

PUBLISHED BY THE TEXAS MUSIC ADJUDICATORS ASSOCIATION

410 Coronado Drive · Kerrville, Texas 78208 · 830-792-5224 · FAX 830-792-5917

e-mail: [tmaa@kctc.com](mailto:tmaa@kctc.com) · <http://office.tmea.org/tmaa> · editor: Dr. Jay Dunnahoo, TMAA Executive Secretary**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF TMAA**

Greetings from the Executive Board of TMAA. As 2011 comes to a close, I hope your year was a good one and you were successful with all of your New Year's resolutions!

Most of you already have a contract to judge at one of the many Solo & Ensemble contests and/or the Concert & Sight Reading contests scheduled for the spring. Those of you that had the opportunity to observe or judge one of the several marching band contests this fall were witness to the continuing quality and high performance level of our band programs and I'm certain the orchestras and choirs will be equally impressive.

Some of you are looking forward to your first judging job. On the other hand, some of you have judged so many times that it is "just another day at the office". I would like for each of you to take a moment and remember your first judging job – how excited you were, maybe a little nervous, anxious that you would give the "right" ratings, hoping you would put into words meaningful critiques and suggestions. I hope, as the time nears for your upcoming judging events, that each of you will take the time to do a bit of preparation: look over the TMAA rubric for the event you will judge (yes, there is a rubric for sight reading!), think about the spelling of the words you will use (no spell check on the UIL Forms!), plan how you will say negative things in a positive way, be sure you are rested, e.g., try not to drive all night to judge an early morning contest.

Here are a few more things to think about. Take another look at the JUDGING STANDARDS in the C&CR. We all know that a First Division performance is "Superior", but do you remember the rest of the definition? A First Division is also a "...performance ... worthy of the distinction of being recognized as a first place winner." To me that's very definitive. How many of you realize that "A performance of distinctive quality" is a Second Division?

I think we would all agree that attention to detail is what separates a good group from a great group. Let's make sure we reward that attention to detail. A group that has "a performance of distinctive quality" may hope for that top rating, but we should save the First Division for groups that truly present a performance worthy of a first place.

Robert Floyd, TMEA Executive Director, writes in the January 2010 Southwestern Musician, "*The UIL standard for which we all strive year in and year out is undoubtedly why our programs are so successful. What we expect of our students – and of ourselves – has been driven since the early years by not accepting mediocrity in musical performance with our ensembles.*" I challenge you, as you judge this spring, to continue the example set by judges in years past and do not accept mediocrity.

We all laughed a few years ago when there was debate about grading papers using red to mark mistakes and make corrections. It seems that some thought that students might find it "confrontational" and "threatening". There is some debate about the quality of today's general education compared to yesterday's, but certainly the quality of our music programs has not decayed, thanks in part to the high standards of UIL and TMAA. In this era of political correctness it may be easier to avoid conflict by awarding higher ratings but let's strive to hold the UIL performance ratings to the highest of standards. Instead of being confrontational or threatening, be positive and supportive in the critique. I once heard the term "criticism sandwich" – surround your correction or criticism with words of praise or encouragement.

Everyone wants all student musicians to have a positive experience at contest. Parents expect their children to have positive experiences. The students themselves want positive feedback and, of course, positive results. Positive is a fine word and the objective of making the musical experience a positive one is certainly appropriate. But I think some of the true value of contest has been lost in the unrealistic expectation that every competition will result in a First Division. The fact is, contests provide such an important and lasting learning experience, in part, because they are not always positive. Some disappointments may be far more valuable in the long run than winning a trophy. Every group will not, nor should they expect to, receive a First Division at every contest.

Good judges understand they can ultimately help kids by balancing praise with constructive criticism, challenging them to be their best by making them earn their praise. We are taught that music class helps prepare kids for life. Well, life is tough. While we should never make anyone feel small or inadequate, there may be some judges that are too nice. Some judge in fear that if they are too critical, they will hurt someone's feelings or not be invited back. Some hold back on corrections for fear of upsetting an overly sensitive director. Some judges, concerned with providing enough positive feedback, offer false or hollow praise. Ultimately, the best judges are honest – both when they praise and when they give constructive criticism. And the best directors are the ones who get better by learning from the

criticism and truly earning the praise. Certainly this is not a call for negative judging. However, everyone involved needs to accept the fact that while music competition should be positive, the fact remains that there will be times when things do not go the way we want. Learning from the negative is, in fact, positive.

