

The meeting of the Louisiana Music Educators Association Board of Directors was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on October 3, 2020 via ZOOM with the following present: Scotty Walker, Brett Babineaux, Carol Lupton, Bruce Lambert, Robert Freeman, Aleisa Hudlow, Billy Hochkeppel, Katie Codina, Sharon Stephenson, Guy Wood, Jim Trant, Michelle DesLattes, Joshua Stearman, Ronnie Gleason, Greg Oden, Lee Hicks, Victor Drescher, Michele White, Ed McClellan, Carolyn Herrington, James Hearne, Sharon McNamara-Horne, Jessica Fain, David Gambino, Ginny Medina-Hamilton and James Square,

Moved by Michele White and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Guy Wood to approve the agenda. PASSED

Moved by Greg Oden and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ed McClellan to approve the minutes of the July 27 ZOOM meeting. PASSED

Bruce Lambert reported \$74,758.77 in the LMEA checking account and \$2115.00 in the PayPal account.

Moved by Josh Stearman and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Greg Oden to approve the financial report. PASSED

**District 6** – Guy Wood has a football game today and must report early. Guy reported everything in District 6 has been cancelled for marching season. The district meetings have been by ZOOM.

**President** – Scotty Walker presented the following report:

Colleagues,

One year ago, no one could have predicted where we are today. Through this ongoing process, however, we continue to be stronger. When a threat to one program occurs, the board is committed to provide something of value in its place for its members and their students. The work we do now will be the most important work we do in our careers.

District directors, it is for this reason I ask that you implore your constituency to take advantage of those opportunities. The virtual conference, which is now being hosted by Conn Selmer, is a world class event that will rival any virtual conference you have ever seen. Registration is currently ongoing. We must relay to our districts the value of this invaluable professional development opportunity. The executive board has made a conscious effort to offer this experience at a minimal fee. When meeting with Conn Selmer, they were surprised at how much of a reduced rate we were willing to charge. We did it so that every member would have the opportunity of attending this event.

For the advanced student musicians in your district, we are currently accepting applications for the state virtual solo festival. Registration deadline is October 19 with a virtual solo submission date of October 31. I cannot tell you how invaluable this is for your students and my hope is that you consider bringing more relevance to the district level solo and small ensemble festivals. Jim will be discussing this in greater detail later in the meeting. In addition to solo festival, Brett will be discussing the formation of a new committee aimed at concert assessment opportunities in the spring.

Now more than ever, we see the impact of our actions when we pull our resources together. Music Education in Louisiana is better due to the efforts of groups such as the National Federation of High Schools and the National Association for Music Education. Likewise, through the guidance of these organizations, the growth of LMEA has been nothing short of spectacular. Our work has only just begun. Please continue to advocate in your area even when you don't think its needed. It is exactly then that we must proclaim the good word and speak of the value of music. Proactivity always brings better results than reactivity.

In my report, I will include a message from NAFME President Mackie Spradley, who discusses some of the many benefits to its members. Take a moment to see what your membership is paying for and please take advantage of these benefits.

**President Elect** – Brett Babineaux reported the NAFME Southern Division meeting was encouraging. Louisiana is ahead of most states in the Southern Division. To play or not to play is a problem in most states. Keep the advocacy up. NAFME asked LMEA to track membership to see why directors are not renewing membership. Brett asked the board to work on tracking and retaining membership. Music in Our Schools Month has added the option of Music in Our Homes. Contact Brett for more information. Matt Barusch, NAFME State Advocacy Engagement Manager, suggested we fundraiser for hurricane affected schools. Brett asked the board to be positive on facebook - it goes a long way. LMEA has purchased the program Webinar Jam. We will be able to keep the virtual clinics forever and can host other virtual clinics and conferences.

**Past President** - Carol Lupton extended thoughts and prayers for the hurricane victims. District director elections will be held in the spring. There is an online link for current district directors to submit their nomination and for new nominees to submit their names. Nominations are open through December 31, 2020.

**District 1** – Robert Freeman reported many challenges for his district. Not everyone is on the same page. District solo/ensemble assessments are being stressed along with the LMEA Virtual Conference.

**District 2** – Aleisa Hudlow reported her district met in August. There have been many challenges with phrase 3 of COVID. Hurricane Laura hit the Natchitoches and Alexandria areas pretty hard. Some of the directors feel that LMEA should lower requirements for Large Ensemble Assessments this spring, if they are held. Aleisa is pushing LMEA solo/ensemble assessments to be held at the individual schools.

