



Louisiana Music Educators Association
Board of Directors Meeting
23 May 2026
9:30 AM
Northwestern State University

AGENDA

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

[Link to Google Drive Folder](#)

- I. Call to Order: Roll Call - LMEA Board Information**
- Raise hand on zoom to take attendance
 - Absent: Danny M, Telly H, Rossi D, Billy H, Steven, Keith J, Craig, Carolyn, Tommy, Dr. Schnieder, Greig, Gregg, Holly, Erin, Michael, Gustavo, Bill, David S, Jason L
- II. Approval of Agenda**
- **Aleisa Hudlow, 2nd by Ed**
 - **Approved**
- III. Approval of Minutes - [February 21, 2026](#)**
- *Alesia, Ed second*
 - *Approved*
- IV. Approval of the Financial Report**
[Interim-Executive Director – Sharon McNamara-Horne](#)
Tom D. Wafer Outstanding Administrator Award
- Look at link for the documents
 - 237, 903 main checking; secondary checking on actual report
 - Square or credit card transactions filters into that account then is transferred to main account
 - Balance in Paypal 1812 but mainly used for refunds
 - Chase account - “Foundation” - restricted funds for All-State
 - Use interest to apply to all-state - majority in a CD due this month
 - Have Scotty transfer once it matures and finance committee can determine best use to invest
 - Comparison chart in drive
 - Tab explanation for financial spreadsheet
 - Tax returns are also in there
 - Action step based on finance committee in report
 - Recommendations of finance committee in report
 - Comparison of Programming events in report (all-state and State marching festival)
 - Revenue to expense comparison in report
 - All-State Ensemble Comparison in report
 - State Large Ensemble Comparison Summary
 - Costs were helped low because of NSU people. Trophies were repurposed from Districts

- No recording fee in registration, but cost was there
- Need to reevaluate State Large Ensemble cost to make sure it at least breaks even
- Finance committee needs to discuss credit versus deposit with Hilton
- Alesia move to accept, Michele 2nd; motion approved
- Tom Wafer due May 1st - no applicants

V. Executive Officer Reports

President – Lee Hicks

- Thank you to NSU for hosting the meeting
- Outline Report in the drive
- Many thanks to everyone and their volunteer during personal time of struggle, excited for future of LMEA

President-Elect – Jessica Fain-Blanchard

- Thanks to all people for State Assessment - NSU Faculty and staff, board members, on site helpers, retired LMEA members
- Feedback from State Assessment from 24 responses:
 - Detail about facility in advance - acoustics
 - Increase LMEA presence and visibility
 - Instrument storage options
 - Guides to be with every group
 - Warm up space concerns - time and equipment concerns
 - Live stream was a huge plus
 - Where was SR? - maybe need to reassess
 - Extend time slots? - large set changes - scheduling hard already
 - Directors submit lengths of songs to help scheduling
 - Estimated chair set up earlier can help stage changes
 - Alternate locations - close to finals and juries - makes difficult
 - Non-University location? - committee is looking into possibilities
 - Additional feedback? - reach out to Executive Board

Immediate Past President – Brett Babineaux

VI. Ex-Officio Members

Conference Logistics Coordinator - Denise Howell

- Jan 15-18, 2027
- Registration prices stay the same as 2026
- Vendor pricing same as 2026
- Vendor load in and out working with Hilton to make more manageable
- Adding lighting to stage and screens to sides with rolling items
- Update website with information to get info out

Conference Professional Development Coordinator - Lynn Burton

- Comparison chart
- Call for proposals has gone out
- Deadline is July 31
- October 15 notice of selection
- Business meeting forms need to be filled out - consider holding your meeting earlier in the conference

- Potential awards reception instead of adding to each concert to help with scheduling and overages
- Met with LPO for potential options of performance

Editor – Carolyn Herrington

- Retiring after 30 years on the Board

Webmaster – Jasper Fahrig

- Updating email addresses
- Website related email: webmaster@lmeamusic.org
- LMEA business: lmea@lmeamusic.org
- Guidebook Conference App (16 state music conferences)
 - Details in the report
- Website is old and updates are difficult because of the age
- Summer project is to see what it would take to update the website to have more modern features
 - Large number of items housed on website, large cost to move over

VII. Associate Organizations

LA ACDA – Holly Grefe

AOSA - Erin Fort

CBDNA - Jason Ladd

- Jason is moving to Texas
- Nichols Wind Ensemble still planning to play at Conference
- Perform every other year
- Intercollegiate jazz on opposite years - in conversation only

LAJE - Nolan Wible

- Report in drive
- State jazz festival - thanks and great feedback
- Dates for Spring 2027 should come out
- District Directors nominations for Outstanding Jazz Educator from your district
- LAJE website - can purchase the music played at the reading session at LMEA
- LAJE website - resources for all state etudes - backing tracks and sample tracks

