



Louisiana Music Educators Association
Board of Directors Meeting
21 February 2026
9:30 AM
ZOOM

**NEXT MEETING
IN PERSON MAY 23, 2026**

AGENDA

[Link to Google Drive Folder](#)

- I. **Call to Order: Roll Call**
Lee Hicks, Jessica Fain, Brett Babineaux, Robbie Freeman, Aleisa Hudlow, Bailey Lanier, Ryan Benoit, Aaron Theall, Ginny Medina-Hamilton, Michele DesLattes, Telly Higgins, Rossi DiBenedetto, Billy Hochkeppel, Stephen Galliano, Katrice LaCour, Ed McClellan, Josh Stearman, Denise Howell, Carolyn Herrington, Dr. Greg Robin, Lynn Burton, Duane LeBlanc, Helen Myers, Betsy Stoupy, Victor Drescher
- II. **Approval of Agenda** Motion – Ryan Benoit/Aleisa Hudlow **PASSES**
- III. **Approval of Minutes** -Jessica Blanchard/Aleisa Hudlow **PASSES 12 FOR**
- IV. **Executive Director/Approval of the Financial Report**
Executive Director
 - Financial Report
Michelle DesLattes/Josh Stearman 13 for PASSES
- V. **Executive Officer Reports**
President – Lee Hicks REPORT IN DRIVE
President-Elect – Jessica Fain-Blanchard - REPORT IN DRIVE
Immediate Past President – Brett Babineaux – REPORT IN DRIVE
- VI. **Ex-Officio Members**
Conference Logistics Coordinator REPORT IN DRIVE
Conference Professional Development Coordinator - Lynn Burton REPORT IN DRIVE
Editor – Carolyn Herrington REPORT IN DRIVE
Webmaster – Jasper Fahrig REPORT IN DRIVE
- VII. **Associate Organizations**
LA ACDA – Holly Grefe AB
AOSA - Erin Fort AB
CBDNA - Jason Ladd AB
LAJE – Nolan Wible – REPORT IN DRIVE
LAKE – Ava Brown AB
La. PAS – Kathryn Irwin AB
LBA – Betsy Stoupy REPORT IN DRIVE

LMAA - Bill Brent REPORT IN DRIVE

LA ASTA – David Saccardi AB

VIII. **Committee Reports**

Administration Advisory Council - Lee Hicks named replacement for Tony McCardle - Dr. Tim Schneider

Data Collection Committee - Lynn Burton and Aaron Theall

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council - James Square REPORT IN DRIVE – Steps down

Nomination Committee – Brett Babineaux – Amended REPORT IN DRIVE

Guitar - Dr. Greg Robin REPORT IN DRIVE

Hall of Fame – Tommy Burroughs AB

Handbell - Greig Ashurst AB

Louisiana Advocacy Leadership Force - Duane Leblanc REPORT IN DRIVE

Louisiana Roots Music Ed. Collective - Gregg Griffin AB

Mentorship – (Need replacement appointed)

PML Committee - Aleisa Hudlow – REPORT IN DRIVE

Tri-M - Helen Myers REPORT IN DRIVE

IX. **Division Reports**

Band Division – Billy Hochkeppel REPORT IN DRIVE – Remind Districts – there have been groups that have asked to play out of district.

Vocal Division – Stephen Galliano AB REPORT IN DRIVE

Orchestra Division – Katrice Lacour REPORT IN DRIVE –

Jazz Division – Doug Stone REPORT IN DRIVE

Elementary Division – Keith James AB

Collegiate (CNAfME) – Ed McClellan REPORT IN DRIVE

Public Relations – Joshua Stearman REPORT IN DRIVE

University Division – Victor Drescher REPORT IN DRIVE

X. **District Directors' Reports**

District 1. Robert Freeman REPORT IN DRIVE

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. Rossi DiBenedetto REPORT IN DRIVE

XI. **Unfinished Business**

XII. **New Business**

- **Motion:** [Middle School All-State Handbell Ensemble](#)

- Greig Ashurst, Evan McEleer, Aaron Theall

No Motion

Motion: Motion to accept the slate of nominations. Brett Babineaux/Ryan Benoit 2nd (Slate in drive).

