



Louisiana Music Educators Association
Board of Directors Meeting
10 May 2025
10:00 AM
Cathedral Carmel School,
Lafayette, LA

August 9, 2025 -- ZOOM
November 8, 2025 -- ZOOM

[LINK TO GOOGLE DRIVE FOLDER](#)

AGENDA

I. Call to Order: Roll Call

LMEA meeting was called to order at 10:00 with the following people present: Scotty Walker, Lee Hicks, Jessica Fain-Blanchard, Brett Babineaux, Robbie Freeman, Aleisa Hudlow, Bailey Lanier, Ryan Benoit, Aaron Theall, Stephanie Robertson, Billy Hochkeppel, Stephen Galliano, Katrice Lacour, Doug Stone, Victor Drescher, Josh Stearman, Denise Howell, Sharon McNamara Horne, Jason Ladd, Amy Kutz, Tony McCardle, Lynn Burton, James Square, Dr. Greg Robin, Ginny Medina-Hamilton, Gregg Griffin

II. Approval of Agenda

Motion/Second Ryan Benoit/Aleisa Hudlow Passes

III. Approval of Minutes (February 8, 2025 board meeting via zoom)

Motion/Second Victor Drescher/Aleisa Hudlow Passes

IV. Executive Director/Approval of the Financial Report - Scotty Walker

Sharon presents - revenue & expenses have grown exponentially

Spent \$474,000 compared to \$165,000 last year

Marching festival has helped us to stay ahead financially

[Summary Report with Graphs](#)

[Finance Summary](#)

Billy - "Why is the expense \$149,000 for general expenses?" Sharon - "That amount includes the dinner for the students which makes up the larger portion of the general expense"

Scotty - Discussing the cost of trophies. We are going back to the smaller district trophy which will be \$55 & \$20 for plaques. The larger trophy that has been used will be used for State Concert Assessment.

Motion for the bid to accept Aleisa Hudlow "Moves to accept the bid presented by Scotty Walker"

Ryan Benoit - 2nd

LMEA will purchase the trophies from the districts.

13 - For

0 - Against

Motion Approved

Scotty - If you want to purchase the sight reading you will need to pay \$367.

Motion to approve the financial report - Aleisa Hudlow & Aaron Theall - 2nd

Motion passes

V. Executive Officer Reports

President – Lee Hicks ([report in google drive](#))

President-Elect – Jessica Fain-Blanchard ([report in google drive](#))

Immediate Past President – Brett Babineaux ([report in google drive](#))

VI. Ex-Officio Members

Conference Logistics Coordinator - Denise Howell ([report in google drive](#))

Editor – Carolyn Herrington - Absent ([report in drive](#))

- Deadlines for Louisiana Musician Articles - see report
 - **September Issue** – August 10th - Full Board
 - **December Issue** – November 10th - Full Board no District Directors
 - **March Issue** – February 10th - Full Board no Division Chairs

Webmaster – Sharon McNamara-Horne ([report in drive](#))

VII. Associate Organizations

LA ACDA – Alyssa Carranza - A

AOSA - Erin Fort - A

CBDNA - Jason Ladd

- Rotate the performance between the Intercollegiate Band & the Intercollegiate Jazz Ensemble starting in 2026

LAJE - Michael Brothers - A - ([report in drive](#))

LAKE – Ava Brown - A

La. PAS – Kathryn Irwin - A

LBA – Amy Kutz ([report in drive](#))

LMAA - Bill Brent - A - ([report in drive](#))

LA ASTA – David Saccardi - A

VIII. Committee Reports

Administration Advisory Council - Tony McCardle

- Senate Bills that we need to be aware of

SB198	Stine	SCHOOLS: Authorizes nonpublic school students to participate in public school activities. (8/1/25) LHSAA
SB105	Abraham	EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY: Requires that schools utilize a nationally normed assessment instead of the LEAP test for purposes of school and district accountability. (gov sig)

- Lee - “Is there any additional discussion going on about the changes in the school performance score?”
- Ginny & Billy - “LMEA needs to draft a letter to send to their superintendent to advocate to add interest & opportunities back into the SPS.”
- Lee - “Members of LMEA need to attend their local school board meetings to advocate to their
- Ginny - “Duane & I can work together to get a letter drafted to share with our membership”

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

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council - James Square -

- Clinics were well received but would have liked those specific clinics would have been more spread out throughout the schedule
- Encourage clinicians to prepare some tangible documents
- Wilhite & Barbara Butler Award Recipients - encourage them to put on a clinic at our conference

Guitar - Dr. Greg Robin

- Will attend the NAFME Zoom meeting as a special guest to discuss how he has added

Hall of Fame – Tommy Burroughs - A

Handbell - Greig Ashurst - A - ([report in drive](#))