**District 3** – Billy Hochkeppel stated District 3 is planning on having honor bands and large ensemble assessments in the spring. He has received good responses from his directors for the LMEA Virtual Conference. Billy contacted all judges that were supposed to judge this past March. All are available, at this time, to judge next March. He told the board only two parishes in his district have music supervisors. It is important to get better representation at the local and state levels. Lafayette parish is restricted to Phase 2 even though the state is in Phase 3. This is a great reason to have better representation.

**District 4** – Katie Codina thanked Craig Millet, Joey Nassar and Sheily Bell for helping persuade LDOE to allow music programs to go into Phase 3. Middle schools in her district are still not allowed to play inside. Weather hinders them from rehearsing outside. Band directors in District 4 want to have LMEA large ensemble assessments in the spring, even if it must be outside. Choir directors in District 4 are against having LMEA choir assessments in the spring.

**District 5** – Sharon Stephenson stated there are many problems in District 5 following Hurricane Laura. Many schools in Calcasieu parish have not been in school this entire fall. Some schools are just now opening. Many of the facilities used to host large ensemble assessments have been damaged and will not be available in the spring. There is little or no internet service throughout the parish. LMEA solo/ensemble assessments will be encouraged for the spring.

**District 7** – Jim Trant stated his directors want to participate in LMEA large ensemble assessment in the spring, regardless of the changes and restrictions that may occur. Jim polled his district concerning LMEA Virtual Conference and LMEA district solo/ensemble assessment. Only 10 of 45 directors are planning on attending the virtual conference and only 10 of 45 said they would participate in LMEA district solo/ensemble. This is very disappointing for Jim. He will continue to push the Virtual Conference and LMEA solo/ensemble.

**District 8** – Michele DesLattes stated all schools in District 8 are in Phase 3. The principals are not consistent from one school to another. Most are complying with LDOE guidelines. Singing in the masks is very limiting. Many directors are using Smart Music but are having major problems with technical support. Spring events are still scheduled but spring testing may cause conflicts. LMEA leadership has done an excellent job and there is a lot of confidence in LMEA at this time.

**District 9** – Joshua Stearman reported that St. Tammany parish band directors and band boosters were very helpful in pushing LDOE to go to Phase 3 for music programs. St. Tammany parish has a disconnect in the playing rules for music students – different at each school. The LMEA advocacy push has been well received. There will be a directors meeting in November to talk about large ensemble assessments for the spring.

**Band Division** – Ronnie Gleason reported the online all state band requirements have been updated for clarification. The four mallet keyboard exercises have been clarified on the website. Both All State Band conductors will participate in the LMEA Virtual Conference. Cynthia Johnston Turner, Symphonic Band Conductor, will present “Rehearsal: Ideas for moving rehearsals beyond the basics to engage and inspire the new learner.” Scott Casagrande, Concert Band Conductor, will present “You want me to do what?? Proven and successful systems to promote in your band culture that motivates students to practice at home.” Ronnie has contacted several French Horn professors around the state to get recommendations for new French Horn audition material. The LSU horn professor recommends Maxime Alphonse book 3, Kopprash and the Shoemaker Legato etudes. The Maxime Alphonse book and the Kopprash are public domain. This would allow us to post the new music on our website. Ronnie will present the new horn audition material at the January board meeting.

**Jazz Division** – Lee Hicks expressed concern for the hurricane affected areas of the state. He asked if those affected could make a list of needs so the rest of the state could help fill those needs. The All State Jazz auditions will go through Acceptd. Sherrie Maricle, the All State Jazz Conductor, will present a clinic for the LMEA Virtual Conference. LAJE is making recordings of the LMEA all state jazz audition material. He thanked LAJE for making these recordings. Lee encouraged advocacy for LMEA and thanked Scotty and Brett for their countless hours on behalf of LMEA.

**LAJE** – The LAJE membership is growing. LAJE is making recordings of the LMEA All State Jazz audition material using several university directors.

**Orchestra Division** – Katrice LaCour submitted a report. Dr. Sey Ahn will present a video clinic for the LMEA Virtual Conference. String auditions must be postmarked by November 13, 2020. Set one is being used this year. The string auditions will not use Acceptd. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, some of our normal recording sites or schools might not be available depending on protocol for that district. Please contact the designated orchestra chair for your district’s recording date and availability. If your recording site is unavailable, the orchestra director or private instructor will be responsible for recording the audition. Please read all audition recording protocols and eligibility requirements before submitting recorded auditions.

