



NORTH CAROLINA MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 17, 2009

COLLEGIATE MUSIC EDUCATORS NATIONAL CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER

Important Dates/Reminders:

Monday, January 26, 2009: Feedback from members and chapters on their position concerning the Arts Requirement for high schools due to President

NEW DEADLINE
Wednesday, February 4, 2009: Deadline to notify President of chapter's involvement in the Statewide Arts Advocacy Initiative

Thursday, March 5, 2009: NC Arts Advocacy Day

Thursday, March 5, 2009 – Friday, March 6, 2009: NC State of the Arts in the 21st Century Conference (Raleigh, NC)

Sunday, March 15, 2009: NCMEA Scholarship Applications Due

Monday, March 30, 2009 – Friday, April 3, 2009: Statewide Arts Advocacy Initiative

Saturday, November 7, 2009 – Tuesday, November 10, 2009: 2009 NCMEA In-Service Conference

A Note from the President:

Greetings Collegiate Chapters,

I hope this letter finds each of you well rested after a wonderful holiday season and energized for the upcoming semester. For those of you who are not familiar with me, my name is Jason Morton and I am the new President of the North Carolina CMENC.

In observing the previous years that I have been a member of CMENC, there have been a number of concerns that have been brought to my attention at the university and state level that I hope to improve during my term as President. A few of these issues include membership and participation; intrastate chapter communication and involvement; and local, state, and national Arts advocacy. In order to begin making improvements in these areas, I have developed a few activities that I would like to accomplish as President and for us to achieve as a statewide collaboration.

The main priority for us this spring will be a statewide Arts Advocacy Initiative to coincide with the 2009 Americans for the Arts Advocacy Day on Monday, March 30, 2009 and Tuesday, March 31, 2009. This initiative will also take place during the month of March, which is "Music in our Schools Month." The goal of this project will not only be to increase America's awareness of the importance of the Arts in students' lives, but also to inundate state and national legislators with phone calls and emails to persuade them to develop strong public policies and appropriate increased funding for the Arts.

As a part of this initiative, collegiate chapters from across the state will launch activities each day during the week of March 30th to promote and inform others at the local, state, and national levels about the importance of music and other Arts. Two of the week's major priorities will include making phone calls and sending emails to members of Congress at both the state and national levels. The rest of the activities will be left for each chapter to create. Examples of activities that chapters *may* choose from are included below:

- Developing an Arts Advocacy presentation to be given to either K-12 students, county or school administrators, or parents
- Putting on a concert and performing for K-12 students
- Putting together a Petting Zoo for elementary students
- Making phone calls and sending emails to local administrators

On Monday, March 30, 2009, each chapter will call and email Congressional members in Washington, D.C. from a list that they will be provided. On Tuesday, March 31, 2009, each chapter will call and email Congressional members in Raleigh, NC from a list that they will be provided as well. As for the rest of the week, chapters will participate in the activities that they have developed themselves.

What I need from each chapter is an email or phone call by **Friday, March 6, 2009**, letting me know whether your chapter is interested in participating in this statewide Arts Advocacy Initiative. Once I have received a reply from every chapter, I will provide each chapter with a list of the members of the state and national Congress members they will be responsible for calling and emailing on March 30th and March 31st. With help and participation from each CMENC chapter in



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Got something happening at your chapter or university?

Please send the President an email with the following information so that it can be included in the newsletter and shared with others:

- Name of the Event
- Event Date(s) and Time
- Location
- Description of the Event
- Any important details

Is there a recent fundraiser or service project your chapter completed?

Feel free to send the President a short article discussing your event or service project, along with any pictures, so that it may be included in the newsletter and shared with other chapters.

North Carolina, we can make an enormous impact on the Arts in North Carolina and the United States. I have thought about contacting the Presidents of other states and letting them know of our project, in order to get them involved and make this a national endeavor as well.

As for the other projects I have in mind, they include an E-newsletter, such as this, that will be emailed to each chapter at the beginning of each month. The newsletter will include a short summary of each chapter's operations such as service projects, fundraisers, and other activities from the preceding month. Hopefully, this newsletter will enable chapters to gather ideas from other chapters and implement them in their communities. Another project created by the new Executive Board includes a performing group made up of CMENC members that would come together, rehearse, and perform at different venues in the state and at the annual NCMEA conference.

Please feel free to contact me by phone or email at anytime throughout the year if you have any questions. I would enjoy hearing any ideas or comments that your chapter may have concerning these projects or others. More importantly, please make sure you reply to me by **Friday, March 6, 2009**, to let me know if your chapter is interested in participating in the Arts Advocacy Initiative so that I can get resources to each chapter in time. I am looking forward to a great year and I wish each of your chapters the best in your endeavors!

Sincerely,

Jason L. Morton, President
NC Collegiate Chapters
Music Educators National Conference (MENC)

MENC Petition for Music Education Collegiate Challenge

On Wednesday, June 17, 2009, MENC will begin its 2009 Music Education Week in Washington, D.C. and continue through Tuesday, January 23, 2009. As a part of this week, it is MENC's goal to present the new Secretary of Education a petition with one million signatures to show America's support for equal access to music education. In order to help with this effort, I am issuing a challenge to each collegiate chapter to see how many signatures they can receive. This could serve as great service project for your chapter and it can act as a friendly competition between the collegiate chapters; there also might be a prize available for the chapter with the most signatures. Chapters can obtain petition forms from the MENC website or by typing in the URL printed below. Each chapter's members should sign the petition and ask for signatures from people in their university and local communities. Once your chapter has received all the names it can get, count the number of signatures, email me the number, and mail your petitions to the national headquarters.

