



President's Message – August 22, 2022
Dr. Julie D. Derges, NAFME-Texas President

Greetings fellow music teachers:

Welcome back to school for what I hope is going to be a rewarding and rejuvenating year. Although the past two-and-a-half years of the pandemic have been filled with numerous challenges, I am heartened by the resilience and ingenuity of music educators across Texas who have continued to show up day after day to support their students and serve their communities. Recently, I had the opportunity to interact with groups of elementary music teachers as they prepared to go back to school. The energy resonating from these teachers was truly inspiring.

Resonate is a word familiar to all music teachers. To me, resonate brings to mind an image of sound waves starting small, then spreading wide as it travels through space. Resonate also refers to feeling emotions deeply, and the experience of making music truly *resonates* with our students, providing outlets for expression, social interaction, and joy. Thus, the impact that you have as a music educator sometimes starts small, but ends up having wide-reaching impacts that last for a lifetime.

Over the last year, the NAFME-Texas Executive Board and Council of Chairs have been working hard behind-the-scenes to update several aspects of the organization, such as completing our restructuring process, officially changing our name, updating the Constitution and Bylaws, and planning initiatives for this coming year. This has set a strong foundation for the future of our organization.

This next year, NAFME-Texas is excited to continue with several new and ongoing initiatives, including a Fall Webinar, Virtual Hill Day, and Teacher Spotlights. We hope that these initiatives will provide opportunities for professional learning for teachers, advocacy for the field, and recognition of just a few of Texas' amazing music teachers. If you are interested in participating in any of these events, or know of a teacher we could

spotlight, I encourage you to email us or check out info on our webpage or on Facebook or Instagram.

I wish you all a wonderful start to school and hope that the feelings of excitement you have on day one resonate and sustain you through the year.