



August 2009

Dear LMTA Colleagues,

Happy "Back-to-School!" The recent **LMTA Board Meeting/Retreat** (watch for the meeting minutes on our website) really boosted my energy and enthusiasm levels, confirming my belief that spending time and sharing ideas with other teachers is like a tonic. I can't wait to share that enthusiasm with my students, and I can't wait to share it with all of you at the **LMTA Convention (October 15-17 at UL-Lafayette)**. A new addition to this year's convention: the local affiliate with the largest percentage of their members registered for the convention will be rewarded with a free workshop for one of their meetings during the year. Plan now to attend the LMTA Convention and help your affiliate win the prize!

CONVENTION NEWS

At the Board Meeting/Retreat, President-elect **Donna Toney** filled us in on plans for an absolutely amazing convention. Inspiring sessions, delicious food and hospitality galore await us in Lafayette. I can't imagine missing this great opportunity to be with my LMTA friends, and I hope every one of you will be there!

Convention hosts **Susie Garcia, Chan Kiat Lim, Mila Olivier** (LAMTA President), **Sarah Roy** (LAMTA Immediate Past President), and the members of **Louisiana Area MTA** (MTNA's Outstanding Affiliate for 2009) are working overtime to make us feel welcome. Visit the "Convention" page on the LMTA website (<http://www.lmta.org/state.asp?page=conference>) to see a detailed schedule. The registration form is posted on the website and is also attached to this e-mail. **Be sure to mail in your registration by September 24.**

Rooms are going quickly at the convention hotel (Hilton Garden Inn, 2350 West Congress Street) so call **337-291-1977** now to reserve your room and visit the website <http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/hotels/index.jhtml?ctyhocn=LFTCDGI> to see the lovely accommodations.

Maps and campus parking information will be posted on the website soon.

We are anxious to welcome first-time attendees to the LMTA Convention and will recognize them at the *General Sessions*. If you know someone who has not yet attended a convention, please invite them to join you. They will most definitely thank you! At the Convention Banquet, we will again honor teachers for their years of teaching.

FREE LUNCH FOR COLLEGE MUSIC STUDENTS AT CONVENTION

College music students are the future of LMTA and our profession. We want to have a record turnout of students at the 2009 Convention, and we want them to know how much we value them. LMTA will "treat" every college student who registers for the convention to lunch on Thursday at the UL-L Student Union. Get the word out and encourage the college students in your area to attend. They will get to attend all convention sessions free of charge (no registration fee for students!), meet students from other areas of the state, find out first-hand about LMTA, and get a free lunch, too!

COMPETITIONS

Information and entry forms for the **Upper Elementary Auditions** and the **LMTA Elementary Composition Competition** are available on the website "Events and Forms" pages.

The **MTNA Competitions** will be held at UL-L on Saturday, October 17th. Visit <http://mtna.org/Programs/Competitions/Guidelines/tabid/304/Default.aspx> for guidelines and on-line registration.

PLAYATHON

Our third annual **Students Helping Students Playathon** (our first "Spookathon!") will be held in Lafayette on Saturday, October 17th. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to share their musical abilities and help other students in our state. Please visit the website "Events and Forms" pages for complete information. If your students can't get to Lafayette, consider having a Playathon closer to home. Playathons or group lessons can substitute for private lessons and give you the opportunity to attend Convention without worrying about re-scheduling.

FOUNDATION

Congratulations to our next Foundation Fellow, **Ernestine Durrett**. We are sending the check to MTNA to complete Ernestine's nomination, and she will be honored as a Fellow at the MTNA Conference Banquet in Albuquerque next March.

Foundation Chair **Sarah Roy** encourages all of us to bring our no-longer-wanted music and teaching materials to Lafayette for the **Recycled Music Sale**. Proceeds will go towards funding a Foundation Fellow for 2011. The MTNA Foundation will also be supported by our **Silent Auction** at the Convention Banquet. This is always great fun! Each local affiliate is asked to provide an item for the Silent Auction (Presidents, Sarah will remind you) - but anyone is welcome to donate items. If you have something to contribute, email Sarah Roy lnsroy@cox.net for details.

LMTA DISCUSSION BOARD

The opportunity to confer with colleagues is truly invaluable. We can't always meet in person, but with the help of our LMTA Google Group Discussion Board, we can converse on-line and share ideas at any time.

Click on <http://www.lmta.org/files/Discussion%20Board%20instructions.pdf> for instructions, then go to <http://groups.google.com/group/lmta-discussion-board> to join the conversation.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

The LMTA Constitution and Bylaws contain information about membership, officers, board, local affiliates and more. They are available to all members on the website at <http://www.lmta.org/state.asp?page=bylaws> and are attached to this e-mail as well.

MEMBER WORKSHOPS/SESSIONS

LMTA members who have sessions they are willing to present to local affiliates are listed on the "For Teachers" page on our website <http://www.lmta.org/state.asp?page=forteachers>. If you would like to be included on this list, please e-mail tobeykath@cox.net. While you are on the "For Teachers" page, check out the recipes (and some humor!) in the "**Food for Thought**" section.

MEMBERSHIP

If you have not yet renewed your LMTA/MTNA membership, please do so **NOW!** Click <http://www.mtna.org/Membership/tabid/140/Default.aspx> to register on-line.

As we begin the fall semester, I wish you all a year of musical growth for you and your students. I hope to see you in Lafayette!

Best wishes,

Katherine Tobey
LMTA President