**Vocal Division** – Greg Oden reported Dr. Julie Yu-Oppenheim, All State Mixed Choir Director, and Dr. Gregory Fuller, All State Women’s Chorale Conductor, will both present clinics for the LMEA Virtual Conference. Greg stated district directors must submit their district allotment to him by January 31, 2021. The Round 2 audition will be held on February 13, 2021 using the portal site Acceptd.com. He said many of the choirs in District 1 cannot sing inside. Some of the choirs have had students test positive for Covid-19.

**Elementary Division** – Michele White congratulated LMEA for all their amazing work during the Covid-19 crisis. LMEA is doing a terrific job in keeping music education alive in our state. All information regarding elementary presenters and our invited clinicians has been sent to James Hearne. She is excited about this opportunity for the virtual conference. Michele mentioned the hard work being done by the Southern Division of NAFME. The Council for General Music, for which she is Southern Rep., has completed lessons for Music in Our Schools Month. The next meeting of the Council for General Music will be October 11. Any questions about Southern Division and what they are doing to support General Music, please contact Michele.

**Collegiate / CNAfME** – Ed McClellan reported that the universities are dealing with the same problems as the high schools and middle schools. Many of the same policies for performance are hindering the colleges. Matt Barusch will present at the LMEA Virtual Conference, very exciting.

**Public Relations** – Carolyn Herrington stated we now have virtual vendors for the LMEA Conference. Silver Sponsors include: Alfred Music, DeMoulin, Just Orlando Youth Tours and ULM. Gold Sponsors include: JW Pepper, Moosiko, Quaver Music, Conn Selmer and Music For All. Carolyn is working on getting a conference sponsor to offer a virtual “Happy Hour.”

**University Division** – Victor Drescher stated there was not much to report because Covid-19 has cancelled live university performances. Victor will help secure band all state second round judges if needed in the spring. Victor is now conducting the Southeastern Wind Ensemble. The safety person at SLU is allowing the Wind Ensemble to have full rehearsals.

**Hall of Fame** – James Hearne has been selected to the LMEA Hall of Fame for 2020. The presentation will be in March 2021, if possible. If face to face is not possible in March, the presentation will be held at the LMEA Conference next November.

**Webmaster** – Sharon McNamara-Horne stated there have been many changes in almost every section of the website. If you notice a problem, mistake or bad link, please let Sharon know. Conference registration for members: Login, Return to Homepage, Select Conference Tab, Select Form You Need, Log Out. You will get the regular auto-confirmation receipt in your email. A link to the conference will be sent to you a few days before the conference (Carol is registration chair). When you click into the conference, you will type in your name and email. You will then be let into the conference. Sharon has received the latest conference schedule from James and will have it on the website in the next couple of days.

**Conference Chairman** – James Hearne thanked Scotty Walker for the outstanding job he is doing for LMEA. In June, the LMEA Conference changed to virtual. We have moved from Accelevents hosting our conference to Conn Selmer. Conn Selmer has been outstanding. We are going to have a very full conference and are counting on everyone to participate. We still need people to help with tech support. LMEA has purchased a copy of Webinar Jam, the program we are using to host our conference. The Webinar Jam platform will allow directors to watch the clinics after the conference. Conn Selmer will be educating presenters and helpers.

**Interim Editor** – Carolyn Herrington stated since our last meeting, we have produced 2 newsletters and the September “Louisiana Musician.” The LMEA Executive Board, James Hearne and Sharon McNamara-Horne have worked hundreds of hours to put together a virtual conference that is inclusive of national names and performing groups. Carolyn needs articles for the November and February magazines. With the consistent changes in music education, your directors could use as much information as we can give them. If you have directors in your district that have found clever ways to get their classroom going, please have them submit to the LMEA webpage under “This works for me.” It is located on the Resources Tab: [lmeamusic.org/this-works-for-me/](https://lmeamusic.org/this-works-for-me/) Carolyn thanked the board for the opportunity to serve LMEA.

**LBA** – Jessica Fain stated she was proud of LMEA for standing up for what they believe in and coming together in a peaceful way. She thanked LMEA for doing outstanding work and being a beacon of light for all its members. LBA is still planning on hosting the 2021 LBA All Star Event at ULL on June 6-8. There will be 3 middle school ensembles, a high school jazz band and a high school Blast band. All band directors who are current members of LMEA should receive the 2021 All Star nomination forms by December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Nomination forms and audition material can be found at [Labandmasters.org](http://Labandmasters.org). Jessica said she is looking forward to the LMEA Virtual Conference and is excited about all the things LMEA is doing. Keep putting up the good fight and lets continue to inspire young musicians.

