

Count Me In – Augmenting Professional Development Through Professional Service

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Expert Advice

- Music Directors can ill-afford to have a superior attitude over the academic faculty. Keep in mind the academic faculty usually receives only criticism from the public, while the music director receives praise for concerts, half-time performances, parades, civic club performances, etc.
- As music directors we have to work hard at being part of our school faculties.
- If you have bad relations between the music and academic faculty... kids suffer.

Expert Advice

- If you meet a math teacher in the hall, ask how their classes are going and more importantly...how **your** students are doing in their classes....If the speech department does well at contest leave a note of congratulations in the director's faculty mail box. This is good public relations.
- When I meet a colleague, parent, business person, anyone....I always try to leave them feeling a little better about themselves and others....it just takes a little time to be human. **Mr. Norvil Howell**, *Director of Music Education Emeritus, Clovis Municipal Schools; Executive Director Emeritus, New Mexico Music Educators Association (Personal Email Correspondence dated 10 October 2015)*

Expert Advice

- One constant finding in the research literature is that notable improvements in education never take place in the absence of professional development.
Dr. Thomas Guskey, *Professor of Education, University of Kentucky (The Newsletter of the Reading First Program, Summer 2005)*

Why Do We Attend All-State?

- Keep pace with current standards. Clinic sessions, rehearsal observation, collegial discussions.
- Maintenance and enhancement of the knowledge and skills you need to deliver high-quality educational experiences to your students.
- Remain relevant and up to date.
- Helps to ensure that you are a valuable contributor to your program and school district.

Why Do We Attend All-State?

- Helps you stay interested and interesting.
- Find new/fresh approaches to the same challenges.
- Discover a deeper understanding of what it means to be a professional.
- Be introduced to and understand new technology in the field.
- Increase public confidence in your professional work.
- <http://continuingprofessionaldevelopment.org/why-is-cpd-important/>

Be Professional

- **Point of Emphasis** - Respond to all professional correspondence and present yourself as a professional.
- Include a professional signature with contact information.
- Pay your bills on time.
- Engage colleagues in professional discussions both formally and informally.
- Volunteer to serve on committees outside of our discipline. It is particularly helpful to involve yourself in curricular discussions.

Be Professional

- Be honest.
- Maintain professional integrity. Stand on well-founded principles.
- Respect the opinions of others.
- Do the “grunt work.” Be a servant leader.
- **Point of Emphasis** - Respond to all professional correspondence and present yourself as a professional.

District Level Service Opportunities

- Thoroughly review your District Handbook.
- Offer to host your District Business Meeting.
- Record minutes at your District Business Meeting.
- Offer to host a District Event at your school.
- Serve as an adjudicator for All-District Band Auditions.
- Run for District office.

State Level Service Opportunities

- Attend the NMMEA All-State Music Festival and In-Service Conference.
- Volunteer to serve as a presider or monitor.
- Volunteer to serve as a stage crew member.
- Attend your division meeting.
- Offer to present a clinic in your “passion zone.”
- Help with registration.

State Level Service Opportunities

- NMMEA Board Members take note of individuals that provide service during All-State and throughout the year. Officer slates are discussed in terms of past service.
- When the call comes, say “yes.” You will not be disappointed.
- State level office leads to more professional relationships, a higher level of respect for the New Mexico Music Educators Association and NAFME, and a deeper appreciation of the superior work that is occurring in the Land of Enchantment.

Service at the National Level

- Service at the state level often leads to opportunities at the national level.
- Due to service as NMMEA president, I was asked to serve on NAFME's Collegiate Advisory Council. This council reviews the service and programming work of NAFME Collegiate Chapters throughout the United States. Extremely eye opening.
- ACDA, NBA, MTNA, etc. often have state level service positions.

Personal Musings

- When I was new to New Mexico, I wanted to build relationships with colleagues quickly. Service as Executive Secretary of the SENMMEA enabled me to befriend directors in the Southeast District immediately. Service is an excellent way to show support and offer gratitude.
- Service as NMMEA Collegiate VP allowed me to create positive and productive relationships with my friends at NMHU, NMSU, UNM, and WNMU.
- Service as President of NMMEA allowed me to work with some of our best and brightest. Discussions regarding All-State programming and divisional successes and challenges was illuminating.

Personal Musings

- The annual trip to Washington, DC, allowed me to more deeply appreciate the excellent work that NAFME does on our behalf. Prior to attending this summer event, I was a NAFME skeptic. No more!
- Understanding the legislative process, going to the Hill for discussions with our representatives, and singing praises were all beneficial by-products of professional service.
- My service to profession and on-campus service effort has led to a high level of respect for our Department of Music. The same will happen to your program when (not if) you get involved.

Personal Musings

- We have great leaders in our state. They are getting old and mature (**tired**). We need “new blood!!!”
- We don’t need “12 Angry Men and Women – The Sequel”.
- The same GREAT people always have the same GREAT ideas!
- The same NEW, GREAT people always have NEW, GREAT ideas!

Suggested Reading

- *How to Win Friends and Influence People* by Dale Carnegie
- *On Becoming a Leader* by Warren Bennis
- *Multipliers: How the Best Leaders Make Everyone Smarter* by Liz Wiseman
- *The Power of Habit: Why We Do What We Do in Life and Business* by Charles Duhigg

Questions? Comments?
