASSED

Moved by Carolyn Herrington and 2nd by Greg Oden to approve the financial report. PASSED

Carol Lupton reported she has heard from many band, orchestra and choir directors about the loss of the State Assessments. She would like to find a way to bring State Assessments back in the near future. Carol also talked about lowering assessment costs for elementary choir programs. She stated that Tom Wafer is in hospice.

Scotty Walker will form a committee to work on music advocacy. He would like a representative from all nine districts. Scotty will also form a committee to update the strategic plan. He asked board members to please talk to the members of their districts about the LMEA State Solo Assessment and about the Robert Wilhite award. Scotty talked to the board about the possibility of using the LSU Union Auditorium for All State performances. Guy Wood stated using the LSU Auditorium would be very inconvenient for membership.

Fran Hebert reported conference registration was very easy this year. She would like to trim down the number of hours that registration is open. Fran listed the following candidates running unopposed: Brett Babineaux – President Elect, Vocal Chairman – Greg Oden, Orchestra Chairman – Katrice LaCour, Jazz Chairman – Lee Hicks, University Chairman – Victor Drescher, Elementary Chairman – Michele White, Collegiate Chairman – Ed McClellan, Public Relations – Carolyn Herrington and District 9 Director – Joshua Stearman. Ronnie Gleason, Ty Lege and Tim McMillen are running for Band Chairman. The election for Band Division Chairman will be held March 1st to March 15th. If no candidate receives a majority, the runoff of the top two will be held March 15th to April 1st.

District 1 – Greg Oden reported he is honored to be the new Vocal Chairman and will do his best. It is important for us to do what is best for the students. Everything in District 1 is going well.

District 2 – Jessica Fain stated everything is great in District 2. She attended Midwest this year and said Lee Hick's jazz band was great.

District 3 – Brett Babineaux stated he appreciated the opportunity to serve LMEA as president elect. He said the energy on the board is to move forward. Brett would like to see the Wilhite award and the State Solo Assessment on the LMEA homepage. He told the board that conversation about judge training is very positive in District 3.

District 4 – Katie Codina stated she would like to see an increase in solo/ensemble participation. She said the solo/ensemble medals need better ribbons. We should work to make solo/ensemble more successful in all districts.

District 5 – Sharon Stephenson reported District 5 was doing good. DeRidder High School and DeRidder Jr. High have already held a solo/ensemble assessment.

District 6 – District 6 is having the same problem with solo/ensemble assessments as the other districts. Guy asked to have the board minutes sent out early.

District 7 – Jim Trant reported the same problems with solo/ensemble assessments in District 7. Carol Lupton asked Jim if District 7 was hosting a LMEA large ensemble assessment. Jim stated his directors had voted to not have a LMEA Band Assessment or Choir Assessment this year. He said the directors were not happy with the new adjudication sheet approved by the LMEA board. His district wanted to use a numerical adjudication sheet.

District 8 – absent

District 9 – Joshua Stearman reported his district would like to see a third location for 2nd round all state auditions. He told the board there was an immediate opening for band director at Hammond High School.

Band Division – Joey Nassar thanked Dutchtown High, Walker High, Catholic High and St. Amant High for providing equipment for the all state bands. He thanked the two directors that hosted all state bands for him. He also thanked Southeastern University for the use of equipment. Joey stated there are more and more issues with time for directors and students. As an organization, we must evolve. He thanked everyone for his time on the LMEA board.

Jazz Division – Lee Hicks reported that the Fontainebleau High Jazz Ensemble will perform at the Jazz Educators Conference in New Orleans this month. He stated we will need more rhythm players try out for all state jazz next year. The entire rhythm section for this year's all state jazz ensemble will graduate. Lee said that set 4 audition material is being written now. After the set 4 is finished, sets 1 through 3 will be tweaked to make all 4 sets fairly even.

Orchestra Division – Katrice LaCour thanked the board for their work in organizing the LMEA Conference. Mailing the orchestra music folders directly to students cut down on the time it took students to receive their music after second round. There were no issues with online registration and access to information on the web site. Registration time was perfect. Katrice will swap the 2nd violin and bass chair audition spots to cut down on the amount of time the library is occupied. Guest performances were outstanding again. Larry Livingston did an outstanding job with the all state orchestra. David Baker is the proposed conductor of the 2020 All State Orchestra. Katrice reported multi-district string large ensemble assessments in district 4 and district 2 (8).

Vocal Division – Angela Jones was absent. Fran Hebert stated the All State Choirs were very good. Greg Oden said many choir directors were excited that both all state choirs performed on Saturday. Greg asked district directors to ask the vocal teachers in their districts if they would prefer 2 mixed choirs instead of a mixed choir and a womens' choir.

Elementary Division – Michele White emailed she would not be at the meeting today. She stated if a tiered payment for large ensemble assessments is considered, please remember that some elementary schools can only bring small groups (30-40). It is hard for them to afford the current amount.

University Division – Victor Drescher stated everything went smoothly with the Southeastern groups. The only problem was the Southeastern choir director wanted to set up their exhibit booth on Thursday. LSU will provide performing groups for the 2020 LMEA Conference.

