



Louisiana Music Educators Association
Board of Directors Meeting
8 February 2025
9:30 AM
ZOOM

MAY 10, 2025 -- In Person Meeting Location TBD
August 9, 2025 -- ZOOM
November 8, 2025 -- ZOOM (Tentative – pending State
Marching Championship Date.

[LINK TO GOOGLE DRIVE FOR REPORTS](#)

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order: Roll Call**
LMEA meeting was called to order at 9:30 with the following people present:
Scotty Walker, Lee Hicks, Jessica Fain, Brett Babineaux, Robbie Freeman, Aleisa Hudlow, Bailey Lanier, Ryan Benoit, Aaron Theall, Jim Trant, Michele DesLattes, Stephanie Robertson, Billy Hochkeppel, Stephen Galliano, Victor Drescher, Ed McClellan, Josh Stearman, Denise Howell, Carolyn Herrington, Sharon McNamara Horne, Michael Brothers, Tony McCardle, Dr. Greg Robin, Ginny Medina-Hamilton, Gregg Griffin, Greig Ashurst, Lynn Burton.
- II. Approval of Agenda**
Motion/Second Jessica Fain-Blanchard / Ryan Benoit Passes
- III. Approval of Minutes** (August 24, 2024 board meeting via Zoom)
Motion/Second Jessica Fain-Blanchard / Aleisa Hudlow Passes
- IV. Ex-Officio Members**
Conference Chair - Denise Howell – Report in [Google Drive](#)
Editor – Carolyn Herrington – Report in [Google Drive](#)
Webmaster – Sharon McNamara-Horne – Report given : Sadly, Sharon announces her retirement as of June 30, 2025. Her last board meeting will be the May 10 meeting, 2025.
- V. Approval of the Financial Report** - Scotty Walker – Report in [Google Drive](#)
State Marching Championship Question: Jim Trant Thinking about for the future – what can we earmark this for? Extra shirts – sell for \$10 each. Shout out to McNeese Directors and Tony McCardle
All-State Recordings– Good
Foundation – CD matured (Details in report)
Sightreading has arrived – will be sent out shortly. (including .5) – Will meet with Billy H – to discuss .25. Discussion about trophies with District Directors.
Question – Michele DesLattes- String sight reading for orchestra (Scotty will send out)
Question – Aaron Theall – When can DD's get solo & ensemble medals (coming soon)
Districts need to be consistent in expenses paid for at large ensemble, etc.
State Solo – moved earlier so that medals can be in directors' hands before school ends.
Motion/Second Jessica Fain-Blanchard / Aleisa Hudlow Passes
- VI. Executive Officer Reports**
President – Lee Hicks - Please let Lee know if you would like changes to the meeting “order”. Also the new motions are good – please remember that change is sometimes slow.
President-Elect – Jessica Fain-Blanchard Thank you to All – equipment needs were nearly impossible, but thanks to all that made it happen. Lee's student teacher Will --- AMAZING!
Academic All-State medals – some incorrect medals sent out, Jessica will help in any way possible to

remedy – and get new medals out. If you need a certificate – please reach out so she can validate and mail.

Immediate Past President – Brett Babineaux AB (came in later) – Report in [Google Drive](#)

VII. Associate Organizations

LA ACDA – Alyssa Carranza - AB

AOSA - Erin Fort – AB – Keith James shared a report.

CBDNA - Jason Ladd – Report in [Google Drive](#)

LAJE - Michael Brothers - Report in drive [Google Drive](#)

LAKE – Ava Brown - AB

La. PAS – Kathryn Irwin - AB

LBA – Amy Kutz – LBA June 1st – 3rd at ULL check LBA website for details

LMAA - Bill Brent – Jessica Fain– Report in [Google Drive](#)

LA ASTA – David Saccardi - AB

VIII. Committee Reports

Administration Advisory Council - Tony McCardle spoke about the State Championship - Chalmette High School Bus accident – All was well-no injuries, but many seniors missed their last opportunity to march for the season. The Wednesday before the conference set up – T-Shirts and patches were delivered to the entire band! What a GREAT MOMENT!

Data Collection Committee - Lynn Burton and Aaron Theall Report in drive - [Google Drive](#)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council - James Square – Report in [Google Drive](#)

Guitar - Dr. Greg Robin - All went very well – Guitar students excited to do this again next year!

Hall of Fame – Tommy Burroughs -AB

Handbell - Greig Ashurst – Report in [Google Drive](#)

Large Ensemble Assessment - Brett Babineaux - – Report in [Google Drive](#)

Louisiana Advocacy Leadership Force - Ginny Medina-Hamilton - Hill Day April 24 – Baton Rouge Looking for groups to perform between 10:00 & 12:00. - Report in drive [Google Drive](#)

Louisiana Roots Music Ed. Collective - Gregg Griffin - Report in drive [Google Drive](#)

Mentorship - Cory Craig (sent representative to meeting) Successfully paired mentees and mentors! Conducted 3 zoom meetings – concert planning, recruitment strategies, both mentors and mentees benefited from the conversations! April cohort meeting – how to finish out a year.