LAKE – Ava Brown

La. PAS – Kathryn Irwin

LBA – Betsy Stoupy

- All Star bands Jun 7-9 at ULL
- Bandmaster of the Year - Daphne Richardson

LMAA - Bill Brent (Alesia Hudlow)

- Upcoming training
- June 13 at NSU
- Early bird registration ended, but can still register to attend
- 2027 - LaFourche Parish - details coming
- 2028 - June 3, BR area - potentially St. Amant HS
- Working towards consistency between districts in adjudication
- State Assessment level adjudication

LA ASTA – David Saccardi

VIII. Committee Reports

Administration Advisory Council - Dr. Timothy Schneider

Data Collection Committee - Lynn Burton and Aaron Theall

- Analyzed conference survey data
- Advocacy survey pushed back a month; lower participation even still
- Sent comments to Advocacy Committee (Duane)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council - James Square

Guitar - Dr. Greg Robin

Hall of Fame – Tommy Burroughs

Handbell - Greig Ashurst

Louisiana Advocacy Leadership Force - Duane Leblanc

- Report in the drive
- Bulletin 741 and statute 17-7 need to be read at school board meetings
- Check facebook for videos from Duane

Louisiana Roots Music Ed. Collective - Gregg Griffin

Mentorship - Michael Danigole

- Excited to start work

PML Committee - Aleisa Hudlow

- Band PML addendum list is extensive
- Plan to deal with the larger submission

Tri-M - Helen Myers

- Would like submission for the Louisiana chapter

IX. Division Reports

Band Division – Billy Hochkeppel/Willie Martin

- Clinicians are in report
- Set 3 cuts on link and email
- MS on Set 1

Vocal Division – Stephen Galliano

- Report in the drive

Orchestra Division – Katrice Lacour

- Set 3 for MS and HS
- Working on clinicians

Jazz Division – Doug Stone

- Clinicians are lined up and in report

Elementary Division – Keith James

Collegiate (CNAfME) – Edward McClellan

- Collegiate people excited for conference proposals
- New requirements from DOE for graduation: computer science, crisis intervention, ESL training

Public Relations – Joshua Stearman/Craig Byers

- Report in the drive

University Division – Victor Drescher/Simon Holoweiko

- Ensembles confirmed
- Report in the drive

X. District Directors' Reports

District 1. Robert Freeman/Danny Mejia

- Report in the drive

District 2. Aleisa Hudlow/Kelsey Nogic

- Report in the drive

District 3. Bailey Lanier

- Report in the drive
- Jeff Prosperie confirmed clinician for Inaugural Percussion Ensemble
- Blurb in drive to send to district about percussion ensemble

District 4. Ryan Benoit

- Report in the drive

District 5. Aaron Theall

- Report in the drive

District 6. Telly Higgins

- Report in the drive

District 7. Ginny Medina-Hamilton

- Report in the drive
- Clarification on combined classification

District 8. Michele DesLattes

- Report will be in the drive

District 9. Rossi DiBenedetto

- Report in the drive

Motion for restroom and food break for 15 minute

Michele; second by Alesia, motion passes

XI. Unfinished Business

- **Motion: Middle School All-State Handbell Ensemble**
 - Greig Ashurst - **Tabled**
- **State Marching Assessment**
 - McNeese - November 9th-11th
 - Lee Hicks
- **Proposal for an LMEA comprehensive nonprofit liability insurance & financial investment committee**
 - Research the best investment packages for money management
 - Research insurance policies to cover the entire board & organization
 - Lee Hicks
- **Motion by Lee; seconded by Ed; motion passes**
- **Motion: I move that the Interim-Executive Director position be extended through the August meeting at which time we will reevaluate.**
 - Lee Hicks
- **Motion by Lee; Michele seconded; motion passes**