I hope you are able to attend TMEA and the summer conventions. One way we continue to keep our standards high is to listen to as many groups as possible at the conventions. And when you have the opportunity, go to as many concerts in your community as you can, especially if you have access to professional organizations.

We are on schedule to get the TMAA judges grievance form online in the near future. This is not meant to put you on alert. This will be a place where you or anyone else can go to report unethical and inappropriate actions by a TMAA member.

Encourage your associates to join TMAA. I think most of us would agree that judging other groups is one of the best ways to improve your own group.

Congratulations to the winners of the UIL State Marching Band Contest: 1A – Sundown High School, director Mike Glaze , 2A – Queen City High School, director Chris Brannan, and 4A – Cedar Park High School, director Steve Wessels. Absolutely the best of the best! Wow!!

See you at TMEA!



## A FEW WORDS FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Most of you are receiving this copy of *Constructive Comments* electronically via a link on an e-mail sent you by the TMAA office. In a separate e-mail message you should find your TMAA dues notice for 2012 and a form detailing your personal judging workshop and general business meeting attendance status. As you recall, members are required to attend both a General Membership Business Meeting and judging workshops in each of their judging specialties at least once every four years. Of course, you are invited and encouraged to attend business meetings every year and workshops as often as you wish.

- TMAA is displaying **photographs** of members to accompany their on-line profiles and approximately 75% of members are now pictured. For those of you who have yet to submit your photograph, please do so and we will post your picture on-line. You may send it electronically as a jpeg file or send a non-returnable photo in the US mail. Your photograph will be scanned and posted with your on-line profile.
- TMAA **active member lapel pins** are still available for active members to purchase. Send a check for \$15 to the TMAA office or pay with Paypal. Your pin will be mailed to you.

TMAA awarded eight **scholarships** for summer study to selected members in 2010. The following members were awarded scholarships up to \$500 to the follow events:

<b>Beth Casey</b>	Perspectives Choral Workshop in Santa Fe, NM
<b>Maria Chadwell</b>	Conn-Selmer Institute at Bethel College
<b>Richard Clem</b>	AP Summer Institute – Music Theory at TCU
<b>Kari Gilbertson</b>	Perspectives Choral Workshop in Santa Fe, NM
<b>Elizabeth Gove</b>	Show Choir Camps Workshop in Ohio
<b>Lorissa Mason</b>	Advanced Choral Conducting Workshop at SMU
<b>Michael O’Hern</b>	Perspectives Choral Workshop in Santa Fe, NM
<b>Karen Thomas</b>	AP Summer Institute “TCU at Taos”
<b>Gloria Stephens</b>	Perspectives Choral Workshop in Santa Fe, NM

- TMAA members are eligible to join the National Federation of State High School Associations (**NFHS**). Membership in the **Music Association** of the NFHS includes a package of **insurance** providing members with general liability, accident medical and accidental death and dismemberment insurance. The current NFHS Music Association annual membership fee is \$20. For more information please visit the NFHS website at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org).

TMEA and summer music convention schedules are always packed with interesting and valuable activities, concerts, and workshops that can conflict with attending TMAA judging workshops. With this problem in mind, TMAA has begun offering satellite judging workshops at alternate times and sites. This past summer, judging workshops were held in Austin, the Houston area, the Metroplex, and the Rio Grande Valley. These workshops have the same format and count toward maintaining or achieving membership in TMAA just the same as those offered during the TMEA and summer music conventions and are offered to all interested persons. TMAA intends to offer satellite workshops again this summer, but a schedule has not yet been determined. Announcements regarding the workshops will be sent to all TMAA members and will also be announced in the *Southwestern Musician*.

**TEXAS MUSIC ADJUDICATORS ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of the General Business Meeting**  
**Friday, February 11, 2011**  
**7:30-8:50 a.m. CC Ballroom A**

The meeting was called to order by President David L. Lambert at 7:34 a.m. Vocal Vice-President Dinah Menger led the group in singing the Doxology.

President Lambert introduced the members of the Executive Committee.

The minutes of the February 12, 2010, meeting were received as distributed in the newsletter.

The financial report was received.

