



**Louisiana Music Educators Association  
Board of Directors Meeting**

**23 August 2025**

**9:30 AM**

**ZOOM**

**Next LMEA Board Meeting**  
November 8, 2025 - via ZOOM

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**AGENDA**

- I. **Call to Order: Roll Call** Scotty Walker, Lee Hicks, Jessica Fain, Brett Babineaux, Robbie Freeman, Aleisa Hudlow, Bailey Lanier, Ryan Benoit, Aaron Theall, Ginny Medina-Hamilton, Michele DesLattes, Stephanie Robertson, Billy Hochkeppel, Stephen Galliano, Ed McClellan, Josh Stearman, Denise Howell, Carolyn Herrington, Jasper Fahrigh, Tony McCardle, Dr. Greg Robin, Gregg Griffin, Lynn Burton, Duane LeBlanc, Helen Myers, Rossi DiBenedetto, Betsy Stoupy, Victor Drescher
  
- II. **Approval of Agenda** Moved by Jessica Fain/2<sup>nd</sup> Aleisa Hudlow Passed
  
- III. **Approval of Minutes** Moved by Jessica Fain/2<sup>nd</sup> Aleisa Hudlow Passed
  
- IV. **Executive Director/Approval of the Financial Report**  
Moved by Jessica Fain/2<sup>nd</sup> Aleisa Hudlow Passed  
*Executive Director* - Scotty Walker (Report in Drive)
  - Financial Report
  - Update about State Large Ensemble Assessment In-Person
  - State Marching Contest Update
  
- V. **Executive Officer Reports**  
*President* – Lee Hicks – Thanked everyone for their dedication and hard work.  
*President-Elect* – Jessica Fain-Blanchard Thanked all – Excited to get back to New Orleans!  
*Immediate Past President* – Brett Babineaux
  
- VI. **Ex-Officio Members**  
*Conference Logistics Coordinator* - Denise Howell (Report in Drive)  
*Conference Professional Development Coordinator* - Lynn Burton (Report in Drive)  
*Editor* – Carolyn Herrington (Report in Drive)  
*Webmaster* – Jasper Fahrigh (Report in Drive)
  
- VII. **Associate Organizations**  
*LA ACDA* – Holly Grefe  
*AOSA* - Erin Fort  
*CBDNA* - Jason Ladd
  - Working with Doug Stone and Nolan Wible to figure out what is needed to have a successful Louisiana Intercollegiate Jazz Band
  - Southern Division CBDNA Conference will be hosted by the University of South Florida from February 19-21, 2026. The conference will feature award-winning musician José Valentino as well as middle and high school bands from Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, and Mississippi.  
*LAJE* - Michael Brothers (Report in Drive)  
*LAKE* – Ava Brown  
*La. PAS* – Kathryn Irwin

*LBA* – Betsy Stoupy (Report in Drive)  
*LMAA* - Bill Brent (Report given by Jessica Fain-Blanchard)  
*LA ASTA* – David Saccardi (Report in Drive)

### VIII. Committee Reports

*Administration Advisory Council* - Tony McCardle (Report in Drive)  
*Data Collection Committee* - Lynn Burton and Aaron Theall (Report in Drive)  
*Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council* - James Square (Report in Drive)  
*Guitar* - Dr. Greg Robin (Report in Drive)  
*Hall of Fame* – Tommy Burroughs NEW INDUCTEE - **Hall of Fame – Dr. James Byo** (LSU)  
*Handbell* - Greig Ashurst (Report in Drive)  
*Louisiana Advocacy Leadership Force* - Duane Leblanc (Report in Drive)  
*Louisiana Roots Music Ed. Collective* - Gregg Griffin (Report in Drive)  
*Mentorship* - Cory Craig (Report in Drive)  
*PML Committee* - Aleisa Hudlow (Report in Drive)  
*Tri-M* - Helen Myers (Report in Drive)

### IX. Division Reports

*Band Division* – Billy Hochkeppel (Report in Drive)  
*Vocal Division* – Stephen Galliano (Report in Drive)  
*Orchestra Division* – Katrice Lacour (Report in Drive)  
*Jazz Division* – Doug Stone – “Excited for another conference in New Orleans! Clinicians: Rich Thompson and D. Holloway for middle school. Any questions – contact Doug.  
*Elementary Division* – Keith James (Report in Drive)  
*Collegiate (CNAfME)* – Ed McClellan – Report in Drive  
*Public Relations* – Joshua Stearman (Report in Drive) Discussion to look into the possibility of moving colleges into a more prominent place – Josh is going to work on additional signage to bring attention to that location.  
*University Division* – Victor Drescher

### X. District Directors' Reports

*District 1.* Robert Freeman – Lots of new faces in district 1 – dates announced  
*District 2.* Aleisa Hudlow (Report in Drive)  
*District 3.* Bailey Lanier (Report in Drive)  
*District 4.* Ryan Benoit (Report in Drive)  
*District 5.* Aaron Theall (Report in Drive)  
*District 6.* Telly Higgins (Report in Drive)  
*District 7.* Ginny Medina-Hamilton (Report in Drive)  
*District 8.* Michele DesLattes (Report in Drive)  
*District 9.* Stephanie Robertson/Rossi DiBenedetto (Report in Drive)  
(Stephanie Robertson is moving to New York – we wish her success. President Lee Hicks appointed Rossi DiBenedetto to serve as the new District 9 District Director)

### XI. Old Business None to be considered.

### XII. New Business Tom Wafer Outstanding Administrator Award

There are two candidates nominated this year:  
Allison Champagne - Passed  
Dr. Wade Rouse - Passed

- **Petition to Reassign LaSalle Parish from LMEA District 1 to LMEA District 2**  
After much discussion – the board is aware that there are other schools in districts that are feeling underserved because of location, it was also brought out that all-state allocations are also to be considered. This (if passes through 2 votes of the LMEA board) would have to be voted on by the entire state. No vote was taken – [President Lee Hicks is going to form a committee to go through the different options and try to have something together for the November meeting.](#)
- **Proposal to adopt handbooks After much discussion – Ryan Benoit tabled motion.**
- **Billy Hochkeppel brought forward motion and stated proposal. 2<sup>nd</sup> Aleisa Hudlow Motion in Drive**  
To replace the current LMEA Instrumental Large Ensemble Assessment Classifications and Performance Requirements with the following:  
**Rationale**
  - To clarify and close loopholes surrounding the Combined Ensemble Classification.
  - To adjust the required level of multiple high school ensembles to match the verbiage of the middle school multiple groups as well as increase the standard for these groups.

*Jessica Fain – spoke to the work of the committee. Billy explained that this proposal is to add clarification to the original rules. There will be an extenuating circumstances class if there is an issue that would warrant that exception.*

[The board voted to ask district directors to take this proposal back to their constituents and discuss – we will revisit this at the November meeting and vote accordingly.](#)
- **Young Educators Awards announcement – Deadline September 1**

Michelle DesLattes asked for dates to the end of the year (May meeting) so that district directors can plan and have books ready to turn in.

### **XIII. Upcoming Dates**

- **Next LMEA Board Meeting**
  - November 8, 2025 - via ZOOM
- **LMEA State Marching Championships**
  - Registration Deadline, August 29, 2025
  - November 3-6, 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
  - Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA
- **IN-PERSON State Band and Orchestra Assessment**
  - April 20-24, 2026
  - Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA

### **XIV. Adjournment Motion**

Jessica Fain-Blanchard moved to adjourn - 2<sup>nd</sup> by Aleisa Hudlow