<http://www.menc.org/resources/view/3-ways-to-change-music-education>

To access the petitions from the MENC website, follow these directions:

- 1) Logon to MENC.org, 2) Find the "Quick Links" section on homepage, 3) Click on "3 Ways to Change Music Education: Petition, Change Drive, Rally"



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Need help paying for college? Check out the scholarships available through NCMEA!

- Log on to NCMEA.net and click on “Awards and Scholarships”
- Scholarships available for up to \$2,000
- Deadline for scholarship applications is Sunday, March 15, 2009

NCMEA Winter Board Meeting:

In-Service Conference Receives Facelift; NC Contest/Festival Given New Name; High School Graduation Requirement for the Arts Receives Mixed Opinions

On Saturday, January 17, 2009 the North Carolina Music Educators Association held its first Board Meeting of 2009 at the Country Inn & Suites in Burlington, North Carolina. During the afternoon of Friday, January 16, 2009 members of the 2009 Conference Planning Task Force, Renaming Festivals Task Force, Finance Committee, and Executive Committee also met to discuss business to be presented and voted upon by the board on Saturday.

The most prominent issues discussed were those concerning the 2008 In-Service Conference, renaming of the NC contest/festival, and the high school graduation requirement for the Arts. As a result of the board’s and each committee’s hard work, the following actions were approved:

In-Service Conference Changes:

- Orchestra honors performance will no longer be considered a general session, which will provide additional opportunities for sections to have clinics.
- Foregoing of the all-conference reception to provide additional opportunities for sections to have clinics
- A “kick-off” General session on Monday morning (9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.)
- Monday evening General Session at 8:00 p.m. with major performance, officer changeovers, and major awards (Hall of Fame; Life Membership) as needed

NC Contest/Festival → North Carolina Music Performance Adjudication:

In an effort to help administrators easily approve the travel of students to perform and be adjudicated at contest or festival, the NCMEA board approved its new name for contest/festival: the “North Carolina Music Performance Adjudication.” On January 1, 2010, NC contest and festival will be no longer be referred to as contest or festival, but North Carolina Music Performance Adjudication.

North Carolina Graduation Requirement for the Arts – Does NCMEA or CMENC approve? Do you approve? We need your feedback!

Recently, the NCMEA was asked for its approval of legislation being presented by a committee of state congressional members and members of the organization, Arts NC. The committee is recommending that the State Board of Education shall require one Arts Education credit for graduation from high school. In discussing this proposal in front of the board, there were different views on whether or not NCMEA should give its approval:

- It was considered a great idea as long as it was going to be fully funded; otherwise, it could be harmful and make the Arts suffer
- If approved, this would require thousands of teachers to be hired, as well as more materials and space
- A comment was made about the NC Graduation Project, it being under-funded, and not handled well



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**Executive Board
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- There was a concern about the Arts being cut due to the economy, and this mandate possibly acting as a safety-net
- A comment was made about putting an Arts requirement in elementary schools, rather than high schools, where it would lead to young children pursuing the Arts beyond elementary school
- A comment was made that if the mandate was approved and there were not enough music teachers in the high schools, the state could move the music teachers from the elementary school to the high school. This could take away the Arts from the elementary school.

After making a number of comments, the board decided that it would be best to hear from its members on this issue, before making its decision.

CMENC chapters, as your President and representative on the Board, it is important that you provide me with your members' feedback on this issue. Since we are collegiate members, this is going to impact us tremendously as we enter the field. Specifically, I need to know from as many of your members as possible, if they approve or disapprove with NCMEA backing this legislation (i.e. 8 approve, 4 disapprove). Please feel free to include any comments from your members as well. This information is time-sensitive, and I need your feedback by 5 p.m. on MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2009, so that I can send it to Dave Albert, our state President-Elect.

2009 In-Service Conference Collegiate Sessions- What/Who do you want to see!

In an effort to make the NCMEA In-Service Conference appealing and enjoyable to its collegiate members, the CMENC Executive Board would like to ask for your help and feedback in planning this year's collegiate sessions. A few details to consider are the clinicians who will speak at each session, session topics, and whether or not we want to plan our sessions on Saturday, like we have in the past, or on Sunday.

In order to solicit your feedback, we would like to schedule a meeting with the officers from as many chapters as possible to take place at a location in the central part of the state. Due to an early deadline for our paperwork, we need to meet sometime before February 28th. Dr. McKinney, our state CMENC advisor, and myself believe that a Sunday afternoon meeting would be best.

For now, let us plan on meeting either Sunday, February 15th or Sunday February 22nd. Chapter officers, please check your schedules and let me know of your availability. If a meeting seems unlikely, we will then gather feedback from each chapter, and the Executive Board will meet to plan the collegiate sessions, while taking each chapter's comments into consideration.