



President's Message, Fall 2020

Hello, my name is Julie Derges, and I am the President of the National Association for Music Education in Texas. I began my term in February 2020, just before our worlds were turned upside-down. In the past six months we have experienced so much change, loss, and unrest. For most of us, it has not been a restful summer.

Yet, I am so full of hope for this school year because there are so many music teachers like you who are demonstrating such strong resilience during this time. Many of you have spent time creating video lessons, learning new technologies, and transferring your classrooms to a music cart or a virtual classroom. It's truly amazing to see what you are doing, and I am confident that these will provide many meaningful music making experiences for your students.

However, I know that some of you are struggling with these changes, as well. It can be incredibly challenging to adapt, especially when there are so many uncertainties and changes. Know that at NAFME-Texas, we want to support you in any way we can through the many resources, guides, and tools that NAFME provides. Here are a few updates about what NAFME-Texas has been doing.

At NAFME-Texas, we have several new individuals on our Executive Board, including John Wayman, who is our new President-Elect and Beverly Chinn, who is our new Member-at-Large. Additionally, NAFME-Texas has several standing committees who focus on supporting members in a variety of areas. They include: Advocacy, Collegiate Membership, Preservice Teacher Education, and Social Media. Recently, the NAFME-Texas Executive Board recently voted to add an additional committee on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Access. This committee will have two co-chairs so that we can address this topic on multiple fronts. The committee will have a Chair of Social Justice, which focuses on policy and advocacy, as well as a Chair of Culturally Responsive Pedagogy, which will focus on teaching and learning practices for diverse learners. If you are interested in serving as the Chair for Social Justice or the Chair of Culturally Responsive Pedagogy, we would love to consider you for the position! We are also looking for a Chair of Collegiate Membership. To apply, please submit a letter of intention and a short biography for the board's consideration. For more information, please check out our website at nafme-texas.org. If you are interested in participating on any of these committees to further their



important work, we welcome your help and invite you to contact the Chair for these committees. Their contact information is available on our website.

At the national level, NAFME has been extremely active during this time to provide resources, advocacy, and support for all music teachers. They have released a number of resources for teaching virtually, guidelines for safe teaching in person, and advocating for your program. Additionally, they have created a number of webinars on a wide range of topics, such as social-emotional learning, virtual ensembles, culturally responsive teaching, and avoiding teacher burn-out. In the past, this information was only available to members, but NAFME has currently made these resources available for free. They care deeply about supporting all music teachers during these challenging times, and so they have opened access to anyone who is interested. NAFME also continues to be a leader in advocating for music education across the country. They have a number of advocacy resources for talking to parents, administrators, school board members, and the greater community about the value of music education in the lives of young people.

Finally, if you are not a member of NAFME-Texas, I invite you to join us. As a member, you will become a part of the national conversation surrounding music education, as well as be provided with resources and tools from distinguished music educators from around the country. If you are interested in becoming a member, go to nafme-texas.org and click on “join.”

Thank you for all you do to support music education for the students of Texas. Stay strong, stay safe, and stay hopeful. May this year be filled with many valuable connections and musical moments.

Take care,

Julie Derges, Ph.D.

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