

The meeting of the Louisiana Music Educators Association Board of Directors was called to order at 10:00 a.m., July 27, 2020 via ZOOM with the following present: Scotty Walker, Brett Babineaux, Carol Lupton, Bruce Lambert, Robert Freeman, Aleisa Hudlow, Billy Hochkeppel, Katie Codina, Sharon Stephenson, Jim Trant, Michele DesLattes, Joshua Stearman, Ronnie Gleason, Greg Oden, Katrice LaCour, Lee Hicks, Victor Drescher, Michele White, Ed McClellan, Carolyn Herrington, James Hearne, Jessica Fain, David Gambino, Ginny Medina-Hamilton, James Square and Pat Deaville.

Moved by Ed McClellan and 2nd by Brett Babineaux to approve the agenda. PASSED

Moved by Carolyn Herrington and 2nd by Joshua Stearman to approve the May 5 and May 7 minutes. PASSED

Bruce Lambert reported LMEA has \$81,488.51 in the bank as of today. This is down from \$115,408.28 in the account last year at this time. LMEA received less than \$5000 from the districts this year and only received \$150 from NAFME for the month of July. Moved by Carolyn Herrington and 2nd by James Hearne to approve the financial report. PASSED

Scotty Walker thanked the board for their service and dedication to music students in Louisiana. Times of crisis bring us together. Social emotional learning is the latest buzz word. Social emotional learning is the very epitome of what music teachers do. Scotty encouraged the board to be supportive of their colleagues, especially the new educators in our profession and the ones in disadvantaged situations. Agree to disagree, but at the end of the meeting we are all united in one voice. He introduced three new committees: LALF, chairman Ginny Medina-Hamilton, DEI, chairman James Square and LMAA, chairman Katie Codina. The board was asked to keep their reports to 3 minutes. Brett Babineaux will be timekeeper today.

Brett Babineaux welcomed everyone to our board meeting. He is excited to be a part of LMEA. Brett reminded all about the Robert Wilhite and the Standard of Excellence awards. We hope to recognize ensembles this year. These awards can be presented in some type of live showcase through video productions. Brett stated the positive outtake from Covid has been we, the LMEA board, are moving forward. He thanked Scotty Walker for his leadership, Sharon McNamara-Horne for her work with the website, James Hearne for his work on the virtual conference and Katie Codina for her work with LMAA. Many hands make the workload light.

Carol Lupton reported she is working with NAFME to get better updates on LMEA membership. She will work with James Hearne and Sharon McNamara-Horne on LMEA Conference registration.

Ginny Medina-Hamilton is chairman of the Louisiana Advocacy Leadership Force. The committee has set four objectives:

1. government relations – They have met with Mrs. Edwards, Louisiana's first lady.
2. stories – Get videos about music in people's lives and put them on facebook.
3. communication – Reach out to musicians in Louisiana.
4. advocacy training group – Working with NAFME to train LMEA members to be advocates for LMEA.

James Hearne shared information about the virtual conference. All 41 that submitted clinics were contacted. 27 have responded they would like to participate in the virtual conference. Two have submitted videos already. TBA used webinar jam for their virtual conference. James will get back with them now that TBA is complete. Accel Events is the program that James feels is best for LMEA. The technology savvy board members will need to assist in the presentation of the virtual conference. James stated Accel Events is very affordable. NAFME has suggested MEAs keep their conference fees the same as a live conference. James needs the executive board to decide the exact timeframe for the virtual conference and the fee structure. Scotty Walker has contacted Tim Lautzenheiser about presented a recorded clinic. Joshua Stearman asked if handouts would be available. James will check with Accel Events. Ed McClellan asked if we will need hosts or monitors for the clinics. James will get back with the board. James will get back with Ed McClellan about time for poster sessions. Victor Drescher asked if LSU will present performances this year. The board agreed that LSU will be the feature university for

the 2021 LMEA Conference. Greg Oden suggested the board should reach out to national clinicians. The all-state conductors can present a clinic for the virtual conference. Scotty Walker suggested we include virtual performances of some of our service groups.

Carolyn Herrington is working with James Hearne and Accel Events regarding exhibitors. She has reached out to the D.C. Conference and the Maryland Conference to see how they handled exhibitors for their virtual conferences.

District 1 – Robert Freeman thanked Greg Oden for his service as District 1 Director for many years. All District 1 meetings have been online during this pandemic. Trent Gaspard has been hired as director of bands at Ouachita Parish High School. Noah White has been hired as assistant band director at Ouachita Parish High School. Director of Choral Activities at West Ouachita High School is open. Robert and District 1 choose to focus positively on what we CAN accomplish rather than what we can't.