Collegiate Division – Ed McClellan sent an email to Carol Lupton reporting everything went well during the LMEA Conference. Thanks to everyone that helped.

Public Relations – Carolyn Herrington thanked James Hearne and Sharon McNamara-Horne for all their help during the conference. She reported we had 44 tables in the exhibit hall. We will continue to offer Monday exhibits for exhibitors that want to stay through Monday. Carolyn stated we need to recognize J.W.Pepper for supplying music for the reading session. Victor Drescher suggested keeping the exhibits open longer on Sunday afternoon. Carolyn said presenting Academic All State awards went smoothly. 313 students received Academic All State awards.

Hall of Fame – Tom Burroughs reminded the board that nominations for LMEA Hall of Fame must be received by May 1st. The forms used to submit nominations are on the website and in the magazine.

Webmaster – Sharon McNamara-Horne asked the board to please give her any thoughts and suggestions about the website. She said there were fewer mistakes with the All State forms this year. She would like to change LMEA Conference pre-registration to early bird registration. LMEA cleared \$448.25 from PayPal, enough to cover the monthly cost of PayPal Pro. About 2/3 of registrations are paid by credit/debit cards. Sharon will delete the All State section of the handbook and put a statement to see All State section on the website. When submitting a ballot, you will log in and click submit. Your membership is checked in real time and you are assigned a unique, anonymous number. You will not be allowed to vote more than once.

Conference Chairman – James Hearne emailed his thanks to the board for a great Conference. Please send any suggestions for future conferences to him. Jessica Fain talked about the possibility of having multiple universities share the responsibility of performing for conference. Victor Drescher will talk to the college directors and see how they feel about that. Jessica also stated we need to address the poor attendance at late night clinics.

Editor – Pat Deaville reported the magazine will be coming out in the next couple of weeks. Deadline for articles is tomorrow. He needs articles from district directors. Pat said a sample ballot will be in the magazine and the newsletter. Jim Trant stated many of the directors in his district wonder why we still have paper magazines when we also get them on line. Pat asked the district directors to talk to their directors about doing away with the printed magazines and just having the magazine on line.

LBA – Jessica Fain reported the LBA All Star Bands will be held May 31st – June 2nd at ULL. Nomination forms are due by January 21. The Wind Ensemble will be conducted by Erin Cole, a Conn-Selmer Clinician. The Symphonic Band will be conducted by the LBA Bandmaster of the Year and the Concert Band will be conducted by Emily Young from Lawtell Elementary. Trevor Davis from Louisiana Tech will conduct the Jazz Band and Willie Martin and Steve Wilson from Central Lafourche will conduct BLAST!

LAJE – David Gambino stated there were a good number of students that auditioned for All State Jazz. LAJE is trying to get even more students to audition. LAJE wants to host jazz events in every district. David said the jazz reading band had good participation this year but would like to have a bigger audience. The website for LAJE is LAJEmusic.com

LAPAS – Jessica Fain announced the Day of Percussion on April 4 at NSU. March 27th will be a percussion festival for LCBI. ULL will provide all equipment. Can play 1-3 pieces, any size group will work. ULL Percussion Ensemble performs on Saturday, April 28, at the First Baptist Church. PAS group membership for schools is \$250. This serves students through 12th grade.

LA-ASTA - Michelle Wilkinson-Nelson stated they were trying to get more string teachers involved. She is working with national ASTA to do some regional clinics. The local Baton Rouge Community Orchestra is up and going. They meet on Monday nights.

Carol Lupton asked board members with any information for the venue committee, to send the information to James Hearne.

Greg Oden will report in May for the Louisiana Ensemble Awards (Vocal).

Katie Codina stated the Adjudication Certification Committee will drop the requirement of at least one certified adjudicator serve on the stage panel by the 2021 LMEA Assessments.

Lee Hicks will report in May on restructuring the audition procedure for All State to include the use of recorded and/or Skype auditions.

Brett Babineaux started a discussion about tiered fees for schools that bring multiple groups to large ensemble assessment. After much discussion, it was decided we need to wait and see how the districts end up financially at the end of the year. The new trophies are costing more and all districts are starting from scratch with trophies this year. Some districts are afraid they will not have enough to cover all expenses.

Brett Babineaux discussed possible changes in band sight reading. There are some complaints that the AAAA schools and the AAA schools read the same level sight reading. After much discussion, it was decided that Joey Nassar will bring a proposal for band sight reading levels in May. This year, the sight reading levels will stay the same as before.

Joey Nassar discussed changing the scoring for All State winds and percussion. Moved by Jim Trant and 2nd by Carolyn Herrington to change the wording in the handbook to read: *Tryout chairpersons will give prepared material a weight of 50% (25% for each etude), sight reading – 20% and scales - 30%. These three areas will determine the total tryout score. PASSED*

A correction was made on the all state scales for saxophone. The Db scale should be 2 octaves for alto, tenor and bari saxes. Sharon McNamara-Horne will fix this on the website.

Joey Nassar will bring a proposal in May to change the French horn prepared etudes.

Scotty Walker and Brett Babineaux visited a lobbyist. Four of the southern division states have lobbyists. They will bring more information to the board in May.

Meeting adjourned