



E-News

October 2009



It has been a privilege and honor to serve as your president for the past two years. On November 1, I will become your Immediate Past President as I pass the torch to our next president, Donna Toney. Donna has been in charge of the conventions, a huge job, and deserves enormous praise and thanks. She has worked closely with me in every area of leadership, and I look forward to the growth LMTA will experience under her leadership.

Sincere thanks also to the other members of the Executive Committee: Immediate Past President and VP-Certification Sue Steck-Turner, VP-Membership Judy McGehee, VP-Publicity David Easley, VP-Rallies Jeanne Patterson, Secretary Robin Ebeyer, Historian Annette Larsen, and Treasurer Charlie Jones.

LMTA's new Executive Committee (listed below) will begin their two year term in November.

President: Donna Toney
President-elect: Judy McGehee
VP-Membership: Patti Misita
VP-Certification: Sue Steck-Turner
VP-Publicity: David Easley
VP-Rallies: Dorothy Sahlmann
Secretary: Lynette Murphy
Treasurer: Janet Colbert
Historian: Jill O'Toole
Immediate Past President: Katherine Tobey

Last week's **LMTA Convention in Lafayette** was a huge success in every way. Sincere thanks to our **hosts at UL-L, Susie Garcia and Chan Kiat Lim**, and their very hardworking student chapter, to **Donna Toney**, and to the wonderful (and nationally recognized MTNA Outstanding Local Affiliate) **Lafayette Area Music Teachers Association**. **LAMTA President Mila Olivier, Past-president Sarah Roy, Yearbook Editor Kathryn Watson, Advertising Chair Michele Day, Exhibits Chair (and Ingrid Clarfield's left hand) Sue Steck-Turner, Hospitality Chairs Eugenia Hagood and Madeleine McKnight, and Sue Miller (banquet)** and their crews were amazing. They have raised the bar for all of us!

The sessions and special events (banquet, luncheons, artist and faculty recitals) were outstanding, and attendance (162) set a new record. **Convention Clinician Ingrid Clarfield** and **Convention Artist William Chapman Nyaho** were truly wonderful. We thank all our presenters and recitalists for two full days and evenings of education, enrichment, inspiration and entertainment. It was an honor to have **South Central Division Director Celinda Hallbauer** with us for the entire convention.

We were especially excited about the large number of students (43) in attendance. LMTA was pleased to provide **free lunch for 35 college students** on Thursday. The students met with **Collegiate Chapters Chair Steele Moegle** and a selected panel for an hour of networking and planning before lunch. The group elected the first **LMTA State Collegiate Council** whose goals will be to network with other collegiate members throughout the state, to connect with possible roommates for national conferences, and to compile a wide array of articles for the LMTA SCORE newsletter. They will be opening this group on Facebook for ease in communication. Officers are:

President: Amanda Yan (LSU – Baton Rouge)

President-elect: Jordan Foster (SELU - Hammond)

Vice President: Robin Bertucci (LSU – Baton Rouge) (responsible for compiling Score articles from across the state)

Secretary: Linden Uter (LSU – Baton Rouge) (contact for local chapter happenings and members' musical events)

Treasurer: Natalie Wood (Louisiana Tech - Ruston) (responsible for investigating sources of funding for the group)

The LMTA Executive Committee voted to assist the collegiate board with a **\$500 grant for each of the five officers to attend the MTNA Conference** in Albuquerque next spring.

We currently have five **Collegiate Chapters (LSU, SELU, LA Tech, UL-L and UL-M)** and hope to have chapters at McNeese, Northwestern and Southern University by the end of 2009.

Pre-college students were involved in master classes, a composition session, **Upper Elementary Auditions**, as well as a **Spookathon** on Saturday which money for the **LMTA Students Helping Students Fund**. All students attended the entire convention free of charge.

Winners of the **LMTA Elementary Composition Competition** and the **MTNA Composition Competition** presented a wonderful recital on Thursday, followed by the premier of *Through the Hymnal*, our **2009 commissioned piece**. **Composer Al Benner's** very moving piano duo was performed beautifully by Donna Toney and Christine Lien (BRMTA president). Next year's commissioned piece will be a string chamber work to help kick off our brand new **Chamber Music Competition**. **Chan Kiat Lim** will chair this exciting event. Contact him at chankiatlim@louisiana.edu for information.

The MTNA performance competitions were held on Saturday. Congratulations to all the performers, and best of luck to those who will compete at the South Central Division competition in Shreveport January 9:

Junior Piano: Jonathan Black, (representative) student of Faina Lushtak

Junior String: Wesley Newton (winner - Violin), student of Jivka Jeleva

Junior Woodwind: Palmer Adonis Lao (rep. – Oboe) student of Loretta Andry

Senior Brass: Dylan Blanchard (rep. – French Horn) student of Charles Jones

Senior Piano: Sarah Rushing (rep) student of Willis Delony

Senior String: Catherine Owens (winner – Violin) student of Pasha Sabouri

Young Artist Brass: Andrew Larson (winner – Tuba) student of Joseph Skillen

Young Artist Piano: Angy Estrada (winner) student of Faina Lushtak

YA String: Kostadin Dyulgierski (winner – Viola) student of Matthew Daline
YA Woodwind: Emily Zirlin (winner – Flute) student of Katherine Kemler
And congratulations to the young composers whose work will be judged at the Division level:

Elementary: Christopher Aubert (representative) student of Sue Steck-Turner
Junior: Joseph Aubert (winner) student of Sue Steck-Turner
Senior: Phillip Chandler (winner) student of David Easley
Young Artist: Giselle Eastman (representative) student of Dinos Constantinides

Congratulations to Fred and Dorothy Sahlmann who were honored (and surprised) at the banquet as **LMTA Outstanding Teachers for 2009**.

Spurred on by the announcement that the Executive Committee had voted to nominate **Charles Jones as our next Foundation Fellow**, \$1178 was collected through donations, silent auction and re-cycled music sale. Earlier in the year LMTA members donated \$1000 to the MTNA Foundation Fund to nominate **Ernestine Durrett**, so we will have two new Louisiana Fellows (both past-presidents of LMTA) honored at the MTNA Gala in Albuquerque. The **MTNA Fellow program** offers a meaningful method for honoring deserving individuals while supporting the efforts of the MTNA Foundation Fund through a donation to the Foundation Fund in an individual's name. The MTNA Foundation provides grants and awards to students, gifted composers, outstanding teachers and performers, and to local associations.

The LMTA Executive Committee also announced the decision to offer matching grants to all LMTA members who apply for **National Certification** between now and October 2010. Members who apply for national certification through the current procedure (until December 31) or the new procedure (beginning January 1) will be given \$100 (one half of the \$200 application fee). We are very excited about this project and expect to have many new NCTMs by next year at this time. Contact **Vice President for Certification Sue Steck-Turner** steckturner@hotmail.com for information.

Proposals are already being accepted for the next LMTA Convention (October 14-15, 2010 in Natchitoches). If you have a session you would like to present, or if you would like to recommend someone as a presenter, contact **Judy McGehee** judymcgehee@cox.net. The deadline for proposals is February 1, 2010.

Mark your calendar with the following dates:

MTNA Conference in Albuquerque – March 20-24, 2010
LMTA Convention in Natchitoches – October 14-15, 2010

I look forward to my continuing involvement in LMTA. The best part of leading our organization has been getting to know all of you. I feel truly blessed to have such wonderful colleagues!

Katherine Tobey