District 2 – Aleisa Hudlow thanked Jessica Fain for her work as District 2 Director. Mark Richards, choir director at Tioga High School, is retiring. Pineville Jr. High and Ward 10 Elementary have band director openings. Aleisa stated that choral directors in District 2 are interested in being part of LMAA. She reported that fees for district assessments have caused less participation at district assessments, especially 2nd groups. District 2 appreciates the work on advocacy by LMEA.

District 3 – Billy Hochkeppel reported that District 3 has cancelled their marching festival this fall. They are considering options to push back district honor bands. He stated they are holding on to the originally scheduled dates for LMEA district assessments for now. Billy is encouraging his directors to hold school-based LMEA Solo/Ensemble Assessments.

District 4 – Katie Codina asked the board to refer to the District 4 minutes from the May 7 ZOOM meeting.

District 5 – Sharon Stephenson congratulated the LMEA board for all the hard work they have put in this summer. Calcasieu parish schools will delay their opening to August 24. Grades K-6 will attend school every day and grades 7-12 will be on an A-B schedule. Students signing up for virtual learning will be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities.

District 6 – Guy Wood was absent from the ZOOM meeting. Scotty Walker will talk with Guy.

District 7 – Jim Trant announced the District 7 Marching Festival has been cancelled. District 7 band and choir assessments are on the calendar for March. Jim has received many good comments from directors about LMEA. He stated that Lafourche parish will start virtually for the first two weeks. There are many different starts and plans from the parishes in District 7.

District 8 – Michele DesLattes stated that the 5 parishes in District 8 have different school starting dates. Most of the parishes are starting on a hybrid plan. She said there was much activity and interaction among the music educators. Bands will be using Smart Music. The choirs are looking at My Choral Coach and Sight Reading Factory. The District 8 Marching Festival has been cancelled. Michele reported they are holding on to their spring dates. Michele asked if Gifted and Talented Arts teachers can be part of LMEA. Greg Oden stated that some Gifted and Talented teachers in District 1 are part of LMEA and participate in LMEA Solo/Ensemble.

District 9 – Joshua Stearman is inspired to see what music is doing across America during the pandemic. The Southeastern Marching Festival has been cancelled. Josh stated that St. Tammany is using the Boulder, Colorado Study on aerosols. He will be encouraging more participation in LMEA Solo/Ensemble. Josh said recorded auditions for All State is a good thing. He is concerned about younger and smaller groups attending LMEA Large Ensemble Assessments in the spring. Money is an issue for many of those groups. Josh said LMEA advocacy is going well.

Band Division - Ronnie Gleason reported that Cynthia Turner Johnson will conduct the 2020-2021 All State Symphonic Band. She is a Conn Selmer clinician. Ronnie is working to get a conductor for the All State Concert Band. District Directors are reminded that all 12 scales are required for LMEA first round auditions. Ronnie will have changes to the french horn audition material available at the October meeting. The changes will not be in effect until the 2021-2022 school year.

Jazz Division – Lee Hicks reported that Sherrie Maricle, the 2020-2021 All State Jazz Conductor, will be able to change to the March dates for All-State. All jazz tryout material is on the website. We are on set 1 for this year. LAJE will try to hold a joint project with LMEA.

Orchestra Division – Katrice LaCour reported the string audition recording deadline will be postmarked by Friday, November 13, 2020. Katrice stated he is looking at three different options for chair placement:

- A. Find location on site to have auditions
- B. Audition top 4 from every section. Ranking top 4 would come from the initial audition.
- C. Use scores from the initial audition to determine chair placement

The 2020-2021 All State Orchestra director is David Becker, Interim Director of Orchestra Studies at University of Iowa. Repertoire will be: Capriccio Espagnol – Rimsky-Korsakov, Soul of Remembrances – Mary Watkins and Malambo from Four Dances – Ginastera. Soul of Remembrances will be the LMEA All State Orchestra tribute to all the souls lost to COVID19.

Vocal Division – Greg Oden thanked Angela Jones for her work as vocal division chair that past two years. Dr. Julie Yo from Kansas State will conduct the 2020-2021 All State Mixed Choir. Dr. Gregory Fuller from University of Southern Mississippi will conduct the 2020-2021 Women’s Chorale. Both are cleared and ready to go for March 2021. The 1st round audition piece is “Shenandoah”, arr. By Steven Sametz. The 2nd round audition piece is “Himne” by Roelof Temming.

Covid Plan A – A live audition using Accepted as a streaming partner. They will provide a live audition experience that will allow socially distanced students to submit their All State auditions to judges placed at various venues.

