

## National Assembly & Southwest Division Update.

Summer has passed quickly due in part to teaching and MMEA activities. I had the pleasure to attend several national and regional meetings on behalf of MMEA this summer. June 22-25, the MMEA Executive Board was in Baltimore, MD, to attend the National Leadership Assembly and Music Education Week. July 17-19, found Kevin and I in Wichita, KS, for the Southwest Division meeting. With this article I will attempt to summarize each of these meetings and do my best to bring you up to speed on the continued mission of NAFME and some new initiatives set in motion by the association.

In attendance for the National Leadership Assembly were President Kevin Lines, myself, Past President Rob Nichols, Executive Secretary Paul Swafford, MSM Editors Martin and Sally Hook. Each of us was ushered in various directions depending on our responsibilities. Prior to attending the National Assembly Leadership sessions I observed as many of the professional development sessions associated with Music Education Week as time allowed. These professional development sessions were organized within each academy. For a better overview visit [www.nafme.org](http://www.nafme.org) and search for “*Music Education Week*” to see the various offerings associated with each academy. I spent most of my available time in the “Music Program Leaders Academy.” Many of these sessions were centered on new initiatives with teacher evaluation. It was very interesting to learn how various states are approaching the assessment issue. NAFME has issued a position statement to help guide all of us as we work through the challenging process. Visit the following link to view the statement: <http://musiced.nafme.org/about/position-statements/teacher-evaluation>. Each state has different models and guidelines. Missouri State School Board recently approved the “Missouri Model Teacher and Leader Standards” initiative that will be piloted this school year. Visit the DESE web site to view this complete document. In print the Missouri plan seems positive but we do not know how the arts will be evaluated and by whom. One-size-fits-all teacher evaluation processes create real challenges for music teachers. Many of the challenges in this area are shared by our colleagues in the other arts: dance, media arts, theater, and visual arts. The same challenges will have an impact on teachers in all non-tested subjects. It is my opinion that specific details of the evaluation process need further attention. President Kevin Lines has asked that I follow this issue and try to keep MMEA as involved with the evaluation process as DESE will allow. In future articles I will try to keep us current on how this is progressing.

As part of the National Assembly I attended two terrific sessions on how to run efficient meetings and how to communicate better to our members. I find it a

challenge to stay current with all of the issues and trends in music education. It is my responsibility as one of your designated leaders to establish effective lines of communication so you can better advocate for your program and stay current with cutting edge teaching techniques that enhance music education for all of our students. We have a tremendous web site that I intend to use in ways that will enhance our communication. Past President Rob Nichols has done a great deal of work in establishing a site that will serve MMEA well and with tremendous possibilities for many years to come. I encourage all of us to visit the web site often [www.mmea.net](http://www.mmea.net). One of our goals is to make all registration and conference development accomplished on-line. We also want the web site to become a resource for Missouri Music Educators.

Membership initiatives are important and vital issues for both our state and national association. Missouri currently ranks tenth nationally in NAFME membership with 1888 active members. Although this is an impressive number we all know Music Educators within our state that currently are not members of NAFME or MMEA. We all need to make membership in both our national and state association a priority. There is strength in numbers! We will be striving to increase membership in many ways including collegiate members as well as Music Educators new to the profession so we can provide a support system as they begin their careers. Please help us find and encourage new members. Watch the magazine and our web site for future initiatives and incentives.

We learned that the National Standards for Arts Education adopted in 1994 are being revised. NAFME is participating in the National Coalition for Core Arts Standards (NCCAS), a partnership of organizations and states who will lead the revision of the current standards. The NCCAS plans to release initial drafts of national voluntary arts education standard in fall, 2012 for review. The standards will describe what students should know and be able to do as a result of a quality curricular arts education program. NCCAS is committed to developing a next generation of voluntary arts education standards that will build on the foundation created by the 1994 document, support the 21<sup>st</sup> –century needs of students and teachers, help ensure that all students are college and career ready, and affirm the place of arts education in a balanced core curriculum. The new set of standards is PreK-14 organized. I feel this is a much needed document that will give higher education an opportunity to align with existing arts expectations. This revision may also help in the development of student growth assessments that will contribute to realistic measures tied to teacher evaluation.

As part of the National Assembly/Music Education Week the United States Marine Band performed for all in attendance on Saturday evening and we were treated to the National Honors Ensembles Concert at the Kennedy Center on Sunday evening. Please see a separate article that I have submitted in this edition on changes to the Music Education Week and the National Honors Ensembles. These changes are positive and will truly make the National Honors Ensembles more of an “Honors” experience.

While in attendance at the NAFME Southwest Division meeting we once again shared with other states and learned of the different approaches to the teacher evaluation. Oklahoma is considered a First-Tier state in the evaluation process. They outlined their progress and concerns which gave us insight on areas of concerns as Missouri begins this process. I enjoyed talking with various state leaders about aspects and offerings of their state conferences. I have a few ideas that I hope will enhance your conference experience. NAFME President Nancy Ditmer and NAFME Executive Director and CEO Michael A. Butera were in attendance. It was a pleasure to listen as they shared insight to legislative developments in Washington D.C. that affect music and education in general.

I met with Marvin Manring, MMEA Historian, and Carla Maltas, NAFME-C Advisor, at UCM in July. We spent two days sorting through the MMEA archives in preparation for MMEA’s 75<sup>th</sup> celebration. Special thanks to Carla and her students for their work in scanning many of the existing documents for archival purposes. I will refer you to Marvin’s article in this issue for an update on this process. We would like to ask for help from our membership in terms of pictures and memorabilia that would be of interest for display at the conference in January. We are establishing a MMEA Museum room, location TBA, which will be available for visiting during the conference. Please contact Marvin if you have items that you feel will be of interest to the MMEA membership. I enjoyed reading and looking through the archives. It will be easy to spend many hours enjoying the rich history of MMEA.

Conference preparation is well under way with many exciting concerts, clinics and offerings to make the 75<sup>th</sup> MMEA In-Service Workshop/Conference a memorable experience for all. Please mark your calendars for **January 23 – 26, 2013**. It is a pleasure to serve MMEA. I encourage your comments and input as to how MMEA can best serve you and your teaching. Best wishes for the new school year.