

Season's Greetings and Happy New Year! I hope everyone is now beginning to relax after their winter performances. I know I am going to take the time to rest and relax with family and friends.

There are a few things that I would like to mention. First, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended our professional development conference this past November. Special thanks goes out to all the room chairs and presiders that helped each session run smoothly. It would not have been possible without each and every one of you! If you are interested in lending a helping hand next year, please email me and let me know. I would also like to thank Peripole and West Music for allowing the clinicians to use their instruments during their sessions. Overall, we had great sessions this year and I hope you filled out the session feedback form that was available to you on Guidebook. Any comments that you make will be discussed at the January Conference Planning meeting. Each comment is important to us for it guides the VEMEA with decisions about our clinicians for next year. I would also like to thank our clinicians for their sessions. All session handouts that we received from our clinicians will be posted on the VEMEA website. Please take this opportunity to visit the website. Important point to remember about our 2016 Professional Development conference. It will be held at the Homestead. Room reservations will be open on February 1, 2016 at 6:00 am. To insure a room, please remember to book early, reservation go quickly when the conference is held there.

Second, I would like to mention about the 11th annual All Virginia Elementary Chorus that will take place on Saturday, April 2, 2016 at TC Williams High School in Alexandria, Virginia. I hope you have had the opportunity to register your school and students for this most rewarding event. Jason Kriner, our immediate past president, heads up this event every year. It is because of his leadership that this event has been successful every year. This year Debra Kay Lindsay and Maritza Sadowsky, our newly elected president-elect for the VEMEA, will be our Alexandria site coordinators. We are thrilled to have Elaine Stanford as our conductor this year. If you are not participating in this year's concert, please consider attending the concert. I know you will not be disappointed!

Third, I am excited that our VEMEA Professional Development District Workshop. It will take place this year on February 27, 2016 at four locations this year. Last year, we had two locations: one held on February 28th in Northern Virginia and the other held on March 14th in Virginia Beach. We will be adding two more sites this year. One will be held in the greater Richmond area and the other one will be held in the Winchester area. I would like to thank Jennifer Smith and Carol Hamrick for stepping up and taking on this responsibility. You ladies rock! Please check the VEMEA website for all the upcoming details.

Lastly, I am humbled that I get to represent the elementary section as your president. If you should have any concerns, please feel free to let me know. I hope you will be able to slow down some before the craziness begins again. I would like to welcome Maritza Sadowsky as our president elect. She will take over the president's title July 2018. She is currently teaching in the Arlington School District.