

NEXT MEETING

Feb 21st 2026 Meeting - Zoom 9:30

May 23rd In Person meeting 9:30 (details coming)



**Louisiana Music Educators Association
Board of Directors Meeting
13 December 2025
9:30 AM
ZOOM**

[LINK TO REPORTS IN GOOGLE DRIVE](#)

AGENDA (WORKING...)

I. Call to Order: Roll Call Present: Lee Hicks, Aleisa Hudlow, Denise Howell, Ryan Bailey, Greg Robin, Duane LeBlanc, Ed McClellan, Ginny Medina Hamilton, Jasper Fahrig, Scotty Walker, Michele DesLattes, Ryan Benoit, Aaron Theall, Billy Hochkeppel, Brett Babineaux, Cory Craig, Doug Stone, Jason Ladd, Robbie Freeman, Telly Higgins, Carolyn Herrington, Steve Galliano

Lee Hicks counted - we had more than 10 voting members and a quorum

II. Approval of Agenda Motion to approve Ryan Benoit 2nd Aleisa Hudlow **PASSES**

III. Approval of Minutes ([August 23, 2025](#)) Aleisa Hudlow moved Ed McClellan 2nd Motion to approve the minutes **PASSES**

IV. Executive Director/Approval of the Financial Report Aleisa Hudlow moved, Robbie Freeman 2nd **PASSES**

Executive Director - Scotty Walker

- Financial Report

Scotty has met with the LMEA accountant – the LMEA account is currently being switched over to QuickBooks. The marching championships from this year \$106,000 expenses. Profit this year is roughly \$90,000. All figures will be solid at the next report.

- ENCORE Quote - \$57,000 for EVERYTHING –
- Mitch Bertrand's Quote - \$10,000

V. Executive Officer Reports

President – Lee Hicks **IN DRIVE**

President-Elect – Jessica Fain-Blanchard – Report given by Lee **IN DRIVE**

Please check out equipment needs form – there will be some reimbursement. Also a sign up for moving the equipment. All-State Academic and nametags in the works. HS & Middle School will have different color badges.

Immediate Past President – Brett Babineaux – **IN DRIVE** -

Excitement over new badges this year provided by Conn Selmer and Tony McCardles machine!

Nominations open until December 31st.

VI. **Ex-Officio Members**

Conference Logistics Coordinator - Denise Howell [IN DRIVE](#)

Conference Professional Development Coordinator - Lynn Burton [IN DRIVE](#)

Editor – Carolyn Herrington [IN DRIVE](#)

Webmaster – Jasper Fahrig [IN DRIVE](#) – there are links in report in the drive. Jasper has given everyone google addresses so that we can be more efficient and use google.

VII. **Associate Organizations**

LA ACDA – Holly Grefe AB

AOSA - Erin Fort AB

CBDNA - Jason Ladd Southern Division Conference in Florida. Would like to have discussion about an intercollegiate band. Conference date important. College students would be willing to help in January [REPORT IN DRIVE](#)

LAJE - Michael Brothers [IN DRIVE](#)

LAKE – Ava Brown AB

La. PAS – Kathryn Irwin AB

LBA – Betsy Stoupy [IN DRIVE](#) (Aaron Theall reported)

LMAA - Bill Brent Training session at Barbe HS, Lake Charles June 7 [IN DRIVE](#)

LA ASTA – David Saccardi AB

VIII. **Committee Reports**

Administration Advisory Council - Tony McCardle [IN DRIVE](#)

Data Collection Committee - Lynn Burton and Aaron Theall [IN DRIVE](#)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council - James Square [IN DRIVE](#)

Guitar - Dr. Greg Robin – Guitar Ensemble Clinician is going to do a duet with LATech as well as premier a new piece.

Hall of Fame – Tommy Burroughs AB

Handbell - Greig Ashurst AB

Louisiana Advocacy Leadership Force - Duane Leblanc Hill Day will be April 27, 2026

Renovation planned at the steps – performance may not be an option this year. Report has link to have state law makers at your concerts.