PML Committee - Aleisa Hudlow Not much to report – updates come annually. Most reviews happen during the summer. Updates to the board will come in September.

State Marching and Contest Committee and Second Round Auditions - Jim Trant

SECOND ROUND All-state recordings went well – few issues, all taken care of. Concern that payment isn't coming in a timely manner. (Reminder: An audition cannot be adjudicated if the fee has not been received – this needs to be reinforced.)

STATE MARCHING CHAMPIONSHIP One issue – November 4 is the preferred week – same time frame as last year. (Not set yet). Contact the existing marching festivals to see if they will use the same format / sheets to prepare for championships. Wants bands to commit by late April or early May – this will allow us to get a schedule out by mid-August. This will also allow us to secure judges. Please do NOT give out this date it is not set yet.

Ryan Benoit/Michele DesLattes – many people have expressed to him that they would like to step up and help – just need to get the word out. Michele DesLattes - Also – it would be great if we could publicize the committee members – transparency. Aleisa Hudlow– other universities would like to throw their name in the hat as host school when appropriate.

Tri-M - Lynn Burton - Report in drive [Google Drive](#)

VIII. Unfinished Business NONE

IX. New Business

Motion: Proposal for Changing the Alternating All-State Choir Audition Repertoire

(Stephen Galliano) **Motion/Second Stephen Galliano / Jim Trant**

STEVE Galliano tables the motion after discussion.

Discussion:

Michele DesLattes – positive move, the students are learning a piece they will not perform.

Jim Trant – this change would be for next year if this passes.

Billy Hochkeppel – concerns: Worried about it being selected by the clinician; it would depend on when the clinician is selected, possibility that the piece would not be ready in time/ or the challenge of the difficulty of the piece/ as well as concerns about the copyright (would all districts have to buy this music)/ if a student works hard for the audition, the women's choir would be left out as they would not support all of the choirs.– understands the want and the need.

ANSWERS FROM STEVE G: Steve would be responsible for guiding the conductors. Steve would ask each school to purchase the audition piece – not LMEA expense. Steve is still thinking about how to accommodate a solution for the women's choir.

Aaron Theall – is this intended for High School and middle school? Steve - YES

Ryan Benoit: Puts trust in Steve's judgement on the motion. Is there any other state that does it this way? Steve - YES

Michele DesLattes: Have we thought about an etude rotation? (The bands currently have an etude rotation.)

Billy H – will we make rehearsal tracks?

Scotty Walker – could we form a committee to focus/define this motion and move this forward?

Aleisa Hudlow– Would like to make a motion to table until May and speak to her district before she votes.

Second. *Robert Freeman* **(Steve Galliano agrees to table the motion.)**

Motion: Proposal for Increasing the Stipend for All-State Choir Clinicians in Louisiana

(Stephen Galliano) **Stephen asked to table for finance committee.**

Motion: To establish an LMEA High School All-State Percussion Ensemble to rehearse and perform at the annual LMEA Professional Development Conference.

(Bailey Lanier) **Motion/Second Bailey Lanier asked to table his motion for the finance committee.**

X. Division Reports

Band Division – Billy Hochkeppel - Report in drive [Google Drive](#) *Cleaning up middle school audition music. *Second round percussion audition – checking on making that audition shorter. Lee Hicks suggested that we purchase the copyright for the All-State audition material (Like Jazz Division is currently doing.)

Vocal Division – Stephen Galliano Clinicians for 2026 are already secured. Vocal sightreading is being written (Bill Horne). Assessment registration needs to have a “sign-off” stating that they have read the sightreading protocol. Many concerns from vocal parents about a weekday performance. (Lee noted schedule problems.) Sharon – can the vocal directors have an additional check box at registration to say that they have read and understand the sightreading protocol. Steve likes this suggestion.

Orchestra Division – Katrice Lacour – AB - Report in drive [Google Drive](#)

Jazz Division – Doug Stone - AB - Report in drive [Google Drive](#)

Elementary Division – Keith James - Report in drive [Google Drive](#)

Collegiate (CNAfME) – Ed McClellan – Conference was very successful – highlighted session with mentor teacher discussions. Looking forward to tweaking next year.

Public Relations – Josh Stearman - Report in drive [Google Drive](#)

University Division – Victor Drescher - Report in drive [Google Drive](#)

XI. District Directors Reports

ALL District Reports in drive [Google Drive](#)

District 1. Robert Freeman

District 2. Aleisa Hudlow

District 3. Bailey Lanier

District 4. Ryan Benoit

District 5. Aaron Theall

District 6. Telly Higgins

District 7. Jim Trant

District 8. Michele DesLattes

District 9. Stephanie Robertson

XII. Conference Meeting Dates Poll (*District Directors, Division Chairs*)

XIII. Adjournment Motion **Motion/Second** **Jessica Fain-Blanchard/Aleisa Hudlow**

PASSES!!

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