

FCMENC News

September 2008

Editor
Mindi Robinson
FCMENC Secretary



President's Letter

It is with great pleasure I give you my first official greetings as President of FCMENC. We have a very exciting year planned out for you. David Verdoni has done a fantastic job organizing and leaving FCMENC in a healthy and working state. I only hope I can do as good of a job as he has putting it all together. Keeping on my promises, we have a new website in the works. Web Tech Chair Christopher Hinojosa is working on creating a cutting edge site where we can better communicate with all the membership.

We also have a very exciting Fall Conference planned out for you. You should have received the flyer for it by the time you read this. You can check for more conference information at www.flmusiced.org or our website. I know it is difficult to ask many of you to give up a Saturday where you get to rest and relax. But I truly believe Fall Conference gives you a real chance to experience an aspect of life as a full teacher, and to learn things you might not normally get in the classroom at your school. Also, for some of you working towards graduating, attending Fall Conference might even cover one of your FEAP requirements! It's a win all around!

Some of the highlights of this year's Fall Conference are:

We have the much requested Elementary Music Session presented by Dr. Joyce Jordan, a leading researcher in elementary music education. We also have a session dealing with technology in the classroom presented by Owen Bradley. I know many of us are comfortable with technology, but Mr. Bradley's expertise can show us how to put it to use for us as tools of education, and less of a distraction. Also, we have decided to continue having our "Interview Techniques" session with FMSA. This was very successful last year and a lot of positive feedback was received from both you and the Music Supervisors. We hope to have it be another successful session. Remember, just because you're not a senior doesn't mean you can't come!

I have to admit that so far my presidency has been very busy and fast paced. Nonetheless, my executive board and I are doing our best to insure that the organization continues to keep its commitment to serve our membership. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at Fall Conference and hearing anything that you have to say.

Nick Casiano,
FCMENC President

In this Issue:

- Advocacy Corner
by Jonathan Brown
- Guest Speaker
Topics
by Jessica Stearns

Calendar

- Voter Registration
Deadline
October 6th, 2008
- FCMENC Fall Conference
October 11th, 2008
- Presidential Election
November 4th, 2008
- FMEA Conference
January 7th-10th, 2008

Advocacy News

Hello, music fans!

This first article regarding music advocacy was originally going to be a multi-paragraph tirade about how important would be for you to vote against certain amendments to Florida's Constitution in this November's election. Specifically, three proposed amendments could have dramatically - we're talking \$10,000,000,000 - reduced the funding for Florida's education and other public services. (Not that it would all go to directly to music education, but that's enough money to buy six and a half million bass clarinets.)



However, and fortunately for the public school system, the Florida Supreme Court overturned all of those amendments in a unanimous decision on September 3rd, removing them from the ballot. The Court said the amendments were unclear and misleading. There have also been accusations that the Tax and Budget Reform Commission, which sponsored the amendments, was overstepping its authority by proposals that would, in effect, legislate a new education policy for Florida.

So that's good news. But there's still a lot of work to be done in Florida. To begin with, the deadline for registration to vote in this November's election is October 6th. The amendments may be off the ballot, but similar proposals can be expected in the future, so it's very important to register to vote, stay informed, and help to support arts-friendly candidates in this November's election. You can also contact the campaign offices of candidates from your district and discuss their positions on arts education. Local candidates especially – people running for the House of Representatives or the State Congress – are generally, believe it or not, very sensitive to the opinions of their constituents and will be eager to hear your opinions!

For the immediate future, if you do nothing else, I implore you to send in your voter registration and make sure your voice can be heard this November. You can do that very easily by going to this website:

<http://election.dos.state.fl.us/voter-registration/voter-reg.shtml>

Stay informed, stay involved, and stay tuned for more information about what you can do to help support arts education this November and throughout the year. If you have questions about state advocacy, feel free to contact me personally at jcb04h@fsu.edu.

Jonathan Brown,
Advocacy Chair
FCMENC State Executive Board

It's coming...

Election day is
November 4, 2008

Register to vote Today!



fcmenc
Florida Collegiate MENC

We want to hear from you!

Please send photos and articles of your chapter activities. Let us know what you are doing in the world of music education.

Send all items to the
FCMENC Secretary:

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1000 Longfellow Blvd. #1542
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mkrobinson@seuniversity.edu

Visit our Website!

[www.flmusiced.org/
fcmenc](http://www.flmusiced.org/fcmenc)

Guest Speaker Topics

Jessica Stearns
FCMENC Treasurer

When it comes time to take advantage of guest speakers, a chapter is sometimes at a loss as to what topic should be discussed. The lecture should be applicable to all music education majors and address issues that many teachers face in their careers, such as teaching guitar or managing paperwork. It is also a good idea to look at what knowledge your chapter is lacking. If your chapter is comprised of mostly instrumentalists, a choral speaker would be very beneficial. The best experiences I have had are the hands-on lectures and lab environments. These speakers give members insight and help them prepare for a career in teaching music. Here are a few topics that the Stetson chapter has had in the past or will have this year to give you some more ideas:

Instrument Care and Maintenance

How to Build a Program

Managing a Large Program

Color Guard Basics

Choir 101

What to Expect in Your First Year of Teaching

Quote of the Month

"Music education opens doors that help children pass from school into the world around them -- a world of work, culture, intellectual activity, and human involvement. The future of our nation depends on providing our children with a complete education that includes music."
- Gerald Ford, former President of the United States