



## **Louisiana Music Teachers Association 2018 MTNA State Affiliate of the Year**

### **Annual Report of the President October 2018**

Immediately following the 2017 State Convention, the 2017-19 LMTA Executive Board met at UNO on Saturday, October 14 to plan for the upcoming biennium. We took this time to familiarize ourselves with each executive member's roles and responsibilities within LMTA, to study the financial situation of the organization, to discuss the vision and mission of LMTA, to brainstorm about possible LMTA programs (for teachers, students, and our communities), and to set a communication agenda with the membership for 2018. We believe that this is the first time that a newly-elected board assembled so quickly following the convention. We found the meeting to be fruitful and helpful in setting the agenda for the next 24 months and would recommend this during each odd-numbered year, once each new executive board has been elected by the membership.

As a result of the October 14 board meeting, *the Score* is now published four times per year and various board members have contributed short articles about upcoming events and to celebrate student and member achievements. Because it was confusing to have a shorter *Intermission* published during the summer and following the convention, we have ceased publishing the *Intermission* and publish only *the Score*, which is distributed electronically. We rely on local affiliate presidents to read our newsletter and share content from it, along with emails from the LMTA president and MTNA national office, with local members during meetings, as not everyone reads *the Score* carefully.

In October 2017, I appointed an Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive Curriculum Festival. The committee is setting up a new curriculum that will allow students to learn about, perform, and get adjudicated feedback on technique, harmonization, improvisation, transposition, popular music, and other skills that are not part of the Rally Syllabus. The new curriculum will be rolled out in time for Fall 2019. Members of the committee include: Patti Misita (chair), Sue Steck-Turner, David Easley, Carla Breaux and myself.

At the end of 2017, we became aware of the fact that state universities required liability & sexual abuse/molestation insurance before we could use their venues for our local, district, and state competitions. The process of finding an adequate policy was tedious, because the MTNA

national office does not provide support with this. After securing one policy, we learned that the coverage was inadequate so we had to cancel that policy and take out another in March 2018. The policy lasts for one year. We will need to apply for renewal again this spring. As a result of this policy, at least two adults must be in a room with a student at all LMTA-sponsored events. Some locals are exploring holding open auditions for all festivals and competitions. However, it should be noted that the insurance policy is still required for such events. Holding open auditions simply lowers the number of adults needed to run a competition or event. Some locals have successfully found volunteer adults (aged 18 or over) through Greek or campus life organizations, while others have used adult piano students from the region as volunteers to sit in the judging rooms.

I wrote letters of congratulations to all entrants in the LMTA/MTNA Competitions (and copied their teachers) last fall. In January, NSU in Natchitoches hosted the MTNA South Central Division Competitions. Following this competition, I sent participants congratulatory letters along with a stipend for travel (as stipulated in LMTA Policies and Procedures). Louisiana had three winners in the Young Artist category who travelled to compete at the MTNA National Conference (Jonathan Andino, Marely Eder, and Thomas Gusewelle).

The LMTA Executive Board met on January 13, 2018, during the South Central Division Competition, as NSU is the host site for the fall 2018 LMTA Convention. During this meeting, plans were made for the upcoming State Convention and each board member discussed concerns from their area. We thank President-elect, Francis Yang for all of his work and diligence in planning the convention and Charlie Jones and all members of Cenla for working to make our convention a success. Please see the report of the president-elect for details about the 2018 convention artist and clinician.

Flood relief checks were mailed to Texas and Florida in January (when I discovered this did not happen prior to the president and treasurer transition in October 2017). Based on my experience with these states, I recommend making contact with state presidents each time there is a natural disaster to assess the teacher and student needs of their state. At that point, LMTA can make an informed decision about how much money to send to each state. We want to help our neighbors, as they have helped us, but we want to know that the funds are needed before we send money.

In March 2018, I travelled (with a dedicated group of colleagues from LMTA) to Lake Buena Vista, FL for the 2018 MTNA National Conference. Several of our collegiate members made the trip, and appreciated our sponsorship. There, I attended the SPAC (State Presidents Advisory Council) meeting, attended YA Competitions in which our students were competing, attended the 2017 Commissioned Composer of the Year (where our own Phillip Scheussler was honored and his *Sunburst Carousel* was performed by our Louisiana saxophone quartet, and LMTA was

recognized as the 2018 State Affiliate of the Year. Marely Eder won the National YA Woodwind Competition and Thomas Gusewelle won the National YA Brass Competition. Members of the LMTA delegation attended their winner's recital and upon return I sent congratulatory letters and travel stipends to our three YA participants (and copied their teachers).

On June 13, 2018, I attended the State Rally Board Meeting in Alexandria. The Board is doing good work, making important decisions, and plans for 2018-19 are shared in the VP Rally and State Rally Chair Reports. It looks like Rebecca Bellelo has been able to work with two interested string teachers to re-start a small string rally in Baton Rouge during Spring 2019.

In September, I travelled to Cincinnati for the MTNA Leadership Summit. There, I met with other state presidents and/or president-elects, MTNA division directors, national executive, and national office staff. The information learned at Summit will be shared with the local-affiliate presidents during our president lunch (October 25) and with the general membership in *the Score*, as appropriate. LMTA activity reports are submitted to the Division Director quarterly.

Membership is down by four members from this time last year. We have welcomed 25 new or re-instating members in the state. Please see the VP Membership Report for details. I encourage you to welcome new members and involve them in your local programming and seek out potential new members because we thrive when there are more of us to share the work of our organization.

Upcoming Initiatives and Events (Anticipated):

- Fall 2018/Spring 2019 Update Policies & Procedures (to reflect current practice); Incorporate 2017 Policy Updates (voted on Oct. 11, 2017); Website Update;
- Treasury Audit (end on 2018)
- Announce 2019 LMTA Foundation Fellow
- March 2019 MTNA National Conference (Spokane, WA)
- Spring 2019 District Rally
- June 2019 Torgimson/Swanzy (State Rally)
- Summer 2019 Roll out of new Curriculum (procedures, etc.)

I thank each member of the LMTA Executive and Committee or Board Chair for your dedication and work during the past twelve months. I look forward to serving with you again during the upcoming year and appreciate your support for all of our LMTA-sponsored events and initiatives.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pamela D. Pike, NCTM