



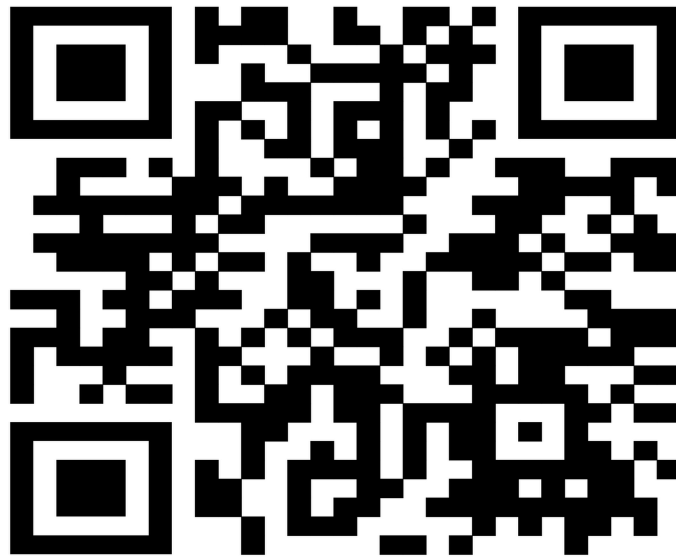
## District 4 - North Central General Meeting

*May 16, 2026*

Los Alamos High School & Google Meet

[SIGN-IN FORM](#)

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### District 4 Mission Statement

*Adopted August 2020*

**Mission:** We serve students by providing high quality music learning & performing experiences.

**Vision:** To encourage higher levels of musical achievement through participation & collaboration in a quality professional setting.

# Agenda

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- I. **Call to Order** and request for time-keeper to keep us on track
  - A. **Zane calls meeting to order at 10:04**
  - B. **In attendance: Jacob Lucero, Christine Subratie, Laura Eberhardt, Rick Hernandez, Devin DeVargas, Steve Iliff, Dhamaris Mendez, Zane Meek, Caiti Lord, Megan Tholen, Michael Campbell, Clarissa Riggins, Suzanne Birrell Jones, Laura Aguayo, Jeremy Bleich, John Tiranno, Zachary Vigus, Carla Kountoupes, Gwen Lerch, Don Higgins, Alice Norris, Michelle Rosette, Kehar Koslowsky, Jesse Parker, Will Varner**
  - C. **Zane request for a Time Keeper**
    1. **Gwen offers to keep time**
  
- II. **Ethics Statement** (1 Minute) **@ 10:07**

*“All NMMEA meetings, as well as reports and recommendations, are open to review by all members of NMMEA. We trust the judgment and the conduct of our members and anyone else in attendance to be ethically discreet at all times when discussing personalities and issues. NMMEA strongly encourages members to be positive and discreet when discussing our organization, its events and festivals, as well as fellow teachers. The very nature of music education embodies a broad spectrum of expressions exploring different paths to arrive at artistic and educational goals. Members are encouraged to recognize and remain open to varied approaches and to celebrate both our differences and our similarities.”*

**“While guests are welcome, only members of NMMEA/NAfME are eligible to vote and take part in discussions”.**
  
- III. **Approval of August 23, 2025 Meeting [Minutes](#) @ 10:09**
  - A. **Laura moves to approve**
  - B. **Steve seconds**
  - C. **All in favor, none opposed**
  - D. **Motion passes**
  
- IV. **President and Treasurer Reports @ 10:10**
  - A. **President - Zane Meek** (15 minutes)
  - B. **Valerie is out, but documents have been linked**
    1. **State Level Items**
      - a) Be sure to renew your NAFME Membership (or update contact info if needed) before it expires; you cannot register students for any events or vote without it being current
      - b) **Rick asks about who Cristina Gonzales, SFPS music coordinator will work with, in the past was Neil Swapp to work on NAFME memberships.**
      - c) **Congrats to:**
        - (1) All groups that competed and placed at the NMAA State Marching Band Contest
        - (2) All schools that had students selected to All State