Grace Littlefield announced that TCDA is seeking written remembrances of Melva Sebesta, who served as Executive Secretary of TMAA and was active in TCDA. Those wishing to submit remembrances were encouraged to send them to Grace.

President Lambert reported on the meeting of the Executive Committee. Included in the report was the determination to maintain TMAA membership as it currently stands rather than changing them to allow membership to potential members who may not meet the criteria. Lambert reminded those in attendance that non-members are allowed to serve on judging panels. Lambert also revealed a study by TMAA with the purpose of developing a grievance process for contest participants that would deal with violations of contest rules, policies, and ethics by adjudicators. Contest ratings will not be a topic of grievance.

President-Elect Bill Duggan presented the report of the nominating committee which included the following nominations:

President-Elect	Dinah Menger
Vocal Vice-President	Kathy Hackett
CSAPP	Mike Cudd
CSAPP	Marsha Robinson

These nominees were elected without opposition.

In addition, Duggan reported that Eddie Benitez has been selected by the Executive Committee as the appointed band representative on the CSAPP.

President Lambert presented awards to Executive Committee and CSAPP members whose terms have ending. They included Vocal Vice-President Dinah Menger and CSAPP members Greg Dick, Greg Countryman, and Beth Casey. Past-President Nick Nixon presented an award to retiring President David L. Lambert.

President Lambert then opened a portion of the meeting reserved for questions for the membership. Questions asked included one on the sequence of events when applying for membership - more specifically, must an applicant attend a judging workshop before submitting a membership application. The answer is no, workshop attendance can be before or concurrent with submitting an application.

President Lambert also encouraged adjudicators to become familiar with and utilize the provided rubrics when judging contests. The new critique sheet and its correct use was also discussed.

President Lambert thanked the Monitor Committee for its work in distributing and collecting attendance materials and TMEA for hosting TMAA during the convention. He also reminded members to return their attendance forms to the monitors at the doors.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay B. Dunnahoo, Ed.D.  
Executive Secretary

# TMAA Membership Increases

This year (2011) was another period of growth in TMAA membership. Total membership increased by 10. This results in a total of **1,303** members, up from 1,293 in 2010. Active members total **939** and provisional members number **364**. Breakdown by judging specialties is as follows:

<u>Judging Specialty</u>	<u>Active Members</u>	<u>Provisional Members</u>
Concert Band	490	273
Marching Band	222	130
Vocal	283	80
Orchestra	163	28

Following are the names, membership status, and judging specialties of our new members:

