



PMEA

Pennsylvania Music Educators Association

DISTRICT 5

*Beaver, Butler, Lawrence and Mercer Counties
Newsletter Fall 2008*

Dear Colleagues:

I hope that your year is off to a great start. There are a number of items that I would like to communicate to you that are of importance. Please take time to review each of the bullets, and mark your calendar accordingly so that you and your students are informed.

- We are hosting our second Act 48 In-service on Saturday October 11th at Westminster College. Doug May and the C/I Committee have been very busy putting together various sessions that will be of benefit to anyone in our membership pre-K through college. I would strongly encourage you to come out and attend this event even if you are not in need of the Act 48 hours. There is minimal cost for members to attend.
- Please remember that our membership is now July 1 – June 30 of each year. Jeff will be sending one reminder to those of you who are currently non members. If we do not have proof of your membership your students will not be allowed to audition for Honors Festivals and their applications will not be accepted for the District Festivals.
- As a past host of festivals, I *urge* you to be professionally courteous to your colleagues and have all your paper work and payments in by the date that the festival host has requested. Our website now has all the paper work for each festival just in case something happens to your mail. PMEA would be put in a possible legal situation if we do not have applications (releases) - especially from parents and principals.
- Speaking of the website, I appreciate the work Jeff Kroner does in maintaining and updating our web-site. We are able to provide a wealth of information to our membership. If you have not noticed, the state website for PMEA has been overhauled and is significantly more user-friendly.
- Remember that applications for scholarships as well as nominations for Citation of Excellence (Middle School), Outstanding Superintendent and Outstanding Principal (offered exclusively in District 5) are due by December 1st.
- There have been a number of staff changes in many districts, and Jeff has been diligently updating our directory. I am looking forward to meeting many of the new professionals throughout District 5.
- Please remember to mark the PMEA “Music Performance Assessments” (there was a name change for the Adjudication Festivals at this summer’s state board meeting) for your performing

ensembles. Gary Taylor (Wilmington) will once again be hosting an adjudication festival for large instrumental ensembles elementary through high school, Eric Schrader (Greenville) will be hosting solo and small ensemble adjudication, and Dr. Robin Lind will be hosting a choral adjudication festival at Westminster College in April for choirs elementary through high school. This is a great way to gather some feedback for your ensembles, raise the expectation levels for your program, and motivate your students.

- While you are on the PMEA Web-site, please take a look at the PMEA Hall of Fame Nomination Form. Every year we are able to nominate one of our colleague who has excelled and contributed to the profession through the Citation of Excellence. However, surveying the teachers within our own district I feel that we have many worthy candidates who should be considered for the PMEA Hall of Fame. Take time to reflect and consider nominating someone who meets the criteria, and has made a difference in our profession and in the lives of the students that we teach.

Of all the things that I must stress to you, please visit our State web-site (<http://www.pmea.net/>) and take time to review the **Strategic Plan**. The Strategic Plan committee would like to hear your comments regarding the proposed Strategic Plan. This Plan is scheduled for adoption by the State Executive Board at the January meeting. There are a number of items within the plan of which you need to be aware, as they will have significant impact upon our professional business and festival operations. Chuck Neidhardt will be presenting at the fall in-service on the Strategic Plan. This session will provide a very good look at how the plan will address the concerns of the membership statewide.

Our profession of being an educator of music is unique, demanding, and often time consuming. As we teach each day and bring music into the lives of our own students, I would urge you to take time and connect with other colleagues in our profession. We need to encourage each other within the profession, because it can be very easy to become discouraged or to feel isolated. We are all well aware of the challenges that we face on a day to day level, and these problems exist in some form everywhere. We pay our membership dues so that we are affiliated and have the backing of larger entity. Our affiliation and support of each other should not be because we are members of PMEA – it should be because it is the right and professional thing to do. Something as simple as attending someone else's spring concert or program, an encouraging phone call, or exchanging instructional techniques (on-site or by email!) can make a difference and help refocus our own efforts. I look forward to serving you as PMEA District 5 President, and invite you to contact me at your convenience should you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

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