

Welcome Back !! Yes, it's true – summer is now a memory and school has begun. The reality of a new school year is upon each and everyone of us. Like many of you, during the summer NJSMA is hard at work planning for the upcoming school year. This year offers many exciting opportunities for our membership and their students.

Our Junior Band will be performing its 50th Anniversary Concert. Wow, 50 years !! To help celebrate this special event, a selection has been commissioned from Composer Michael Colgrass and will be debuted at our concert. Our Choral Festival has been expanded and our Elementary Division is set for expansion as well. Excellent conductors have been hired in each division.

I would like to thank the following people for their tireless energy, effort, and dedication to both the students and teachers of Region I as they leave the Board now; Chris DeWilde, Peg Roberts, and Alex Soares – you are true professionals and will be missed. I give out a special heartfelt thank you to Past President John Pierce as he single-handedly solved the Region's financial troubles!! You will truly be missed and we all owe you a debt of gratitude.

I would like to welcome to the Board our new members Tim Rausenberger (Band), Wendy Campbell (Orchestra), and Janell Kallimanis (Recording Secretary), a seasoned veteran and Past President of our Region with valuable experience to draw upon.

Congratulations go to our new President Elect Mike Kallimanis, he has served the Region and State with his enthusiasm, dedication, and organization for many years.

For the first time in many years, we were able to award scholarships. The recipients are ***Christopher Demetriou***, Percussionist, Randolph HS; ***Ian Vlahovic***, Horn, Mahwah HS; ***Rebecca Dreyman***, Violin, Madison HS; ***Tara Crincoli***, Soprano, Bloomfield HS. Steve Bell is Scholarship Chairman.

I am also hoping to provide an accurate email list of all Region I members by November, as this will help to disseminate information and try to get more members participating.

I would like to provide a Master Class environment for HS level applicants sometime this fall. I am looking for the following instruments: Flute, Clarinet, Alto Sax, Trumpet, Baritone, Violin. Anyone willing to give a Master Class on this year's HS Solo, please contact me for details.

NJSMA is hosting an in-service conference on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Monday, January 18, 2010. The conference is available for all members, and will feature various workshops, performances, and more, for all music disciplines. Check out our website (NJSMA.com) for more information, and we look forward to seeing you in January!

I am also asking for a Combined Instrumental Ensemble and a Combined Vocal Ensemble to perform a short concert in the Spring. This would be a great opportunity for colleagues to perform some standard rep for the public.

These events would not be possible without your help and participation. If you have never volunteered to be a site host for a concert, rehearsal, or festival, or manage an ensemble, consider making this school year your first time. *Give it a try, you may actually like it* and get some PD Hours as well !! Please check out our Website, (NJSMA.com), as often as you can for all the information you need.

I hope that everyone is off to a successful start of the year with marching bands, concert bands, jazz bands, chamber ensembles, choirs, and vocal groups but I encourage you to become involved. It is crucial for the existence of Region I and its activities.

My Presidency has a simple motto. CPC

COMMUNICATION - PARTICIPATION - COOPERATION

With great anticipation of a fantastic and productive year, I remain,



Pete Pettinelli, President Region I NJSMA 2009-2010

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