## New Active Members

Ahrens, Christopher	V	Barker, Jerry	CB	Kerley, Bradley	V
Blackstock, Julie	O	Barrera, Roldolfo (Rudy)	MB	Kosterman, Chris	MB
Bode, James	MB	Batson, Karen	CB	Llanes, Moises	O
Brown, Jacques	CB	Bayless, Dallas	CB	Lockhart, Alvin	CB
Clem, Richard	MB	Behrens, Sabrina	O	Loudermilk, Nick	CB
Coatney, Brian	O	Brown, Delton	CB	Low, Martha (Susie)	V
Cuddihee, Katy	V	Burris, Lauren	V	Lumley, Marc	CB
Daily, Matt	CB, MB	Cardwell, Cindy	V	Lynn, Timothy	CB
Edge, David	CB	Carter, Nathan	CB	Mason, Lorissa	V
Engelmann, George	O	Cartwright, Raymond M.	CB	Mayo, John	CB, MB
Estes, Jeffrey	MB	Castorena, Leo, Jr.	CB	McComb, Candy	V
Exline, Jimmie	CB	Chadwell, Maria	CB	McGuire, Joshua	V
Fullerton, Jackie	CB	Chapman, Christina	V	McKinney, Wm. Guy	MB
Garmon, Brandon	CB	Chavis, Levi	CB	McMillan, Luke	CB, MB
Garza, Robert	CB	Choate, Jerry	CB	McWilliams, Ron	CB
Glenn, Cindy	V	Clark, Stacy	CB, MB	Melton, Carl	CB, MB
Greene, Lynda	CB	Collins, Chad	CB	Mendoza, Dayri	CB
Heffernan, Nancy	O	Ordani, Jim	CB	Miller, Michael	CB
Hendrix, Davina	V	Cruz, Michael	CB	Moore, Elizabeth	V
Henry, Stephen	MB	Cuellar, Jesse G.	CB	Morena, Brian	CB
Hopkins, Don	CB	Custer, David	V	Morey, Nancy	O
Howell, Tim	CB	David, Kurt	CB	Mullins, Eric	MB
Janeski, Darlene	CB	Daniel, William	CB	Nelson, Malcolm	V
Knight, Daniel	V	Dick, Michael	CB	Newman, Cody	CB, MB
Koziatek, Cthy	V	Dojahn, Steven	CB, MB	Ouellette, Julie	V
Landgrebe, David	V	Donalson, Eric	CB	Pease, Mark	CB
Little, George	CB	Eastin, Mark	MB	Petersen, John	CB
Lovelace, John Richard	CB	Emmert, Spencer	CB	Pullen, Kyle	V
Lucio, Rick	CB	Everett, Jerry	MB	Pullen, Sean	V
Lunney, Michael	CB	Ewing, Craig	MB	Quick, Cathi	CB
McGinnins, Donna	V	Exline, Jimmie	CB	Rauschuber, John	CB, MB
McKinney, Brian	V	Feris, Michael	V	Reed, Judy	V
Moon, Chuck	CB	Finley, Lance	CB	Richardson, Cody	CB
Morey, Nancy	O	Garms, Steve	V	Roberts, Brad	CB, MB
Nuegent, Nathaniel	CB	Gibson, Priscilla	CB, MB	Rodriguez, Rod	MB
Nowell, Jimmy	MB	Giovanoni, Steve	CB	Rollins, David	CB, MB
Olivarez, Rogerio	CB	Goforth, Shane	CB, MB	Ross, Kim	V
Poole, Mark	CB	Gonzales, Anthony	CB, MB	Samford, Jane	O
Ramsey, Naida	V	Goolsby, Jeffrey	V	Schmidt, Larry	CB
Rhodes, Christopher		Gray-Porter, Clorese	V	Schnitzer, Larry	CB
Rodriguez, Rod	CB	Green, Bethany	V	Sheppard, Scott	CB
Salazar, Albert	MB	Grissom, Ed	CB	Smith, Chris	CB
Sanders, Ronnie	V	Guierrez, Monica	V	Smith, Christina	CB
Shaw, Ty	V	Gunn, David W.	CB	Smith, Edward	V
Shinsato, Shane	CB	Hamilton, Terri	V	Solis, David	CB
Stanton, Melinda	V	Handorf, Aaron	CB	Spellacy, Brad	CB
Strawther, Lara	V	Hill, Wanetta	V	Spicer, Jeremy	CB
Tittsworth, Charles	O	Hoelwyn, Laura	V	Stitzel, Denise	CB
Todd, Daniel	CB	Hooper, Richard	CB, MB	Taylor, Timmie	MB
Tovar, Erin	O	Howard, Michael	CB	Tolmczuk, Thomas	CB
Turner, Molly	O	Hunger, Tim	CB	Trevina, Edward	MB
White, Darrington	MB	Hunter, Dave	O	Ugolini, Toni	V
		Jarvis, Terri	V	Vastano, Roslyn	CB
		Jennison, David	CB	Veteto, David	CB
		Johnson, Deana	O	Walls, Alicia	O
		Johnson, Jeff	CB	Weidel, Laura	V
		Johnson, Michael	CB	Willbanks, Joyce	CB
		Katz, Ben	CB	Witt, Chris	CB
		Keltner, Benjamin	CB	Zysk, Ryan	MB

## New Provisional Members

# TMAA ACTIVITIES DURING THE 2012 TMEA CONVENTION

## Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Marching Band Judging Workshop	12:00-2:00 p.m.	CC 214A
Vocal Judging Workshop	1:30-3:30 p.m.	CC 214 B
Orchestra Judging Workshop	1:45-3:45 p.m.	CC 214C
Concert Band Judging Workshop	2:00-4:00 p.m.	CC 214 D

*A \$20 workshop fee will be collected at the door.*

## Thursday, February 9, 2012

Executive Committee	11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	CC 212
CSAPP meeting	12:30 -1:30 p.m.	CC 212

*(Both of these committees will meet in the Crockett Room of the Marriott Riverwalk Hotel.)*

## Friday, February 10, 2010

General Business Meeting	8:00-8:50 a.m.	CC Ballroom A
--------------------------	----------------	---------------

Please check the TMEA convention printed program for possible schedule changes.