



L M E A

*DISTINGUISHED LEGACY
AWARD
RECIPIENTS*

Distinguished Legacy Award

Beginning in 2022, LMEA recognizes recipients of the **Distinguished Legacy Award**. This award recognizes lifetime achievement. It is reserved for LMEA members with thirty or more years of distinguished service in support of the mission and goals of the Louisiana Music Educator Association. These goals include elevating character, advancing professional interest, and otherwise promoting the cause of music education in the State of Louisiana. No more than two LMEA members may be recognized within a calendar year.



Pat Deaville

Distinguished Legacy Award 2022

Over the past fifty years, Patrick Deaville's impact on the Louisiana Music Education Association has been profound. His contributions as Editor of the Louisiana Musician, Chairman of the annual Professional Development Conference, and advisor to the LMEA Board of Directors cannot be overstated.

Mr. Deaville's broad spectrum of expertise as a musician, teacher, and administrator made him an invaluable resource to LMEA during decades of critical discussions, debates, and decisions.

His wisdom, professional demeanor, and communication skills restored order and calm during countless heated moments. In addition, his ability to galvanize consensus kept LMEA on an even keel as it worked through expansion, challenges, and crises. But Pat's greatest gift to LMEA has been his uncompromising commitment to integrity, loyalty, and excellence. He has been both a lighthouse and a north star for LMEA.

A native of Jennings, Louisiana, Pat Deaville majored in music education at McNeese State University, earning the positions of principal trumpet and drum major. In 1972 he was awarded summa cum laude honors at McNeese and ranked first in a graduating class of over five hundred Bachelor's degree candidates. Eight years later, he maintained a perfect 4.0 average in graduate studies at McNeese while earning a Master of Education degree in Administration and Supervision.

In 1972, Mr. Deaville was commissioned as a military officer. He graduated with honors from the United States Army Adjutant General School and remained on active duty for two years in the famed 18th Airborne Corps.

Upon completing his military commitment in 1974, Mr. Deaville served as a band director for twenty years at Jefferson Davis and Calcasieu Parishes public schools. His directorships included Lake Arthur High School, Jennings High School, Lake Charles High School, LaGrange High School, and SJ Welsh Middle School.

Over those two decades, his bands earned twenty-three sweepstakes awards at LMEA concert assessments. His marching and concert bands received superior ratings in district, state, regional, and national competitions, with his ensembles performing in six states.

During his time as band director at Lake Arthur High School, band participation grew from just 13 members to over 200 students in a school with a total enrollment of less than 400. While band director at SJ Welsh Middle School, the band grew from approximately 100 students to 350.

In 1993, Mr. Deaville left the rehearsal hall and started a twenty-year administrative career. He first served as an assistant principal at SJ Welsh Middle School before assuming the same role at Sam Houston High School. In 2000, he was promoted to district-level leadership, where he functioned as Director of High School Curriculum and Instruction and as the Music Supervisor for all Calcasieu Parish schools.

Working closely with the Louisiana Department of Education, he gained statewide recognition as an expert in school accountability and regulatory compliance. Mr. Deaville retired from the Calcasieu Parish School System in 2014 but continued his work with LMEA.

Mr. Deaville's involvement with the Louisiana Music Educators Association included a thirty-four-year tenure on the Board of Directors. During that timeframe, he spent ten years as the District V Representative, twenty-five years as Chairman of the State Music Professional Development Conference, and twenty-eight years as Editor of the Louisiana Musician.

Mr. Deaville is Past-President of Phi Beta Mu and was twice selected by that organization as Louisiana's Outstanding Contributor to Bands. In 2003, he was inducted into the LMEA Hall of Fame.

A prolific writer, Mr. Deaville has produced a multitude of powerfully influential editorials and educational essays published in state, national, and international education periodicals. He is also the author of nine fiction, nonfiction, and poetry books.

Mr. Deaville is married to Kathlene Honsinger Deaville and has two sons, Paul and Patrick Austin. Kathlene is a Lake Charles High and LSU graduate who earned numerous awards in advertising as an account executive with KPLC TV. Paul completed his secondary studies at the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and Arts. Like his father, Paul was a summa cum laude graduate of McNeese State University. Patrick Austin is a Sam Houston High School and McNeese graduate who works in the digital news team at KPLC TV. Like his father, Patrick Austin was an accomplished high school and collegiate trumpet player.



