

Greetings, fellow elementary music educators. I trust that you had a restful and rejuvenating summer break and that your 2013-2014 school year is off to a good start. As our Virginia students settle into the school routine, I hope you are enjoying fall. Fall is one of my favorite times for teaching elementary music. There are so many thematic units that you can plan with songs and singing games to welcome the fall season. This fall, VMEA is moving forward with new technology and producing *NOTES* in its newest format – on-line! This is a more economic and earth-friendly way to keep *NOTES* in publication for our membership.

As our new school year gets under way, we will be saying goodbye to some and welcoming some new members of leadership. Our VEMEA council is a strong group of leaders who will dedicate their time and energy for this year. The council members are:

Marie Weber - VEMEA Vice President; John Tyler ES (Portsmouth)

Andrea Cottrill - VEMEA Treasurer/Secretary; Guardian Christian Academy (Chesterfield)

Jerrilyn McDanel - VEMEA President-Elect (retired; Harrisonburg)

After reviewing our by-laws, our state manager determined that our board of officers did not require us to have an elected secretary and the secretarial duties could be combined with that of the treasurer. I want to thank our former secretary, Katie Madrid, for serving two terms. She is enjoying being a stay-at-home mom this year with her newborn. For this school year, Andrea Cottrill will continue her role as treasurer with additional duties as our secretary. Our by-laws also state that we have two members at large to sit on the VMEA Council of Review. One of the member-at-large positions is held by the former VEMEA president, and another is elected from within the district representatives. Susan Hagel has served as our District 2 representative and member-at-large for the past 2 years. Her term has ended and we will be electing a new member-at-large at our September meeting. Thank you, Susan, for serving in this leadership capacity.

Each VMEA district has an elementary representative and I encourage you to meet and communicate with your district representative. Our district representatives for 2013-2014 are as follows: (1) Emanuel Barks, (2) Meredith Brookman, (3) Carol Hamrick, (4) Annette Crandall, (5) Jennifer Smith, (6) Jessica Wright, (7) Dawn Kinman, (8) Cynthia Marshall, (9) Lynn Maletick, (10) Elizabeth Linsley, (11) unfilled, (12) Maritza Sadowsky, (13) Page Durham, (14) Rebecca Karos, (15) Kimberly Upshaw, and (16) unfilled.

We have two districts, 11 and 16, that do not currently have a district representative. If you might be interested in representing either of these districts, please contact me. If you are unsure to which VMEA district you belong, you can visit <http://www.vmea.com/index.php/school-systems.html> for a map and school system listing.

This is an election year at VMEA in-service conference and we will vote on a candidate for VEMEA President-Elect. This person will serve as VEMEA president-elect from 2014 to 2016 and VEMEA president from 2016 to 2018. In this issue of *NOTES* you can read the biography for candidates up for

election. Please consider them carefully before coming to conference and be sure to vote while you are at conference.

Our annual VMEA in-service will be November 21, 22, and 23 at The Homestead in Hot Springs, Virginia. I hope that you have plans to attend our conference. Please visit www.vmea.com for more information and to complete your on-line registration. Save time and money by registering on-line so you don't need to wait in long registration lines and can join sessions as soon as you arrive at conference.

VEMEA has some outstanding sessions planned for conference this year. A complete listing of sessions can be found on the VEMEA website at <http://www.vmea.org/confessions.asp>. Here are just a few highlights of what you can expect at conference:

- ✓ 2 day-time sessions and a community dance on Thursday night with Peter and Mary Alice Amidon– The New England Dancing Masters (sponsored by West Music)
- ✓ Making Assessment Work with Dr. Tim Brophy
- ✓ 2 sessions with Lillie Feierabend
- ✓ A performance by the Tazewell County & Russell County Elementary Children's Choir, directed by Dr. Joseph Trivette
- ✓ Folk Dance with Dr. Alice Hammel and Berta Yee
- ✓ 2 Orff and Recorder sessions sponsored by Peripole
- ✓ Plus much more!

Our conference planning committee, led by Linda Gammon (Conference Coordinator) and Moe Turrentine (VMEA State Manager), has done an outstanding job planning this year's conference. Linda and Moe have been successful in increasing our housing options at The Homestead. The conference housing reservations opened on February 4, 2013 and The Homestead is now at full occupancy. However, there are still other options available in Hot Springs and the surrounding area. You can find these options listed at www.vmea.com. Our in-service conference is the best opportunity for Virginia teachers to gain valuable professional development along with some wonderful camaraderie and networking opportunities with other music education professionals. We especially encourage first year teachers to come check out conference to learn from the sessions and to get involved in our state organization.

The 9th annual VEMEA All-Virginia Elementary Chorus (AVEC) event will be held on Saturday, March 29, 2014. Our guest conductor will be Dr. Alice Hammel. Dr. Hammel is a music education professor at Virginia Commonwealth University and James Madison University, a Kodaly instructor, and a frequent presenter at VMEA and other state MEA conferences. She is a leading scholar and author on the topic of music education for students with special needs. At the time of writing this article, the location of All-Virginia Elementary Chorus rehearsal and concert is still to be determined but plans are for the location to be in the Richmond area. Registration packets will be available in October and will be due in December before winter break. Your district representative will be sending out information or you can find it on the VEMEA website and Facebook page. Our AVEC has become a great tradition and the quality and excellence in performance has improved every year. It is such a valuable experience for our

students. I hope that you will consider participating with your students this year and if you do not bring any students, mark your calendar to attend the concert. It is truly a concert not to be missed!

Stay tuned!

Jason

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