Large Ensemble Assessment - Brett Babineaux

- Billy Hochkeppel- we are going to reconvene the committee to discuss further changes that need to be made to the current district assessment model

Louisiana Advocacy Leadership Force - Ginny Medina-Hamilton/Duane Leblanc - A

- Hill Day - St. Mary Parish Talented Music brought students to perform

- Future - bring a table to set up & bring materials to share
- Louisiana Roots Music Ed. Collective** - Gregg Griffin - (report in drive)
- In the process of developing an organization called *Fet* to bring together individuals across the state to collaborate
 - Summer Music Camp
- Mentorship** - Cory Craig - A
- PML Committee** - Aleisa Hudlow - (report in drive)
- June 1, 2025 - deadline to submit new PML submissions
 - August 1, 2025 - PML updated online
 - Need suggestions for two people to serve on the PML committee
- Tri-M** - Lynn Burton - (report in drive)

IX. Division Reports

- Band Division** – Billy Hochkeppel (report in drive)
- <https://forms.gle/v1eUfwnbaBMjqxmv5> - Fill out form to suggest All-State Clinicians
- Vocal Division** – Stephen Galliano (report in drive)
- Michele, Kelsey, & Stephen - created a committee to determine the audition piece for the Junior High Choir
 - Junior High Choir Clinician - Robert T. Gibson
 - All-State Mixed Choir Clinician - Dr. Lee Nelson
 - Treble Choir Clinician - Dr. Jessica Napoles
 - Recommended additions to the handbook
 - Choirs will be allowed to sing a warm-up on stage prior to their performance as long as they do over the 20 minute stage time
 - Choirs will be allowed to use solfège hand signs in the sight reading room during the learning process
 - Question about e-print purchases - enforcing the total amount of pieces purchased - this is a copyright issue
 - Ginny - If you are going to use an e-print copy it either needs to show that you are purchasing it for everyone or just purchase the hard copies
 - Aleisa - Sometimes I purchase the e-print copies just for my judges & not for my entire program. How are we going to prove this?
 - Billy - I suggest that we discuss this in the committee over the summer
- Orchestra Division** – Katrice Lacour - (report in drive)
- Jazz Division** – Doug Stone - (report in drive)
- Middle School Clinician - Diron Holloway
- Elementary Division** – Keith James - A
- Collegiate (CNAfME)** – Ed McClellan - A
- Public Relations** – Joshua Stearman
- This upcoming LMEA Conference is the 90th conference
 - Speaking to the Guide Book representative this summer
- University Division** – Victor Drescher
- Performances at Conference
 - Nichols Choir - Dr. John St. Marie
 - ULL Symphony Orchestra - Michael Blaney

X. District Directors Reports

- District 1.** Robert Freeman - (report in drive)
- District 2.** Aleisa Hudlow - (report in drive)
- Solo/Ensemble paperwork needs to be digitized - Aleisa will
- District 3.** Bailey Lanier - (report in drive)
- District 4.** Ryan Benoit - (report in drive)
- District 5.** Aaron Theall - (report in drive)
- 1000 solos & 500 ensembles
- District 6.** Telly Higgins - (report in drive)
- District 7.** Jim Trant - A
- District Assessment was hosted at the Lafon Center for 5 days

District 8. Michele DesLattes - A - (report in drive)

District 9. Stephanie Robertson - (report in drive)

XI. Unfinished Business

- **Motion: Proposal for Changing the Alternating All-State Choir Audition Repertoire**
(Stephen Galliano) *Tabled from the February Meeting.*
Link to February meeting minutes to review what was discussed:
<https://lmeamusic.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/LMEA-Board-Meeting-Minutes-February-8th-2025-Revised.pdf>
 - Motion - To accept the proposal as listed in the proposal in the google drive
 - **Motion/Second** Steve Galliano/Aleisa Hudlow Passes
 - Aaron Theall - Would this music be selected in enough time to get this audition material
 - Billy - Is it the requirement that the teacher/school purchase the music?
 - Stephanie - Schools have always purchased the pieces
 - Billy - My concern is that the audition music was done on a rotation & now we are going to ask the school to purchase the new music each year.
 - Steve - This is common practice for ACDA already
 - Jessica - You have already spoken with directors around the state?
 - Steve - Yes
 - Aleisa - Is this starting this year?
 - Steve - No, this will start in 2026-2027
 - Vote - 11/2 - Motion passess
 - **Motion: Proposal for Increasing the Stipend for All-State Choir Clinicians in Louisiana**
(Stephen Galliano) *Tabled from the February Meeting.*
Link to February meeting minutes to review what was discussed:
<https://lmeamusic.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/LMEA-Board-Meeting-Minutes-February-8th-2025-Revised.pdf>
 - Table proposal
 - **Motion: To establish an LMEA High School All-State Percussion Ensemble to rehearse and perform at the annual LMEA Professional Development Conference.**
(Bailey Lanier) *Tabled from the February Meeting.*
Link to February meeting minutes to review what was discussed:
<https://lmeamusic.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/LMEA-Board-Meeting-Minutes-February-8th-2025-Revised.pdf>
 - Motion - To accept the proposal as listed in the proposal in the google drive
 - **Motion/Second** Bailey Lanier/Aleisa Hudlow
 - Scotty - Space concerns in the Hilton for this year
 - Aleisa - Recommended that we table this proposal until we know that we can find a dedicated space for the venue
 - Scotty - Yes, we need to look into this for the future
 - Billy - Percussion scores for All-State are the top 3 tightest scores which means that we have students that are capable of participating. We have added other ensembles such as middle school & handbell choir very quickly. Bailey
 - Tony - Is there an opportunity for us to have meeting space since we have rooms there?
 - Scotty - If we could get space could we revisit this conversation & vote on it
 - Scotty - Can we table this proposal for this summer?
- Amendment to the proposal Brett - To establish an LMEA High School All-State Percussion Ensemble to rehearse and perform at the annual LMEA Professional Development Conference when space permits.**
- **Motion/Second** Bailey Lanier/Aleisa Hudlow Passes

