

YOUR ORGANIZATION

The District V Vocal Music Teachers' Organization was instituted in 1967 and is opened to vocal music teachers in the parishes of Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jeff Davis, and Vernon. Although many of our activities have a direct connection with LMEA, we are an independent organization. At this local level we take an active role in:

1. selecting judges for district festivals,
2. supporting three District Honor Choirs,
3. encouraging students to participate in the LMEA High School All-State Choirs, LA-ACDA All-State Choirs,
and OAKE National Choirs,
4. selecting a Vocal Music Teacher of the Year,
5. discussing local, state, and national level issues and elections,
6. developing unified methods of promoting our music programs, and
7. aiding one another in professional growth.

Meetings for VMTO are usually held on the first Tuesday of the month at 4:45 pm in the choral room at F. K. White Middle School with the exception of September during the school term. Notices are e-mailed prior to the meetings as a reminder. Attendance at these meetings is most important to you and your program as this is where we vote on judges for festivals, keep up to date on local and state rules, regulations, and deadlines, and develop a working relationship with fellow teachers.

Available to all VMTO members is a music library containing a wide variety of literature. This library is housed at F. K. White Middle School. Music must be checked in and out using the adopted library procedures. (A copy of those procedures is located in this handbook.) Schools failing to return music checked out from the library or used during Honor Chorus will be assessed the price of the music.

Sharon Stephenson, LMEA District Director of District V, serves as the link between VMTO and LMEA. Her responsibilities include operation of all LMEA activities on the local level (festivals and All-State auditions), keeping members aware of the changes and developments in LMEA, serving as spokesman for local sentiments to LMEA, and serving on the LMEA Board of Directors.

Initial Meeting Attendees

Earl Alexander	Nelda Boese	Peggy Corley
Jerry Crews	Nell Erwin	Bill Groves
Bob Landry	Ellis Lebouef	Tom Nix
Al Reynolds	Frank Ricard	Jeanne Thompson

Original Membership

Earl Alexander DeQuincy	Anna Lou Babin T. S. Cooley Elementary M. J. Kaufman Elementary T. H. Watkins Elementary
Nelda Boese Dolby Elementary Henry Height Elementary	Betty Caudle Mill Street Elementary
Linda Chapman Western Heights Elementary	Rose Chretien Marion High Lincoln Middle
Mary Lou Chavis (Jones) W. O. Boston High	Peggy Corley LaGrange Middle
Martha Coe W. W. Lewis Middle	Jerry Crews Lake Charles High Oak Park Middle
Finers Cryer S. P. Arnett Middle Westlake High	Esther Davis (Vincent) Jackson Street
Kay Franklin Maplewood Middle	Willa Golden Cherry Street
Dorothy Hanna Vinton High	Nell Irwin Oakdale High

Ann Ivey
Oak Park Elementary

Harriet LeDay
Ralph Wilson Elementary
Central Elementary

Tom Nix
LaGrange Senior High

Al Reynolds
Sulphur High

Marie Richardson
Barbe Elementary
Hamilton Elementary

Leslie Spinks

Jeanne Thompson
Moss Bluff Elementary

Jessie Warner
Pearl Watson Jr. High

Bob Landry
Jennings Northside

Mavis Lovitt
Frasch Elementary

Leonie Prudhomme (Kingham)
Henning Elementary
E. K. Key Elementary

Frank Ricard
Jennings High

Lamar Robertson
Prien Lake Elementary

J. M. Thom
Grand Lake

Sarah Todd
Rosteet Elementary

DEADLINES

Being aware of and adhering to the following deadlines will insure that you maintain a membership in good standing and qualify you choir for participation in available activities.

1. **District V VMTO Membership Dues:** The October meeting is the final payment date. Current dues are \$20.00.
2. **LMEA/MENC Membership Dues:** Renewed on annual basis according to your initial membership. New teachers should contact the District Director to obtain membership forms. Membership is required for all LMEA festivals and high school all-state. A copy of your membership card must be included with festival entry forms.
(www.menc.org)(www.lmeamusic.org)
3. **LMEA FESTIVAL ENTRY FORMS:** These forms must be postmarked or hand delivered to the Festival Chairman, Anna Lou Babin one month prior to the opening date of the festival. Exact dates are provided in the September issue of *The Louisiana Musician* and in the VMTO handbook annually. Any festival changes are announced by the LMEA District Director at district meetings.
4. **LA-ACDA Membership Dues:** Renewed on annual basis according to your initial membership. New teachers should contact Executive Director, ACDA, P. O. Box 6310 Lawton, OK 73506-0310. Membership is required in ACDA in order for students to participate in the elementary and junior high honor choirs. A copy of your membership card must be included with festival entry forms.
(www.acdaonline.org)
5. **OAKE/LAKE Membership Dues:** Renewed on annual basis according to your initial membership. New teachers should contact Michele White to obtain membership forms.
(www.oake.org)

To insure that you are up to date on deadlines, it is your **RESPONSIBILITY** to:

- attend meetings regularly to be aware of possible changes;
- post your calendar;
- keep a copy of the handbooks (VMTO & LMEA) in a safe place;
- read handbooks for rules and regulations of events; and
- stay in touch with fellow members.

We are all busy, but meeting deadlines is an important part of our job.