



North Jersey School Music Association

Region I of the New Jersey Music Educators Association

www.NJSMA.com

Dear colleagues,

I hope you are well and enjoying a successful start to your 2015-2016 school year. This mailing will be the last mailing that NJSMA will send. In the future, this will all be done electronically. This correspondence has been sent to music teachers in all schools from the seven counties of North Jersey that make up the NJSMA region. You are encouraged to participate in our activities with only one prerequisite – that you join our organization. Membership includes the national group, the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), the state group, the New Jersey Music Educators Association, and the region, the North Jersey School Music Association. By virtue of our organization title, we support participation in your school music ensembles. Student involvement is determined by their participation in your ensembles and of course, your sponsorship, but all this is contingent upon your membership. If you have not already renewed your membership for this school year please do so as soon as possible.

Included in this mailing is a newsletter page from each division detailing many of the exciting offerings we have planned for you and your students this year. From our prestigious honors ensembles to our many festivals, our goal is to bring the finest musical experiences in New Jersey to you and your students. We are fortunate to have the strongest and most active music programs in the state in our region and the board and I stand ready to partner with you in any way we can to continue to provide our students with lifelong and life lasting musical experiences.

I would also like to take a moment to mention some executive board changes that took effect at our reorganization meeting in June. First, we bid a formal farewell to Michael Kallimanis, who served the region and the NJSMA board for years, and thank him for his years of selfless service. We thank Mr. Peter Bauer for his years of service as President, as he assumes the new role of Past President. We welcome Mr. Joey Spina from Hanover Park, as our new President Elect. Also, in the world of Band, we welcomed Mr. Lewis Kelly as our new Band Division co-chair. I am pleased to announce Mr. Andrew Havington as our new Orchestra Division Chair. We are still looking for a second orchestra division chair. Finally, we welcome Susan Kaczor as our new Recording Secretary.

From this point on all other communications will be made on the region website and/or by e-mail. This year the Board has made the transition to Google. As we grow and expand with this service, we hope to give you more information using google docs, forms, and calendar. I am excited to streamline our communication process, and look forward to all the great opportunities this will present. Also, if you do not receive *TEMPO EXPRESS* e-mail notices from the NJMEA State Board, then you are not on their e-mail list. The e-mail you supplied when you first became a NAFME member is the e-mail that is used. To add or change your e-mail, or sign-up, contact NAFME headquarters at 1-800-828-0229. Their website is www.NAfME.org. Be on the lookout for our new “Round the Regions” reports in your email, one new way we’re looking to keep on touch with everyone throughout the school year.

We are continuing this year with our online audition application process. We believe that this process went very well last year, and the few “bugs” we encountered are worked out. On behalf of the board I wish you all great success for this school year. Be sure to visit our website often for updates, further information on all of our activities and contact information for the organization officers. Please feel free to contact me at any time if there is anything I can do help or if you have question about any of the region’s events this year. Most importantly, let’s get out there to support each others efforts within the region. If you have anything you would like to share, head to our Facebook page and post it! It would be great to see what everyone is doing across the region.

Sincerely,

Russ Batsch, President
North Jersey School Music Association