Covid Plan B – A recorded audition using Accepted as a recording partner. They will assist with a socially distanced proctor to allow the students to submit a recording for All State consideration.

Covid Plan C – A recorded audition submitted by the teacher without sight-reading. The only audition material would be the audition pieces.

Elementary Division – Michele White congratulated the LMEA board for all the terrific work this summer during the COVID crisis. Jo Kirk, the invited elementary clinician for LMEA, has been working with ZOOM using live and pre-recorded lessons during her teaching this summer in various university Kodaly courses. Michele has participated in two book studies this summer; “Social and Emotional Learning in the Music Classroom” by Scott Edgar and “Why Are the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?” by Beverly DiAngelo. Michele stated LAKE is inactive at the present time.

University Division – Victor Drescher solicited feedback from the universities concerning university performances at LMEA Conference. He stated all the directors he talked with were interested in changing. It would be less of a financial burden if multiple universities were used instead of one university providing all groups. LSU will be the feature group for the 2021 LMEA Conference. Kelvin Jones asked Victor if Southern and Grambling are in the current rotation. Dr. Jeff Lemke set the original rotation. Southern and Grambling were invited but both declined.

Collegiate NAfME – Ed McClellan stated that directors in District 6 have been active, all working to do their best in these tough times. Ed will work with James Hearne on the collegiate parts of the virtual conference.

Public Relations – Carolyn Herrington contacted all the vendors that participated at LMEA Conference over the past two years. Since LMEA has changed to a virtual November event, Carolyn will get with James Hearne and present vendors with options for the new virtual platform. The colleges may still have an opportunity to advertise

to the all-state students, depending on how the all-state ensemble performances are held. As more information is available, Carolyn will contact all colleges with options.

LAJE – David Gambino reported LAJE has begun talks with the Jazz Education Network to start a partnership in membership. This would grant all members access to JEN’s vast resources including webinars, grant funds, magazine subscriptions and 6 free charts a year (including 1 vocal chart). In addition, LAJE has begun a 5 year plan to broaden its outreach to LMEA members. This will specifically include virtual resources targeted for learning during the COVID19 pandemic.

Hall of Fame – Tom Burroughs sent a report for the LMEA meeting. James Hearne has been selected to the LMEA Hall of Fame for 2020. Tom will contact the Hall of Fame committee to discuss James’ induction. He will report back to the LMEA board in October. CONGRATULATIONS JAMES!

Webmaster – Sharon McNamara Horne was unable to attend the ZOOM meeting. Sharon’s mother passed away this past week. Sharon has asked all-state division chairs to contact her about automatic responses. LMEA calendar dates should be sent to Katie Codina. The LMEA calendar will be on Google Calendar.

Editor – **Carolyn** Herrington stated she will keep the format for the September magazine the same as it has been in the past. Carolyn needs articles and pictures from several board members. Please get this to her as soon as possible. The LMEA newsletter will have information about the LMEA Virtual Conference and details of the new committees that have been formed this summer.

LBA – Jessica Fain congratulated the LMEA Board on the great, positive work that is happening. LBA needs to better serve the Louisiana band directors. They are working toward providing a summer conference. Certificates, patches and shirts are being sent to senior participants. The LBA summer conference will be held June 6-8, 2021 at ULL. The top LBA middle school band will be conducted by Randall Standridge. LBA offers Blast and Jazz Band for high school students.

LAKE – inactive

ACDA – Amy Prats was absent.

AOSA – Kelly Stomps submitted a report. Red Stick Chapter has moved its workshop with Josh Strouthard to 2021. The Red Stick board will be meeting later this week to come up with an alternative workshop schedule. The focus this year will be to provide workshops/resources that will support teachers with distance learning and to provide creative solutions to the restrictions caused by the pandemic.

LSTA – Michelle Wilkinson-Nelson was absent.

LA PAS – Gustavo Miranda was absent.

Committee Reports:

Louisiana Music Adjudicator Association – Katie Codina reported the judge training committee for LMEA began meeting at the start of the quarantine in March to discuss how to implement training in the state of Louisiana. The committee consisted of Katie Codina, Joseph Nassar, Scotty Walker, Brett Babineaux, Jessica Fain, Ronnie Gleason and Craig Millet. After several meetings and collaborations with Greg Countryman from the Texas Music Adjudicators Association, it was decided that forming the Louisiana Music Adjudicators Association would be the best course of action. We then created bylaws, filed for incorporation and brought in Bill Brent to act as Executive Secretary. From there we contacted 35 of the state’s most well respected and experienced band adjudicators to become the organization’s charter members.

