



Information on voting will be sent via email in early October. The NCMEA nominating committee aspires to present an election ballot of highly qualified music educators representative of the NCMEA membership. The following individuals willingly answered the call to serve as a nominee and potentially be elected to serve a two-year term on the NCMEA board. For this, the nominating committee extends a note of gratitude to the following nominees. Also, in an effort to have candidates considered only on the basis of their biography and skills, photos have intentionally been excluded from this article. Bios are presented as submitted, corrected only for misspelling, grammatical errors, or to meet style guidelines.

President-Elect

Johnathan Hamiel

Johnathan Hamiel is a native of Ellenboro, N.C. He is a 1998 graduate of East Rutherford High School in Rutherford County under the band tutelage of Paul Tallent and Kathy Weir, and a student of the Hall of Fame band director and music educator Dr. W. W. Jacobus. In 2003, he graduated from Winston-Salem State University with a bachelor's degree in music business management and merchandising, and certification in music education. While at WSSU, Hamiel held the position of saxophone section leader, drum major and student director of the university's marching band. He also was a member of CMENC, where he held the positions of vice president and president, respectively.

Hamiel has been teaching public school in Winston-Salem, for 16 years. He began his teaching career at Downtown Middle School where he taught band, chorus and music appreciation. In 2007, he earned his Master's Degree from the UNC – Greensboro in music and music education. In 2008, he received Teacher of the Year for his work and dedication at Downtown Middle School.

After leaving Downtown Middle School, Hamiel extended his career at Parkland Magnet IB High School. While at Parkland, he transformed the PHS Band program from a program of 35 students and two ensembles to a program of over 100 students and five ensembles. Under Hamiel's baton, the band program at PHS won countless awards and received superior and excellent ratings throughout the southeast. He also created a leadership camp entitled Project L.E.A.D. to assist band students with limited resources with leadership skills and technique.

Additionally, the Parkland Band Program was invited to and participated in the UNCOSA short film/motion picture entitled "Felicia." The Parkland band was also featured on ABC's *Good Morning America* in the segment "You're Hired." In 2013, the PHS band was selected to perform nationally on ESPN 1380 AM during their yearly kick-off of the ACC tournament. During his tenure at Parkland, Hamiel again won the Teacher of the Year award and the

Band Director of the Year with the Forsyth County Band Director Association.

Hamiel has yet to slow down in his career ambitions. In addition to the aforementioned accolades, he is the current director of bands at R.J. Reynolds High School in Winston-Salem. During his time at RJR, he has consistently had students audition and make prestigious honor bands; All-County, All-District, All-State, Governors School and All-National. The R.J. Reynolds Band program has had students perform in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Carnegie Hall and the halftime show at The Camping World Bowl in Orlando. He now sits on the NCMEA board as chairperson for Multicultural Awareness and member-at-large.

Recording Secretary

Catherine Butler

Catherine Butler, a graduate of UNC – Greensboro, is the choral director at Southwest Guilford High School in High Point, where she teaches a variety of choral ensembles, as well as class piano. Prior to moving to Southwest Guilford, she was the choral director at Penn-Griffin School for the Arts in High Point, where she taught middle and high school for eleven years. Her students are consistently selected for state honor choirs, earn superior rating at MPA, and participate in All-State and All-County Choruses. She has served NCMEA on the middle school choral board as member-at-large, secretary, and most recently, chair. Additionally, she coordinates Honors Chorus auditions in the central district for both middle and high school. She resides in Greensboro with her family, where she enjoys cooking and doing projects at home.

Ruth Petersen

Ruth Petersen received her Bachelor of Music Education in 1991, and her Master of Music Education in 1992, both from the UNC – Greensboro. She earned her National Board Certification in 2002 and renewed it in 2012. She currently serves as the director of bands at Bailey Middle School in Cornelius, and has been there since the school's opening in 2006.

She has been a Cable in the Classroom Award winner, a Wachovia/

First Union Ben Craig Outstanding Educator finalist, and a semi-finalist for the Harris Teacher of the Year. She was Teacher of the Year at Smith Middle School and at Francis Bradley Middle School. She was recognized by her peers from the South Central District Bandmasters Association with the Award of Excellence in 2014. In 2017, Petersen was recognized as one of 25 national semi-finalists for the Music & Arts Music Educator of the Year.