XII. New Business

- **Honoring outgoing board members**
 - Brett Babineaux - *Past-President*

- Scotty Walker - *Executive Director*
 - Billy Hochkeppel - *Band Division Chair*
 - Katrice LaCour - *Orchestra Division Chair*
 - Victor Drescher - *University Division*
 - Joshua Stearman - *Public Relations Chair*
 - Robbie Freeman - *District I Director*
 - Aleisa Hudlow - *District II Director*
 - Carolyn Herrington - *Editor*
- **Installation of new board members**
 - Aleisa Hudlow - *President-Elect*
 - Lee Hicks - *Past-President*
 - Jessica Fain-Blanchard - *President*
 - Willie Martin - *Band Division Chair*
 - Christopher Frazier - *Orchestra Division Chair*
 - Simon Holoweiko - *University Division*
 - Craig Byers - *Public Relations Chair*
 - Danny Mejia - *District I Director* (one-year appointment)
 - Kelsey Nogic - *District II Director* (one-year appointment)
- **Welcoming New Committee Chairs**
 - Dr. Timothy Schneider - *Administrative Advisory Council*
 - Michael Danigole - *Mentorship Chair*
- **Motion: Approval of Finance Committee recommendations**
 - I move that we accept the recommendation from the finance committee to pay a per-event fee of \$25 to the adjudicators judging the Standard of Excellence Award.
 - **Aleisa Hudlow; 2nd by Ryan Benoit**
 - **\$150 entry fee; 3 judges; pay each \$150 - sometimes not enough entries to justify the cost. A pay-per event will help level this out**
 - **For: 13; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Motion passes**
- **Motion: Approval of Finance Committee recommendations**
 - I move that we accept the recommendation from the finance committee to allow for the Executive-Director & the President to receive a credit card.
 - **I move that we approve that the Financial Secretary receive a credit card. - Restated**
 - **Alesia; Lee 2nd - For: 14; Against: 0; Abstain: 1**
 - **Aleisa Hudlow; 2nd by Ryan Benoit**
 - **Both cards would be linked to the same account; similar to a spouse**
 - **Add a procedure for rules of use of the card**
 - **For: 13; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Motion Carries**
- **Motion: Approval of Finance Committee recommendations**
 - I move that we accept the recommendation from the finance committee to lower the conference presenters registration fee to \$65.
 - **Aleisa Hudlow; 2nd by Aaron Theall**
 - **For: 13; Against: 0; Motion Passes**
- **Motion: Approval of Finance Committee recommendations**

- I move that we accept the recommendation from the finance committee to send the three executive board members (President, President-Elect, & Executive Director) & Duane Leblanc to the NAFME National Leadership Assembly.
- See budget in New Business folder labeled 2026 NAFME Assembly Budgeting
- **Aleisa Hudlow; Ginny 2nd**
- **For: 12; Against: 0; Motion carries**

- **Motion: Approval of Finance Committee recommendations**
 - I move that we accept the recommendation from the finance committee to approve a one-time board retreat to work on items that are listed in the Finance Committee Meeting Agenda/Minutes. The costs that would be covered would include: lodging, meals, & travel.
 - Dates & places will be shared with the board via [google form](#) should the motion pass.
 - **Aleisa Hudlow; Ed 2nd**
 - **For: 12; Against: 0; Abstention: 2; Motion Carries**

- **Motion: Adding a [Financial Secretary](#) position**
 - I move that we add the position of Financial Secretary as an ex-officio member of the LMEA Board as outlined in the [job description](#) and with an annual salary of \$12,000. LMEA will pay the employer's share of the taxes.
 - **Aleisa Hudlow; 2nd Aaron Theall**
 - **For: 15; Against: 0; Motion Carries**

- **Motion: Ryan Benoit - check drive and document**
 - **Ryan; 2nd Alesia**
 - **For: 13; Against: 0 motions carries - 1st vote only; 2nd vote in August**

- **Proposal: [To allow home school students to participate in LMEA All-State Auditions](#)**
 - Rationale: As homeschooling has grown, there is an ever increasing number of home schooled students that are musicians. These updated guidelines will allow more students the opportunity to participate in LMEA All-State. TMEA adopted very similar guidelines for the 2025-2026 school year.
 - **Aaron; 2nd Alesia**
 - **For: 11; Against: 2; Abstain:0; motion carries (1st vote only; 2nd vote in August)**

Motion To approve LA Trophies Bid from May 15
 Aaron; 2nd Alesia; Motion Passes

- **Approve dates on the tentative LMEA Calendar**
 - [Calendar](#)

- **LMEA Awards Deadline**
 - Barbara 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

- **LMEA Board Meeting**
 - August 15, 2026 - ZOOM

XIV. Adjournment Motion

- **Alesia; Lee 2nd; Motion Carries**
- **Adjourn 2:11pm**

Next Steps

Agenda Item	Timeline/Date	Communicate to/with
Committee for non-profit insurance/	August meeting	Lee Hicks/Sharon McNamara-Horne
Editor - job application	Open - Jun	Webmaster & Executive Board
Adding new members to website & getting email addresses	1st week of June	Jasper Fahrig
Host site for State Large Ensemble Assessment	August meeting	Sharon McNamara-Horne & Division Chairs
Trophy/Photography/Videography/Recording bids - Get spec sheet together at retreat	August meeting	Sharon McNamara-Horne & Executive Board

Committees

Insurance Liability & Financial Investment Committee

- Jessica Fain-Blanchard - President
- Lee Hicks - Past-President
- Sharon McNamara-Horne - Executive Director
- Craig Byers - Public Relations Chair
- Duane Leblanc - LALF
- Ryan Benoit - District IV