Motion to table vote on election ballot until we discuss filling the Band Division Chair. Passes 12 FOR

Motion to accept the slate of nominations upon completion of Band Division Chair nomination. Brett Babineaux/Ryan Benoit 2nd Second vote – Amended to include Band Division Chair nomination **PASSES 14 FOR**

- **Motion: Interim Executive Director & Financial Secretary Job Description Proposal**

- I move to accept the job description for Interim Executive Director

- ~~I move to accept the job description for Interim Financial Secretary~~

Rationale/Job Descriptions

- Interim Salary

- MOTION Jessica Fain/Blanchard 2nd Aleisa Hudlow

□ **Amendment to the motion: Brett is making an amendment to hire an interim executive director and in May a job description, Executive Director & Financial Secretary, will be presented to the Board with the understanding that it requires two board votes & a membership vote. Babineaux / 2nd C Herrington **16 Yes PASSES****

- **Motion: Interim Executive Director and Financial Secretary**

- ~~President Lee Hicks appoints an interim Executive Director & Financial Secretary to divide the duties of the Executive Director position.~~

- Board in favor of Bill Brent.

Bill Brent – Accepts Interim

- **Motion: Open Nominations for Band Division Chair**

Date open - February 23rd

Date close - March 2nd

- Note: The election committee shall meet and canvas election returns prior to March 20th

Made by Jessica Fain Blanchard / Aleisa Hudlow 2nd

Vote: **14 PASSES**

Brett will get together google form -

- ~~**Proposal: Interim District Director Process**~~

- ~~Proposal~~

- ~~I move to adopt the appointment process as stated in the Interim District Director proposal.~~

- **Motion: State Solo and Ensemble Assessment**

- I move to accept the dates and deadlines listed below for State Solo and Ensemble

- **Website to state:**

- April 4, 2026 (midnight). Deadline for submitting the registration form and a copy of the music being performed by each student. Postmark deadline for all school checks. Registration fees may also be paid online by credit card when registering. Deadline for uploading all performance videos to the assigned google folder. (*see additional information below*)

- Note: Once a registration form is received, a link to an individual google folder will be sent by **Bill Brent**, LMEA Interim-Executive Director, to the director. Directors should upload their students' performance videos to this folder only.

- **Registration Form(s) Moved by Ryan Benoit/ Aaron Theall 2nd PASSES**
- **State Assessment – Recordings separate**
 - Band Registration Fee - \$250
 - Choral Registration Fee - \$200
- **State Marching Assessment**
 - McNeese - November 9th-11th (12th)
 - Northwestern State University - November 9th-11th
- **Solo/Ensemble Medal & District/State Trophy Assessment Counts**
 - [Inventory](#) - add address to be delivered & earliest date needed by
 - Getting trophies to Northwestern - Brett Babineaux
- **District Director EOY Reports**
 - [Sign](#) up for time slots to checkout with Executive Director
 - End of Year Checklists
 - Create a google drive folder using your LMEA email address
 - Share the google drive folder with the following people (insert email addresses of Executive Director/Financial Secretary)
 - Google drive folder labeled “District _” - Example “District I”
 - [End of the Year Reports](#) - make a copy & add to your folder
 - Use the checklist to help guide you on what information is needed
 - Use the expense sheet for each event throughout the year
 - Duplicate spreadsheets as needed for individual events
- **Proposal for an LMEA comprehensive nonprofit liability insurance packages to include Directors & Officers Liability coverage, Employment Practices Liability, General Liability, Crime/Fidelity Bond coverage, and Cyber Liability coverage.**
 - Will create a committee to look into these and make a recommendation - Lee Hicks
- **Establish a new investment financial committee to research best money market and financial investment opportunities.**
 - Will create a committee to look into these and make a recommendation - Lee Hicks
- Motion to move the conference forward one day pending logistics mentioned in the Conference Logistics report and that all other Hilton details fall into place. (Friday Jan 15 – to Monday January 18, 2027.) Motion Aleisa Hudlow 2nd Brett Babineaux **PASSES 13 Yes**
- **LMEA Awards Deadline**
 - Tom D. Wafer Outstanding Administrator - May 1st
 - Hall of Fame - May 1st
 - Barbra C. Butler - June 1st
 - Robert Wilhite - June 1st
 - Standard of Excellence - June 1st
 - Distinguished Legacy - September 1st

- Outstanding Young Music Educator Award - September 1st
- Outstanding Contributor - September 1st

XIII. Upcoming Dates

- **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
- **LMEA Board Meeting**
 - May 23, 2026 (in person) LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED

XIV. Adjournment Motion 2:28pm

Aleisa Hudlow/Michelle DesLattes 2nd PASSES