In addition to earning 28 ratings of superior over the last 13 years, Petersen's bands have performed with the Dallas Brass on three occasions and worked with jazz clinicians Jim Pugh and Jim Snidero. In 2007, her band participated in the National Anthem Project Finale and performed at the Old Post Office Pavilion in Washington, DC. The Bailey Band performed at Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center in New York City in 2009 for the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Celebration. Her bands have also performed in Hershey, Boston, Orlando, Atlanta, CedarPoint, Cincinnati, and New Orleans.

The Bailey Band was selected by blind audition to perform at Blumenthal Performing Arts Center in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools – A Musical Showcase in 2018. She has commissioned five pieces for middle school band most recently including, *Factory Child* by Ed Kiefer and *Blue Ridge Reel* by Brian Balmages. Her jazz bands have performed for CMS Emmy Night, the finale for the Superintendent's State of Our Schools Speech, and the National Association of Science Teachers Regional Conference. Her students have also earned chairs in honors bands at the county, district, and state level.

Since 2011, she has been the webmaster for the North Carolina Bandmasters Association and has served as webmaster for the South Central District since 2018. Petersen co-chaired the South Central District's Solo and Ensemble MPA from 2011 to 2015 and served as chair for the Western Regional Jazz Band auditions from 2015 to 2019. In 2018, she was inducted into the American School Band Directors Association. She has just served a two-year term as member-at-large for the NCMEA board, and now serves as state chair for Women Band Directors International. She is a member of NCMEA, NAFME, NCBA, SCDBA, NBA, WBDI, and ASBDA.

Member-at-Large

LaSaundra Booth

Dr. LaSaundra Booth is a licensed educator with 15 consecutive years of classroom experience, and over 27 years of performance experience. Her dissertation, *Factors that Influence the Status of K-12 String Orchestra Programs in North Carolina Public Schools*, is the first published string orchestra study to specifically address the status of orchestra programs in North Carolina Public Schools. Booth is a National Board Certified Orchestra director, holds an advanced degree in educational leadership, and a master's in music education with a concentration in string pedagogy from the UNC – Greensboro. While attending there, she studied cello with Dr. Alexander Ezerman. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Performance with a concentration in cello from North Carolina Central University, where she studied cello with master cellist, Dr. Timothy Holley.

Booth has a successful history of establishing string programs and creating string orchestra curriculum for public schools and non-profit organizations. She is founder and executive director of the Wake Forest Community Youth Orchestra, a non-profit organization that provides expert orchestral instruction and free instruments to over 200 Pre-K through twelfth grade students

across Wake, Franklin, and Vance counties.

Under her leadership, all of her performing ensembles have received superior ratings in adjudicated music festivals and competitions. Her accomplishments include a featured article and cover story on the 2008 edition of *Opus* magazine, a guest appearance on an episode of *One Tree Hill*, the WB network's hit television series, and a performance on *Spiritual Awakenings*, an inspirational television show. Booth is also an inventor who was awarded a patent by the USPTO for designing a music instruction apparatus for string instruments (USPTO# 20140260902).

An active member of NAFME for ten years, she is the current Southern Division representative to the NAFME Council for Orchestral Education. Booth also served as District 3 president from 2017 – 2019, which allowed her to gain a pulse on the issues facing the district. In speaking with teachers from poor and underserved counties within District 3, she determined that teachers lacked financial resources to afford NCMEA membership. She recommended to the board to offer financial assistance for memberships to help offset the financial strain that several potential new members face. Booth's creativity and solution-based approach to problem solving is an asset. She does not feel that any teacher should have to make a choice between paying their bills or joining NCMEA, which is why she suggested to offer a financial assistance scholarship for new members.

Booth has done a great deal in advocating for the profession. After learning about Title IV funding, she advocated for, and established, the first strings program in Franklin and Vance counties (serving 200 students with free string instruments and instruction). She has a heart to serve and is honored to be nominated for the member-at-large position.

Lillie Allmond Harris

Lillie Allmond Harris, a music educator with Guilford County Schools, currently teaches K-5 general music at Union Hill Elementary School in High Point. She received her Bachelor of Music in vocal performance at Virginia State University in Ettrick. After making the decision to answer her call to teach, she later attended UNC – Greensboro to earn her teaching certification in K-12 music education. She has also trained in Level 1 Orff and World Drumming.

Harris has been a member of NCMEA since 2006, and has previously served Guilford and Rockingham County Schools as NCMEA district president. During her term, she took time to visit with constituents in both districts and attended all NCMEA board meetings across the state. She enjoys offering support and collaborating with music educators statewide.

