



President's Message, Summer 2021

Congratulations!

We made it! It has been a school year filled with extraordinary challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and it's finally coming to a close.

For me, it was especially meaningful to attend graduation this year. I love everything about graduation, from the pomp and circumstance (quite literally), to meeting students' family members and celebrating each individual as they cross the stage. However, this year's graduation was the first time I had seen many of my students in person in over a year. It was such a joy to see them, even if we had to keep our masks on. I hope that you can take a moment to pause and celebrate the hard work and resilience of both you and your students. When I think about our community as music teachers, I am filled with gratitude for all that you do as to show up, adapt your instruction, and find any way you can to provide for your students.

At NAFME-Texas we have been developing several new initiatives to help support you and all of the music educators in Texas.

Upcoming Proposals

As many of you know, our organization previously was called the Texas Music Educators Conference, but was restructured a few years ago as the National Association for Music Education–Texas. Since then, the Executive Board has undertaken a thorough review of the Constitution and Bylaws. We will be proposing several changes to these documents to the Membership in the next few days. Following the requirements in our current Constitution, these proposed changes will be emailed to the membership 30 days prior to the vote to allow for your review.

After this period of review, the vote will take place at a special Membership Meeting at the end of July or early August, in a date that will be announced soon. At this meeting, the Executive Board will formally share the proposed revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws and provide a time for discussion. Following this, all active members will be invited to vote on the proposed changes.

Webinar on Social Justice

I am also excited to announce that NAFME-Texas will be holding a webinar on providing culturally responsive pedagogy in music education. We are finalizing this information, so look for more news about this opportunity very soon!

Opportunities for High School Students

Finally, I would like to share with you the dates for the upcoming All-National Honors Ensembles. These ensembles are comprised of top high school musicians from every state and led by renowned conductors. Students can audition for Concert Band, Guitar Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Mixed Choir, Symphony Orchestra, and Modern Band. This experience is a great opportunity for your students who are looking for additional opportunities to perform and connect with others. Information about the audition materials and process are available on our website. Performances will be held virtually this year on January 22-24, 2022, and the deadline for audition materials is September 15, 2021. You can find more information about this on our website, or you can contact Beverly Chinn (Member-at-Large) or Michelle Devall (Advocacy Chair) if you have questions.

On behalf of the Board, I thank you for your membership and participation in NAFME-Texas and for your commitment to music education. May your summer be relaxing and restorative.

Julie Derges, Ph.D.
President, NAFME-Texas