Louisiana Roots Music Ed. Collective - Gregg Griffin AB

Mentorship - Cory Craig [IN DRIVE](#) Letter of resignation in the drive.

PML Committee - Aleisa Hudlow [IN DRIVE](#)

Tri-M - Helen Myers [IN DRIVE](#)

IX. **Division Reports**

Band Division – Billy Hochkeppel Most work in the past two months – 2576 auditions this year!

Report is in the drive. Highlights: Need feedback on helping to make the auditions more efficient. *District Directors are reminded to send out music to the students if you have not already done so.

Vocal Division – Stephen Galliano [IN DRIVE](#) High School Badges were already completed – will check with Brett Babineau for guidance.

Orchestra Division – Katrice Lacour **IN DRIVE**

Jazz Division – Doug Stone 195 auditions!! **IN DRIVE** *Idea – Jazz vocal Group – Doug will follow up with proposal. *Would also like to have a second HS big band because of the number of auditions.

Elementary Division – Keith James **AB**

Collegiate (CNAfME) – Ed McClellan **IN DRIVE**

Public Relations – Joshua Stearman **IN DRIVE**

University Division – Victor Drescher **AB**

X. District Directors' Reports

District 1. Robert Freeman **IN DRIVE**

District 2. Aleisa Hudlow **IN DRIVE** – Offered orchestra last year – financially did not make sense to offer again.

District 3. Bailey Lanier **IN DRIVE**

District 4. Ryan Benoit **IN DRIVE** – District IV is offering orchestra assessment if District II would like to attend.

District 5. Aaron Theall **IN DRIVE**

District 6. Telly Higgins **IN DRIVE**

District 7. Ginny Medina-Hamilton **IN DRIVE**

District 8. Michele DesLattes **IN DRIVE** - later

District 9. Rossi Dibenetto

XI. Unfinished Business

- **[Petition to Reassign LaSalle Parish from LMEA District 1 to LMEA District 2](#)**
Lee will put a committee together for this after convention.

XII. New Business

- **Cypress Planning** - a proposal from Cypress Planning to assist with contract negotiations and monitoring the room block. This service will not cost LMEA. Cypress Planning is paid a commission on the sleeping rooms. They have offered to pass on a portion of that commission to LMEA which could yield LMEA between \$8,000 and \$10,000 per year. I have worked with this group for over 12 years in my other events, and it has helped offset some of the expenses we have incurred. Scotty has the agreement and statement of work that is ready for his signature should LMEA wish to partner with Cypress Planning.

Motion to approve: Aleisa Hudlow, 2nd Robbie Freeman PASSES

- Freeman Agreement and Scope of work need to be signed. They set up the exhibit hall, piping and draping, managing all exhibitors on site.

Motion to approve: Aleisa Hudlow, 2nd Ryan Benoit PASSES

POTENTIAL DATES FOR FUTURE CONFERENCE AT THE HILTON – TO BE VOTED ON AS SOON AS CONTRACT DETAILS ARE FINALIZED:

2027: January 14-17, 2027 (Thursday - Sunday)
2028: January 13-16, 2028 (Thursday - Sunday)
2029: January 12-15, 2029 (Friday - Monday)
2030: January 17 - 20, 2030 (Thursday - Sunday)
2031: January 16-19, 2031 (Thursday - Sunday)

XIII. Upcoming Dates

- **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
- **Feb21st 2026 Meeting - Zoom 9:30**
- **May 23rd In Person meeting 9:30** – (Possibly Lafayette)
(District Directors begin at 8:00am – Scotty will send a sign up for specific times to turn in your end of year accounting - “Books”)

XIV. Adjournment Motion

11:04 am

Aleisa Hudlow moved – Ginny Medina Hamilton 2nd PASSES