She is an advocate for public education and the arts and gives financial support for the arts in her local area. Harris continues to be involved with the arts in her local community, and currently serves as president of the High Point Community Concerts Association, Inc.

During the summer, Harris was a curator with the Summer Arts Institute for Guilford County Schools IGNITE Summer Camps. She also was the choral clinician for the First Baptist Arts & Worship Camp in Greensboro. She previously served as director of the children's choir of 10 years at Providence Baptist Church in

Greensboro. She considers it an honor and privilege to work with children and so many outstanding music educators in our state.

Quincy Lundy

Quincy Lundy is in his nineteenth year of teaching band and is in his ninth year as director of bands at Walkertown Middle and High Schools, where he began the Walkertown High School band program in 2011. Since his time with the Walkertown bands, Lundy was named Teacher of the Year as well as Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools Band Director of the Year. He is formerly the director of bands at Quality Education Academy where he began the QEA Seraphim Winds band program in 2001.

Prior to teaching band in public school, Lundy performed as a clarinetist in the United States Marine Corps Bands at Camp Lejeune and Paris Island. During his military service, he also served as platoon sergeant and audio recording/sound reinforcement engineer for the concert, jazz and ceremonial bands' national concert tours. In 2001, he was awarded the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal for composing an arrangement of *God Bless the USA* for the Paris Island Marine Band.

The highlight of his military career was the powerfully moving premier performance of his original concert band work, *A Symphonic Tribute*, written in memoriam of his middle school band director, Russell French, who introduced Lundy to the world of instrumental music and deeply inspired him toward musical excellence. The piece was first performed in Cedar Falls, Iowa in 2000 by the Paris Island Marine Band and later performed and presented to French's wife and son, Susan and Brian French, in Winston-Salem by the Cherry Point Marine Band in 2003 as a part of the Old Salem Visitors Center opening and dedication.

Lundy attributes his passion for teaching music through band to a phenomenal musical upbringing in Forsyth County public schools under band directors Russell French and Bill Toney. During his middle and high school years, Lundy made the N.C. All-State Band every year from eighth through twelfth grades, and was also first chair in the NBA Concert Band his senior year. With those experiences, he had the opportunity to perform and premier some of the most challenging and popular literature for concert band at the baton of nationally and internationally celebrated conductors and composers for band.

Following high school, and after completing Marine Corps basic and combat training, Lundy attended and graduated from the Armed Forces School of Music in Norfolk, where he earned academic awards. He later earned a bachelor's degree in music education from Winston-Salem State University, where he received several awards and graduated with honors. He has performed numerous seasons with the Piedmont Wind Symphony and has served as co-conductor of the Wachovia Winds Youth Wind Ensembles since 2012. Lundy has also served as conductor-clinician of the Piedmont Honor Bands for many years and has conducted the Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools All-County Band as well as the Davie County Schools All-County. He has also served as choral singing leader at his church congregation for many years.

Joanne McGowan

Joanne McGowan earned her Bachelor of Music Education from Elon College in 2000. She currently serves as the director of bands at Greene County Middle School in Snow Hill, and has been there since 2011. Previously, she was the director of bands for E.B. Frink Middle School and the Ayden area bands in N.C. She was also director of bands for Lamar High School in S.C. and for the six Salem School District elementary schools in N.H.

McGowan was the Darlington County, S.C. First Year Teacher of the Year in 2001, and the recipient of the Pride in Greene Award in Greene County in 2013. In 2016, her band program received a Mr. Holland's Opus Grant in the amount of \$35,000. Her band program has also been the recipient of a Clarke M. Williams Foundation Grant, as well as a Bright Ideas Grant.

Her bands have performed in Agawam, MA; Orlando, FL; and Williamsburg, VA, where they have consistently earned superiors and excellents. McGowan's bands play at numerous community events in Greene County throughout the year. The number of students participating in band at Greene County Middle School has doubled during her tenure.

McGowan is also very involved in leading professional development classes in technology and beginning teacher practices. One of her passions outside of music is ensuring that the next generation of teachers remains in the classroom through mentoring support and professional development aimed at classroom management.

McGowan has served as the NCMEA District 2 president for the last two years, and she hopes to continue serving the music educators of North Carolina in the future. She has been a member of NCMEA, NCBA, SCBDA, SCMEA, NHMEA, SEA, and NAFME.

