

## September Western District Newsletter

I hope y'all had a relaxing, refreshing and rejuvenating summer. Some had the opportunity to visit family and friends, see new or familiar places and attend workshops or classes to benefit our teaching skills. One of the many great things about most of our jobs is that we get to start out fresh each school year, a new beginning.

We had our Western District Elections at our General Membership Meeting this past May. We now have a full Executive Board! Dan Albert is still the Past Chair. Rebecca Phelps will continue to serve as Clerk. Lyndsay Boysen is now our Chair-Elect, and Ramsey Kurdi will serve as Treasurer. Our area coordinators have all agreed to continue this year: Ken Michna, woodwinds, brass and percussion; Ann-Marie Destautelle, vocal; Denise Gendron, strings; Pat Kennedy, jazz; and Rachel Gibson, Elementary and General Music. Continuing as Auditions Coordinator is Deb Salli, Librarian – Sue Dunbar and Web Master – Beth Guertin. I cannot thank these people enough for donating their time and talents to the Western District.

At our June Board Meeting, we increased the stipend paid to clinicians and accompanists for the Senior and Junior Festivals. We will also pay all reasonable travel expenses. This will ensure quality clinicians for our students selected for the festivals.

Please check the Western District Calendar on our web site for important dates this year. Note that the Fall General Membership Meeting is Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. Be aware that the Senior Auditions are the Saturday of Veterans' Day weekend and the first Saturday of rehearsals for Junior District will be at Belchertown High School. Thanks to Lyndsay Boysen and her staff and students at Belchertown for agreeing to host us this year.

Please feel free to contact me at anytime for questions and concerns. I look forward to a fantastic year for the Western District.

Bill Love

Chair, MMEA-WD