Bruce Lambert

Distinguished Legacy Award 2022

Bruce Lambert is an iconic figure in the history of the Louisiana Music Educators Association. For fifty years, his firm leadership style and passionate focus on "doing what is right for our students" have created an extraordinary environment for achievement in music education throughout Louisiana.

Bruce enabled a steady expansion of LMEA's membership and services with a commonsense vision and fiscal expertise. In addition, Bruce's keen sense of linking broad strategic goals to practical and efficient processes made him the single most influential leader on the Board of Directors for many decades.

As LMEA's Band Division Chair, then President, and ultimately Executive Director, Mr. Lambert was the principal architect of the organizational and financial superstructure built upon the foundation that LMEA's founders established. Demonstrating unquestioned loyalty and exceptional charisma, Mr. Lambert's professional career is, to a large extent, LMEA's story.

A native of Oakdale, Louisiana, Bruce Lambert earned bachelor's and master's degrees, in addition to a +30, in music education at McNeese State University. Beginning in 1972, Mr. Lambert served for over 35 years as a high school and collegiate band director in Louisiana. His directorships include Zwolle High School, Kinder High School, Sam Houston High School, and McNeese State University. After his brilliant teaching career, Mr. Lambert served as the Instrumental Music Consultant for the Calcasieu Parish School Board.

During his long and storied tenure as a Director of Bands, Mr. Lambert's ensembles earned over eighty sweepstakes trophies at LMEA concert assessments while also earning superior ratings in marching band competitions every year for several decades. During this time, Mr. Lambert became recognized as one of Louisiana's premier clinicians and adjudicators. In addition, his extraordinary influence and impact on fellow band directors throughout the state have been immeasurable.

Mr. Lambert's contributions to music education organizations beyond LMEA included Presidencies of the District V Band Directors Association, the Louisiana Bandmasters Association, and the Louisiana Chapter of Phi Beta Mu (national honorary bandmasters' fraternity). He also served for many years as Coordinator of the LBA All-Star Band.

Many awards and commendations have been bestowed upon Mr. Lambert over the past 50 years, including being named three times as District V Band Director of the Year, twice as LBA Band Director of the Year, and three times as Phi Beta Mu Band Director of the Year. In 1996 he was inducted into the LMEA Hall of Fame.

Mr. Lambert's involvement with the Louisiana Music Educators Association includes forty years of working on and with the LMEA Board of Directors. During those four decades, he spent multiple terms as the Band Division Chair before serving as President. Following his Presidency, he ensued on a thirty-year tenure as the LMEA Executive Director.



Tom D. Wafer ***Distinguished Legacy Award 2023***

Tom Wafer, was a native of Ouachita Parish, graduated from Ouachita Parish High School in 1950 and earned bachelor's and master's degrees in music education from LSU.

To begin his teaching career, he returned to Ouachita Parish where he was band director in four elementary schools, then West Monroe Junior High, and then Ouachita Parish High School. After nine years in the Ouachita Parish Schools, he moved across town where, for six years, he was band director at Robert E. Lee Junior High, Sallie Humble Elementary and Lexington Elementary in the Monroe City School System.

In 1970, Wafer returned to LSU to work on his doctorate. He served two years as a graduate assistant in the LSU Band Department, with responsibilities for charting the halftime shows of the LSU Tiger Band. He was then appointed as instructor of music at LSU, where, in addition to his charting duties, he taught four classes of music appreciation. Also, for two years, Wafer served as Assistant to the Dean of the LSU school of Music.

In December 1977, Wafer was appointed State Supervisor of Music Education in the Louisiana Department of Education. One of the accomplishments of Wafer's years at the Department of Education was the development of curriculum guides for elementary and secondary music education. He retired as State Supervisor of Music Education in July of 1986, completing a 31-year career in music education.

Tom Wafer was a member of the LMEA Board of Directors for twenty-five years, serving in such capacities as District Director, Editor of The Louisiana Musician, State Advisor for Student MENC, and as State Supervisor of Music Education, an "ex officio" position on the LMEA Board. He also served LMEA as State Convention Chairman and State Festival Chairman.

