



September 9, 2026

Greetings Region 1! I hope your 2026-2027 school year is off to a terrific start and you are renewed with energy. Our executive board met at the end of July for our annual summer meeting and have an exciting year planned.

I would like to thank our former Treasurer, Dave Walsh for his years of service on our Executive Board. His dedication and expertise were valuable and appreciated. It is my pleasure to welcome our newest board member, who sat on the board years ago, Nancy Clasen from Lodi Public Schools as our new Treasurer, and welcome back Natalie Kerr as our Corresponding Secretary from Bloomfield Public Schools. We look forward to working with them and being able to collaborate for many years to come.

As we look ahead, our Elementary Music Division has a great year of PD planned. The first one will be coming up on Monday, October 12th featuring guest presenter [Matt Stensrud](#). You can still register for this event by filling out [this form](#). In addition to the fall workshop, the following is also scheduled:

Thursday, June 3, 2027: Elementary Choral Celebration (morning and afternoon sessions offered) - [Registration form here](#)

None of our events run without many hands behind the scenes. We are always looking for volunteers with any level of experience to serve as site hosts, audition chairs, managers and executive board members (just to name a few). If you want to be involved, we have a spot and will work alongside you throughout the entire process.

As done in the past, we are planning to run a full slate of ensembles and festivals for the band, chorus and orchestra divisions. In order to participate in any of the NJSMA events, you must complete a background check. The process includes: [Filling out the NJMEA Jotform for Background Clearance](#), completing the training provided, submitting the certificate from NFHS that you receive from the training (to njmeainsurance@gmail.com) and having a current NAFME membership.

Are you interested in conducting a region ensemble? Please fill out the form on our website. Once completed, it will be immediately sent to the corresponding division. Information regarding auditions for all ensembles will be posted as per our normal schedule and updates will be posted on the website. .

We are actively trying to connect with the new teachers in our region and those who have not been active as an NJSMA member. If you are reading this or know someone, please have them reach out to our corresponding secretary (publicity@njsma.org) or fill out the contact form on our website. All relevant information about our region is on the website (njsma.org). The calendar section is up to date with all of our confirmed events as of this publication. Contact info for all executive board members/divisions is listed under the officers section. We are all here to help and are looking forward to another successful year.

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