**LMAA** – Katie Codina reported the first meeting with charter members will be held on November 2. The first training session for charter members will be held on November 19 from 6 pm – 8 pm. James Drew who trains Texas adjudicators, will train the LMAA charter members on November 19. Training for new members will be held in January. Details are on [lamusicadjudicators.org](http://lamusicadjudicators.org)

**Council for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion** – James Square reported that DEI got off to a fast start and is ready for the the upcoming conference. DEI will present 3 sessions at the LMEA Virtual Conference. Other states are looking to us for leadership in this area (DEI). If you have any questions concerning DEI, please contact James.

**Louisiana Advocacy Leadership Force** - Ginny Medina-Hamilton reported Scotty, Brett and others communicated with the LDOE in clarifying/changing the LDOE Smart Start Guidelines regarding Phase 2 and Phase 3 restrictions.

Progress by each Pillar Committee has been extraordinary.

1. **ADVOCACY:** Collecting testing data, ensemble participation data, and planning for an advocacy strand at the LMEA Conference. Working with Matt Barusch at NAFME for virtual workshops opportunities.
2. **COMMUNICATIONS:** LMEA Public Outreach facebook page. It was an important move to give LMEA a public presence on social media that allows parents, students and non-LMEA members to see an active and involved music organization.
3. **STORIES:** Some stories are published and ready for viewing. The importance of personal testimonies appeals to our audience and is a vital part of the advocacy push.
4. **GOVERNMENT RELATIONS:** Meeting with LDOE, BESE, as well as the legislature. Members of this group met with the Governor's wife and other state arts education leaders.

**Spring Ensemble Assessment** – A committee is being formed to make plans for LMEA spring assessments. Contact Brett Babineaux if you are interested in serving on the committee. The committee will look at live vs. virtual assessments as well as fees for large ensemble assessments, The goal is to have a plan ready to present to the executive board by early November.

## **Old Business**

Katie Codina proposed to add the following books for middle school required solos for the LMEA State Solo Assessment: Essential Elements (books 2&3), Standard of Excellence (books 2&3), Measures of Success (books 2&3), Tradition of Excellence (books 2&3), Standard of Excellence Festival Solos (books 2&3), Kendor Recital Solos (Grades 1&2), Classic Festival Solos (1&2).

Moved by Katie Codina and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carolyn Herrington to add these books to the current state solo assessment list. PASSED

### **New Business**

Harry Hooker, Principal at DeRidder High School, will receive the LMEA Outstanding Administrator Award in March during the All State activities.

Louisiana Guitar Ensemble – Scotty Walker stated this new ensemble is happening in other states across the country. This is another way to get students involved in music education across the state. Scotty has been in touch with Dr. James Burton, guitar teacher/expert. The ensemble would have 20 – 25 members. James Hearne will look into the possibility of adding this ensemble to our conference. Scotty will get more specifics and get back to the board.

Virtual All State Clarification – Proposal with additions underlined:

Students auditioning must be enrolled in a Louisiana-accredited high school and must be an active member of that school's ensemble program. In a situation where there is no ensemble at the school, the student must be certified by the eligible music teacher at that school or a private teacher who is an LMEA member. For the 2020-2021 school year, a student who opts out of a traditional school and has chosen to be a virtual learner for reasons related to the Covid-19 pandemic may retain eligibility if certified by an eligible teacher who is an LMEA member at their typical school.

Moved by Joshua Stearman and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Trant to accept the proposal as presented. PASSED

LMEA District Solo/Ensemble Assessments 2020-2021 -

Jim Trant moved and Aleisa Hudlow 2<sup>nd</sup> to allow district directors to conduct their solo/ensemble assessments to best suit their area (virtual, in-person, combination of both, etc). This will be for this school year. PASSED

Jim Trant moved and Billy Hochkeppel 2<sup>nd</sup> to lower LMEA District Solo/Ensemble fees from \$5 to \$3. This will be for this school year. FAILED (4 for, 7 against)

Jim Trant moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Katie Codina to allow district directors to determine the LMEA Solo/Ensemble fee for their district according to what they can afford. This will be for this school year. FAILED (5 for, 10 against)

Meeting Adjourned . . . . .