Tom Wafer was inducted into the LMEA Hall of Fame in 1989. From 1993 through 2018 Tom served as Chairman of the LMEA Hall of Fame. In 2006 MENC honored him for 50 years of continual active membership and leadership in LMEA. In 1999 he also spearheaded the first compilation of LMEA Hall of Fame inductee resumes into a single document for preservation. He started the document with the initial inductee of Bob Gilmore (1982) and continued through the 1999 inductees (Mabel Smith, Michael Genevay, Lamar Robertson, and Mike Spears). Years later, Tom's compilation was expanded to include all the newer inductees. After he left the state department as supervisor of music, he worked for several Baton Rouge hotels (Holiday Inn at some point) and played a vital role in arranging hotel space for the LSU teams and their weekly rivals for home games. The LSU athletic department used him as their go-to guy in making these complicated reservations for visiting teams in the few Baton Rouge hotels that could handle these large teams with rooms, meals, and meeting space...along with the required security.

Tom D. Wafer will be remembered most fondly in his later years of service to LMEA for helping to hold down the registration table for the LMEA conference. Tom knew most everyone attending conference, and if he didn't know you – he was certain to get acquainted with you as you made your way through registration. LMEA lost our dear friend in March of 2020. Thank you, Tom D. Wafer, for 60 years of service to Louisiana Music Educators.



Carolyn Herrington *Distinguished Legacy Award 2024*

Carolyn Herrington has given an immense part of her life to serving LMEA over the last 40 years. In the final analysis, each and every position and duty she fulfilled for LMEA was done for the right reason in an exemplary manner. Many have done much over the past eight decades, but Mrs. Herrington was a “cut above.” She became a significant difference maker who helped shape music education in Louisiana, not just for a moment but for our complete history.

Born in Lincoln, Nebraska an “Air-Force brat”, Carolyn Herrington’s family settled in Mississippi, where she attended D’Iberville High School, on the Gulf Coast. She was an All-State saxophone player for 2 years and high school drum major. Her senior year in high school she was featured at the Greenwood Mississippi Music Festival playing “Harlem Nocturne” - accompanied by her high school band. The band director of the University of Southern Mississippi was in the audience that day and offered her a full scholarship – and so began her musical journey. She received her Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1981.

She began her teaching career in 1982 at East Side Upper Elementary, teaching 6th grade band. From there, she moved across town to DeRidder Junior High in 1986. Under her direction DeRidder Junior High earned their first sweepstakes for concert band in the history of the school. In 1991 she began a 26-year span as the director of bands at DeRidder High School – retiring in 2017, as the Director of DeRidder City Schools. Mrs. Herrington taught all 35 years of her career in one community.

During her tenure at DeRidder High School, the band traveled from coast to coast, marching in Washington D.C. in the National Cherry Blossom parade, playing concerts in the Smokey Mountain Music Festival in Gatlinburg, several performances at Disney in Orlando, as well as performing in Winter Park Colorado – taking top honors across the country. It was important to her to let music be the vehicle for travel – and to be an ambassador for quality music and music education representing the state of Louisiana. It was equally important for her students to perform and give back to the community – for civic groups, nursing homes – community events. Music has the unique ability to bridge generational gaps, creating a shared experience that promotes understanding and growth between young and old.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Herrington has been very active in the leadership of the Louisiana Music Educators Association, serving for 30 years. She served two terms as State Jazz Division Chairman, four terms as LMEA District V Director, Band Division Chairman and two terms as LMEA President. She is the second person in recent history of LMEA to serve two terms as President. In 2013 she served eight years as Public Relations Chairman through 2021. In 2020 Mrs. Herrington became the Interim Editor for “The Louisiana Musician” and is presently the Editor for our state’s official magazine.

In addition to memberships in MENC, LMEA, LBA and Four States Band Masters, she served as President and Secretary of the Louisiana chapter of Phi Beta Mu. She was a staff member of the Louisiana All-Star Marching Band for 22 years and served this 500-piece marching band as its conductor in 2003.

Mrs. Herrington was selected as Teacher of the Year by her school and parish. In 1989 she was selected as District V Band Director of the Year. In 1995 and 2000, she was selected as the Phi Beta Mu Outstanding Band Director of the Year. In 2002, she was selected as Louisiana’s representative in School Band and Orchestra “50 Directors Who Make a Difference. Also, in 2002, she was selected by the Louisiana Bandmasters Association as Bandmaster of the Year. She was the first band director in the state of Louisiana to earn National Board Certification. In 2014, Mrs. Herrington was inducted into the LMEA Hall of Fame.