The purposes of the organization are to 1) organize and administer training for music educators for the purpose of consistency, education and pedagogy 2) to provide a common meeting forum and clearinghouse for an exchange of ideas and methods that will stimulate professional growth and advance the standard of music and educational achievements for music directors in our state 3) to cooperate with existing associations whose purpose is the betterment of music education

The next phase in our work is continuing to develop the first training session that will be virtual in coordination with what has already been developed for TXMAA. LMAA is launching band training first. They hope to add vocal training within a few years. Joey Nassar has put together a new website encouraging directors to apply. Orchestral and Jazz adjudication could eventually be added.

Council for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – James Square stated he has always considered himself as James Square, not a person of color. He is glad that LMEA is having this conversation. James asked the board to watch a video titled “What Dark Skinned People Never Tell.” The committee formed a council, the council took surveys and the divided into three groups: 1) membership, 2) awareness in education and 3) underserved schools. Joshua Stearman asked if more directors could join the council. Mr. Square stated they could always use more directors, especially vocal directors. Lee Hicks gave James the name of a director in New Orleans that would be great for the council.

Louisiana Advocacy Leadership Force – Ginny Medina-Hamilton reported earlier in the meeting.

Unfinished Business:

Jessica Fain moved and Lee Hicks 2nd to not allow a group to use the same list tune in consecutive years. The board discussed the possibility of having all three selections different in consecutive years. Possibly not repeating selections for two, three or four years. After much discussion, Jessica withdrew the motion and Lee withdrew the 2nd. Scotty Walker asked Jessica to head a committee to look into this and report back to the board. Board members wishing to serve on the committee should contact Jessica.

Brett Babineaux stated all classifications, including Class G (100 percent beginners) must sightread. This has been fixed on the website and in the handbook. Any changes to this must be proposed and voted on by the LMEA board.

New Business :

Moved by Joshua Stearman and 2nd by Greg Oden to add Class D for choirs. Requirements and procedures would be the same as Class D for bands except the the sightreading requirements for choirs would not change. Also, *and shall be ineligible for qualification for state assessment* will be removed from the handbook. PASSED

Moved by Joshua Stearman and 2nd by Lee Hicks to add the following to Class D for both bands and choirs: *A group may be allowed to drop up to two classifications. Once the group earns a sweepstakes award ,they will then be moved up a classification (maximum of one classification below the original classification). A sweepstakes award at this classification would result in the group returning to their original classification and exiting Class D. A meeting with the committee of the LMEA Board of Directors will not be needed after the initial meeting, as a group may stay in Class D until they receive a sweepstakes award.* After much discussion, the board voted 10 to 5 for the motion.

Scotty Walker emailed the board an Editor Job Description and Application for Editor’s Position. The social security number needs to be taken off the application form. Moved by Scotty Walker and 2nd by Brett Babineaux to accept the editor job description and application form as presented (minus social security number). PASSED

The LMEA Executive Board has been in discussion with division chairs and has looked at all options for all state auditions. Through the research presented, it is the recommendation of the executive board that we plan for a full virtual audition at this time and ease those restrictions as the pandemic allows. The Accepted program will offer a way for auditions to be held virtually. Cost is \$20 per student. There is a coupon voucher for Title One or disadvantaged students to eliminate the \$20 fee. Moved by Brett Babineaux and 2nd by Billy Hochkeppel that a one round all-state audition through the Accepted format take place by February 7, 2021 for band students. Vocal students will have a two round process through the Accepted format due by February 7, 2021. PASSED

Moved by Brett Babineaux and 2nd by Katie Codina to add Louisiana Music Adjudicator Association to the LMEA Board as an ex-officio Associate Organization. PASSED

Brett Babineaux withdrew a motion to have the LMEA president serve as an ex-officio member of the LMAA Board of Directors. The invitation for ex-officio LMEA representation on the LMAA Board would need to come from LMAA.

Moved by Brett Babineaux and 2nd by Katie Codina that the membership roster of the LMAA be the recommended list of approved judges. The district directors will be responsible for selecting all judges for LMEA District Large Ensemble Assessments. For all LMEA district large ensemble band assessments, one judge shall be selected from the recommended list of LMAA approved judges for stage and one judge from the list for sightreading. PASSED

Greg Oden and Michelle DesLattes will co-chair a committee of vocal directors to put together a Louisiana Choral Prescribed Music List. Contact them if interested in serving on the committee.

Katie Codina discussed adding more solos, to be used in addition to the UIL solo lists, for LMEA State Solo Assessment. After discussion, Katie will chair a committee to bring more information back to the board. Carolyn Herrington will serve on this committee.

Scotty Walker talked briefly about a virtual LMEA State Solo Assessment, possibly in November. Scotty will work with Bruce Lambert on details and will get back to the board.

Meeting Adjourned