MEA members are among the curricular leaders and musical role models for the nation. Our members and professional office staff strive not only to maintain the current level of excellence and services that the organization provides but also to face the challenges of keeping music education relevant and adaptable to the changing conditions in our state. These challenges are highlighted by TMEA’s completion and adoption of a new statewide alignment, our move to a new convention facility model, and a renewed commitment to the understanding and perspective of educators teaching in urban settings.

Membership
TMEA membership was on the increase again for 2015–2016. At the close of this membership year, the total membership was 18,568. This number includes:

- Active Members – 12,773
- Retired Members – 879
- Student Members – 4267
- Institutional Members – 67
- Sustaining Members – 582

The continued strength of TMEA membership reflects our long-standing effectiveness and relevance to music education across the state.

Region/Area Alignment
After two years of data study, member feedback, and close collaboration with UIL, the TMEA Executive Board adopted a new Region/Area alignment. This new statewide configuration created five new Regions and one entirely new Area. Full implementation began with the 2016–2017 school year.

In February 2015, interim Region officers were elected. These officers began developing Region audition policies and procedure templates, securing audition sites and hosts, selecting and contacting Region clinicians, and dividing assets and equipment between the affected regions. These interim leaders are to be commended for the professional and cooperative spirit in which they approached the time sensitive disposition of these daunting tasks. The TMEA office provided oversight guidance when necessary to assist with the sharing of Region assets.

2016 Clinic/Convention
In addition to the usual stunning array of inspirational concerts and valuable clinic offerings, the 2016 TMEA Clinic/Convention featured the unveiling of the newly expanded Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. Convention attendees were treated to a vastly larger and reconfigured exhibit hall space, a new College Fair, enhanced rehearsal and performance venues, and a wider array of meeting facilities and dining options. The seamless transition to the new facility and the enormous success of the convention was due largely to the concentrated efforts of the entire TMEA office staff to envision and execute an action plan for usage of the new convention center. Post-convention feedback and follow-up discussions have already guided TMEA in ways to better utilize the space more efficiently to the benefit of the attendees for 2017.

Convention attendees were delighted by the Canadian Brass at the scholarship benefit President’s Concert, sponsored by Conn-Selmer, Inc. General Session keynote speakers were Larry Livingston and Tod Machover. Attendees also enjoyed the pre-conference opportunity to attend specialized clinics focusing on technology as a part of music instruction presented by T:ME Music Technology National Conference. Joe Muñoz and Si Millican were elected by their respective divisions to the TMEA Executive Board, and Andy Sealy was elected to serve as TMEA President.
President-Elect.

By the numbers, the TMEA 2016 Clinic/Convention encompassed the following:

- 314 clinics
- 122 performances
- 1,309 exhibit hall booths
- 121 college fair booths
- 10,259 Active member attendees
- 29,281 total attendees

**Summer Dialogue**

A special Summer Dialogue on the complex topic of urban music education was held in June. For two days educators and administrators from successful urban settings, representing all divisions, met in Austin to discuss the changing demographics of Texas schools and the changing needs of Texas students. Enlightening and inspirational testimony centered on how to deliver a culturally relevant curriculum while maintaining high musical standards. Philosophically, the TMEA Executive Board has committed to ongoing support for urban music education through Southwestern Musician articles, future convention offerings, dedicated mentorship resources, and continued dialogue with teaching professionals from outstanding urban programs.

**All-State Process Review**

In June the Executive Board reviewed the TMEA All-State entry and audition procedures for each division. After collecting data and soliciting membership input, the Executive Board continued to refine the Large School and Small School All-State Choir audition process. In addition, the Executive Board approved changes to the Vocal Division All-State groups, resulting in removing gender designation for voice part audition eligibility. With that, the previous Women’s and Men’s choirs will be the All-State Treble and All-State Tenor-Bass Choirs.

**Legislative Update**

TMEA leadership and contracted lobbyists continued to monitor and address education committee charges from Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick and House Speaker Joe Straus regarding any impending legislation that could adversely affect our current legal standing on fine arts related issues. Executive Director Floyd and our lobbyists met with various Senate offices to highlight awareness of the necessity of protecting middle school fine arts and other elective opportunities by not adding a state-required course relating to career development. A meeting was also held with UT/Austin staff (who received the contract to develop counselor training for HB 5), assuring that accurate information is provided related to fine arts requirements and options.