Mrs. Herrington is married to James Herrington, retired Beauregard Parish Personnel Director, teacher and coach. She has two sons, Brett, a nurse practitioner, and Timothy an Automation/AI Engineer. She has one very special grandson – James Alexander Herrington.



Sharon McNamara-Horne ***Distinguished Legacy Award 2024***

Before retiring in 2017, Sharon McNamara-Horne taught music in St. Tammany Parish for 26 years. In 1977, she began her teaching career as an itinerant elementary music teacher and the choir director at Abita Springs Jr. High and Lee Road Jr. High (K-9). After her children were born, Sharon left the teaching profession for 13 years to be a mom and to run the family music store. However, by 1995, she realized how much she missed teaching and returned to public school music, more devoted than ever!

Sharon returned to classroom music at Tchefuncte Middle School, where she also had two 75-member elementary choirs and worked with Orff classroom ensembles. Before long, she was offered a position at Mandeville High teaching Talented Music, a college-prep elective. Her band, choir, and string students consistently earned superiors at Solo and Small Ensemble Assessments, and many were selected to District and All-State Honor Ensembles. While at MHS, she also served as accompanist for the choirs, worked closely with the band director, frequently conducted a selection on band concerts, and assisted in preparing vocalists and instrumentalists for the school musicals.

In 2007, Sharon transferred to Fontainebleau Jr. High in Mandeville to become the choir director and piano teacher. During the ten years she was there, her students consistently earned superiors at Solo and Small Ensemble Assessments, sweepstakes at District Large Ensemble Assessments and, as the program developed, sweepstakes at State Large Ensemble Assessments. Sharon believed that all students, even those with academic challenges, could learn to read music with an appropriate level of proficiency and she reinforced that philosophy by having *all* students participate in handbell ensembles each fall. She wanted her students to experience both independence and success, knowing this would carry over into her choirs. In addition to school and LMEA performances, Sharon

provided opportunities for community performance - entertainment before a School Board meeting, performing for feeder schools or a nursing home, or singing the Star-Spangled Banner at New Orleans Pelicans games. At FJHS, Sharon was also the music director for annual school musicals and frequently worked with music methods students and student teachers from Southeastern Louisiana University. In March 2012, Mrs. Mac (as her students called her) was the St. Tammany PTA Educator of Distinction and a recipient of the Louisiana PTA Educator of Distinction Award. The following year, she was the FJHS Teacher of the Year. However, she feels most honored knowing that a number of her MHS and FJHS students went on to major in music and either teach or perform professionally.

An active member of the Louisiana Music Educators Association, Sharon has served on the Board of Directors since 2006, first as a District Director, then as President, and currently as Webmaster. She is proud of her role in transitioning to a responsive website that would allow for online registration and payments for LMEA events. Recently, she has volunteered to help transition to a new accounting system, to put together the conference program, and to assist in updating forms and procedures. Prior to serving as an elected board member, Sharon served as her District's Orchestra Chair, co-chaired vocal events, and for 16 years served as her district's webmaster. She frequently serves as an adjudicator for large ensemble assessments throughout the state, has served as a solo and small ensemble adjudicator, and enjoys opportunities to critique choirs in preparation for assessments.

In addition to her teaching career, Sharon enjoyed 26 years as choir director at First United Methodist, Covington where she worked with the adult choir, children's Choirchime ensembles, was substitute organist, and worked with special projects for children, adults, and seniors. She currently is the accompanist for Hammond High Magnet School's choirs.

Sharon received her BME and MEd from Southeastern Louisiana University and an MM from Loyola University. Her professional memberships include the LMEA, NAFME, Louisiana Music Adjudicators Association, ACDA, and Delta Omicron. She and her husband, William, love spending time with their children's families, which include nine "perfect" grandchildren! In her "spare" time, she enjoys traveling, crafts, and making and decorating themed birthday cakes for grandchildren - the latest being a unicorn cake.

In a world that focuses on academic success and student scores, Sharon's goal was always to provide opportunities for *all* her students to experience success at the highest level through music, including those who struggled academically and had seldom experienced success. Her greatest hope for her students was that they would all internalize the line from her favorite song, "Over the Rainbow": "Why then, oh why can't I!" and believe that "*they can!*"