XII. New Business

- **Honoring Departing Board Members** (Jim Trant, District 7 - Sharon McNamara-Horne, Webmaster)
- **Welcoming New Board Members** (Ginny Medina-Hamilton)

- **Discuss dates for All-State Audition Deadlines**
 - Table this motion to work with division chairs & district directors to iron out details
 - Consider having them being due the week before Thanksgiving
 - Sharon - Last year the deadline for Middle School was on December 6th
 - Consider all of the other things that take place after that
 - That date created a lot of issues of getting all of the other things taken care of for Webmaster & Editor
 - Katrice - Jazz & Orchestra already has a deadline listed in his report
 - HS - September 28th
 - MS - November 2nd
 - Lee having the dates for Orchestra & Jazz before the band allows for students that make those ensembles could be eliminated from the band
 - Doug - Have the dates for Jazz & Orchestra always been different & if so, we could just work as division chairs together to come up with dates
 - Billy - I would like to know the list of things that need to be done so maybe the Division Chairs
 - Billy will coordinate with Division Chairs to iron out a date
 - Steve - Can I suggest that the 2nd Round audition be the last date of October?
 - Sharon - Could the choir division have different dates than the band division?
 - Billy - As a former District Director having so many different deadlines created additional headaches on
 - Table this proposal - Zo
- **Motion: Proposal for the [Creation of an All-State Cajun/Zydeco Ensemble](#)**
 - **Motion - To establish an LMEA [Creation of an All-State Cajun/Zydeco Ensemble](#) to rehearse and perform at the annual LMEA Professional Development Conference when space permits.**
 - **Motion/Second** Brett Babineaux/Aleisa Hudlow Passes
 - Clarification - Shares spaces between percussion ensemble & cajun zydeco
 - Denise - How would concerts work?
 - Lee - The concerts wouldn't be on the same day. We would just work on creative scheduling to make this happen
- **Motion: To approve the Executive Director and Conference Logistics Coordinator to move forward with [Establishing a new contract with the Hilton Riverside New Orleans beyond 2026.](#)**
 - **Motion/Second** Brett Babineaux/Robbie Freeman Passes
- **LMEA Awards Deadline**
 - Young Educator Award - September 1st
 - Standard of Excellence - June 1st
 - Robert Whilhite - June 1st
 - Barbra Butler - June 1st
- **LMEA Outstanding Administrator Award**
 - Tabled to the next meeting so the Board can review the applicants
- **LMEA Webmaster position vote**
 - Jasper Fahrig - Voted Webmaster
- **LMEA Conference Coordinator position vote**
 - Lynn Burton - Conference Coordinator

XIII. Upcoming Dates

- **LMEA Board Meetings**
 - August 9, 2025 - via ZOOM
 - November 8, 2025 - via ZOOM
- **LMEA State Marching Championships**
 - November 3-5, 2025
 - McNeese State University, Lake Charles, LA
- **LMEA All-State and Professional Development Conference**
 - January 17-20, 2026
 - Hilton Riverside Hotel, New Orleans, LA
- **IN-PERSON State Choral Assessment**

- April 15 & 16, 2026
- Lafon Performing Arts Center, Luling, LA
- **IN-PERSON State Band and Orchestra Assessment**
 - April 20-24, 2026
 - Lafon Performing Arts Center, Luling, LA

XIV. Adjournment Motion - Motion/Second Ryan Benoit/Victor Drescher Passes