**State Board for Educator Certification**

Over the past year TMEA leadership has been engaged in dialogue with the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) and Texas Education Agency staff on two issues that could have negative impacts on teacher training and preparation for fine arts instruction in our state. TEA staff has agreed to support TMEA-recommended language not to require field supervisors of student teachers to be currently certified to teach in our state if they have a master’s degree in their area of specialization. While current certification might sound like a reasonable expectation, TMEA’s position is based on numerous

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highly successful field supervisors in our state whose certifications earned in other states have long since expired. To require these individuals to go through the certification process in Texas after years of successful field supervision represents an unneeded and costly exercise that would not improve teacher quality in the classroom. This rule change will be up for an SBEC vote this month, and at this point, with the support of TEA staff, there is every indication it will pass.

TMEA leadership also visited with TEA staff to rescind an earlier recommendation to SBEC that certification to teach music, art, and theater be eliminated from the K–5 teacher certification state assessment. If such a rule passed, no future elementary teacher would be certified to deliver instruction in fine arts. Certainly requiring districts to hire music, art, and theater specialists would strengthen instruction statewide in our discipline, but the lack of available teachers could result in the elimination of the elementary school fine arts requirement. It could also trigger the development of an elementary fine arts teacher certification pathway that would replace music specialists in the elementary classroom. It was a risk TMEA leadership did not believe was in the best interest of fine arts education in our elementary schools. This recommendation from TEA staff has been indefinitely tabled by SBEC.

Mentoring Network
The TMEA Mentoring Network continues to expand. This exciting program seeks to strengthen our profession by pairing experienced mentor teachers with music education professionals new to Texas and those just beginning their journey. Mentor teachers provide an added level of support, guidance, and resources for their protégés. The program is administered through the TMEA office, and 2015–2016 ended with 237 protégés and 380 advisers enrolled. Please consider volunteering to serve as a mentor and ensure new teachers in your district are aware of this program. For additional information go to www.tmea.org/mentor.

Texas Future Music Educators
TFME chapters continue to flourish all across the state. There are now 45 chapters boasting 1,056 members, and 795 of these young people attended the 2016 TMEA Clinic/Convention. The TFME program provides opportunities for students interested in pursuing a career in music education to interact with practicing classroom professionals. TMEA member sponsors can share firsthand experiences and knowledge with high school students eager to explore music education. Consider promoting the future of Texas music education by starting a TFME chapter on your campus. Read more at www.tmea.org/tfme.

Financial Status
TMEA remains in a strong long-term financial position by virtue of reasoned diversification of funds, continued conservative investing, and responsible management and oversight. We continue to maintain two years’ worth of operating expenses in savings and investments. Financial reports must be filed on each Region bank account, and accounts are randomly selected for audit each year. Contracts for TMEA services and relevant tax documents continue to be issued by the office staff. In September 2015, TMEA completed an annual independent audit of its financial statements as provided for in the TMEA constitution (this report is available at www.tmea.org/about).

Scholarship and Scholars
The TMEA scholarship program supports the needs of graduating high school seniors, collegiate undergraduates, student teachers, and graduate students. Through the generous donations of our membership, investments, and vendor contributions, TMEA was able to award $180,000 in scholarships to deserving current and future music educators in 2015–2016.

The Texas Music Scholars program recognizes student commitment and dedication to music and academic achievement. Over 200 schools participated in the Texas Music Scholars program, and 2,237 students were awarded certificates and commemorative patches.

TMEA Distinguished Administrator Awards
TMEA continued to recognize outstanding administrators through member nominations. This program was created in 2011 to celebrate and recognize school administrators from across the state who have been instrumental in preserving and promoting quality music education programs on their campuses and in their districts. To date, TMEA has honored almost 200 administrators with this distinction. TMEA members can submit nominations online at www.tmea.org/adminaward.

Texas Future Music Educators Research Journal
Throughout the year, TMEA staff and the College Division leadership worked with the Library of Congress to gain the assignment of an ISSN for issues of Texas Music Education Research (the online journal containing selected research reports presented during the annual TMEA College Division Research Poster Session). After gaining an ISSN, TMEA worked with ERIC and EBSCO, and now this journal’s research reports are searchable from their digital libraries, creating a greater national presence for this publication.

Officer Training
TMEA Region and Area Chair training sessions were provided in conjunction with the summer conventions. The primary focus of the training sessions during the summer of 2015 was to receive Region-level feedback regarding the ongoing realignment process as presented at the convention in February 2015. Officer training was planned for the summer of 2016, focused on the delivery of information and resources to the Region Division Chairs, many of whom were newly elected or serving Regions and Areas newly created as a part of the realignment process.

Looking to the Future
With over 12,000 active teacher members and incredible support from our music industry partners, TMEA continues to offer a strong presence for you and your students by championing the merits of music education for all students. We are a strong organization because of you and we look forward to continuing to serve you and your students.

Andy Sealy is TMEA President-Elect and Hebron HS Director of Bands.