

Greetings from the VEMEA!

Wow! I just can't believe that the time is quickly flying by and before we know it, school will be coming to a close. Here is an update of some of the activities that VEMEA sponsors.

VEMEA held their 11<sup>th</sup> All Virginia Elementary Chorus concert on April 2, 2016 at T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, Virginia. We were honored to have Elaine Stanford as our guest conductor and Julie Longmire as her accompanist. Jason Kriner, our AVEC coordinator, does a phenomenal job each year with organizing the event. The event is like a well-oiled machine, running smoothly without any glitches. We have approximately 200 students from all over Virginia participate in the program. I am honored to say that my school has participated in all 11 programs. If you are not familiar with the All Virginia Elementary Chorus, let me share with you our goal:

*The goal of the All Virginia Elementary Chorus is to provide elementary students in Virginia with an exciting, quality choral experience with other students from Virginia; an opportunity to share vocal artistry and grow as musicians; an opportunity to learn from a guest conductor; an opportunity to perform quality children's choral repertoire; and to highlight the unique sound of a children's chorus.*

The annual VEMEA All Virginia Elementary Chorus was inaugurated in 2006. To make it equitable, the concert moves around the state each year so that all students have the opportunity to participate within their own district. Here are some of the locations where AVEC have performed.

2006: Chesterfield County  
2007: Fairfax County  
2008: Newport News - Christopher Newport University  
2009: Harrisonburg  
2010: Winchester - Shenandoah University  
2011: Roanoke  
2012: Farmville - Longwood University  
2013: Prince William County  
2014: Hanover County  
2015: Culpeper County  
2016: Alexandria  
2017: TBA

If you are interested in having your school participate in 2017, please check the VEMEA website for information beginning in November.

We awarded one elementary grant this year to Dr. Maritza Sadowsky. We have three grants that will continue to be awarded in November. Applications will be posted on the website in September 2016 and the committee will meet at VMEA Professional Development Conference in November to select the upcoming grants.

In February, District 3 held a professional development workshop on Saturday, February 27, 2016. I would like to thank Carol Hamrick for securing a place for the workshop and the clinician. It is part of our strategic plan to have a state wide professional development workshop on the last Saturday in February. I will be asking our elementary district reps to consider sponsoring a workshop in their area at our September meeting so that it can be in place by conference time in November.

At our June meeting, we will begin the process of selecting clinicians for our conference in November. If you are interested in helping at conference by being a room chair or presider, please contact me and I will keep you in mind for November. As always, I treasure each and every one of you that gives your time and talent to our students in elementary music. Have a great close to the school year!