



**The Louisiana Music Educators Association**

*"We are in this together. Together we can do anything."*

**Better Together**

Colleagues,

This past week has certainly been eventful for our membership. While continuing to find ways to teach our students safely during these extraordinary times, we have rediscovered some time-honored truths.

The first truth is that we are better together. LMEA is a composite of the talents, resiliency, and determination of our members. The revisions made to the Covid-19 guidance, honoring some of our requests, came about because of you and your colleagues.

Had we not spoken up as individual teachers and as a unified organization, adjustments simply would not have happened. The positive changes were not the result of one or two people making many calls and contacts. Changes happened because many members made personal contacts with key people in positions of power and influence.

The second truth is that it is good to have scientific research to back-up your words. Had LMEA not been active in partnering with the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) and the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) over the past six months, the important data which supported our cause would not have been at our fingertips.

The third truth is that good governance can overcome politics and bureaucracy. Good governance feeds off transparency and openness to rational public input. The State Superintendent, his staff members, and the State Health Department could have turned a deaf ear to our information, data, and arguments. They did not. So yes, they deserve credit as well.

LMEA has been a good “team player” since the outset of the pandemic. While never abandoning our commitment to our students, we worked hard to stay in compliance with national, state, and local guidelines. We will continue to do so.

This episode has certainly deepened LMEA’s partnership with LDOE. We recognize that the Governor and LDOE have profound responsibilities. We have never questioned their authority. But we do wish to be informed and engaged in guidance impacting music education.

Once again, we are better together. Please accept my personal thanks for being an active member of LMEA.

Scotty Walker, President  
Louisiana Music Educators Association