- (3) All schools that competed and placed at the NMAA State Choir and Concert Band Contests and the La Cueva Bear Classic Orchestra Competition
- d) [All-State Audition Info](#) is available on NMMEA website
  - (1) Released beginning of April**
- e) Honor Groups - [consider applying!](#)
  - (1) Alternative/Guitar - No rotation
    - (a) Laura E. said that it can be any type ensemble**
    - (b) NMSA was the honor group**
  - (2) Choir & Orchestra - Small school or middle school preference
  - (3) Band - Large school preference
  - (4) General Music - No preference
  - (5) Jazz - Large school preference
    - (a) Los Alamos Jazz was the All state honor group**
- f) Review the [Monday Notes](#) from NMMEA each week; there is always valuable info, updates, and reminders in these emails
  - (1) Reminder to check them every week**
- g) 2026-2027 State Dates **Have PO's in place as soon as possible, let students know well in advance**
  - (1) All State audition registration opens Sep 1
  - (2) October 15-24, 2026 - Choir, Guitar & Orchestra All-State Auditions
  - (3) October 24, 2026 - NMAA State Marching Band Contest
  - (4) October 28-November 7, 2026 - Band & Jazz All-State Auditions
  - (5) January 6-9, 2027 - All-State Music Festival & In-Service Conference (UNM)
  - (6) January 21-23, 2027 - Jazz All-State (ENMU)
  - (7) April 13-14, 2027 - State Choir Contest
  - (8) April 15-17, 2027 - State Concert Band Contest
- h) Need help with end-of-year NMMEA audit report **Gwen has volunteered to be our audit member**
  - (1) Need one member-at-large; need you for one approximately hour-ish long meeting with President and Treasurer over Google Meet
- i) State meeting is June 11 **Laura confirms date is 10-11**
  - (1) Discuss anything you would like brought to NMMEA's BOD attention in section meetings

C. Treasurer - *Valerie Collins* (15 minutes) @ 10:18

1. [Event Reports](#) - [Event Invoices](#)

- a) **May not be completely up to date but the biggest concern is a large outstanding balance. If you have an outstanding invoice please ensure your balance is paid.**
- b) Overall, when all fees are received we should be ~\$1,300 ahead. However, there are \$6,364 not yet received. Valerie is continuing to follow up with directors and districts to get these amounts paid. Each event has a tab on the Event Reports. Balances tab shows each event's income, expense, and outstanding fees. Only 2 events finished in the red.
  - (1) We are below half of our reserves as recommended by NMMEA due to payments not yet received. (\$12,00 is recommended)**

- c) Getting the POs sent to the treasurer before each event has been a chore this year. If the treasurer could get the registrations as they happen that would be very helpful as then an email could be sent to the director with their total, asking for the PO. As it is, the treasurer is only getting the final registration export which does not include the payment info.
- d) **Only two events that finished in the red, including outstanding fees. Need to talk about how we fix the overspending on those events.**
- e) **Zane recommends to get POs acquired at the beginning of the year. A quote generator made by our Treasurer (Valerie) is available. You do not need to request a quote through her.**

**2. Zane opens up for discussion**

- a) **No discussion, Zane reiterates that balances must be paid.**

**V. Committee Reports (15 minutes) @ 10:25**

A. Exec Committee:

- 1. [Motion doc](#)
- 2. **Steve explains his motion to remove the per student clause and just doing a flat rate per ensemble for MPA events**
  - a) **Discussion: Rick agrees**
  - b) **Laura Eberhardt seconds the motion**
  - c) **All in favor, none opposed**
  - d) **Motion passes**
- 3. **Zane explains his motion to check registered ensembles have paid/have no outstanding balances before the next event.**
  - a) **Discussion: Gwen knows of one school that has a school that does pay by check, she suggests changing language to include schools that choose to pay by check.**
  - b) **Motion is amended to**
    - (1) **Carla requests motion to stay PO related since NMSA can not pay by check until they are invoiced.**
    - (2) **Clarissa mentions that there was discussion in handbook for a grace period AFTER registration.**
    - (3) **Zane does say that there is a grace period. Gwen does check the handbook. Rick does bring up the point of having a penalty if the group can not perform. Zane brings up that the hand book states that the ensemble must pay even if they do not end up performing at the event.**
  - c) **Discussion is continued, Rick brings up a shortfall in case not enough ensembles register.**
  - d) **Motion is left as it is. Steve seconds the motion**
    - (1) **All in favor, none opposed**
    - (2) **Motion passes**
    - (3) **Language will be added to presidents duties**
- 4. **Steve moves to schedule events in fall for the following academic year and using spring meetings to make any final adjustments and assign site locations.**
  - a) **Michelle agrees, especially for booking the LAHS auditorium**
  - b) **No further discussion**
  - c) **Jacob seconds**

- d) All in favor, none opposed
- e) Motion passes
- 5. Caiti moves to *Adjust Honor Choir Audition process in handbook to reflect that it is (however many students per school-to be confirmed at choir meeting today) and that the selection is by teacher choice*
  - a) Discussion: Carla asked about why there are no auditions for Honor choir. Devin mentions that this has always been the process. Should be a choir section discussion
    - (1) to be discussed in section meeting and will be brought back to general meeting

**VI. Section Meetings (30 min) @ 10:41- Zane notes we return to general meeting at 11:15, meeting reconvened at 11:29**

- A. Section VP's lead section meetings (breakout rooms)
  - 1. Discuss dates and locations for all district events; we need site hosts for each event
  - 2. Band needs to elect a new VP to finish out Steve's term
  - 3. Any motions to be brought to the floor as a result of meetings?
- B. Officer Reports after section meetings (15 minutes)
  - 1. VP General Music - *Megan Tholen*
    - a) Well attended from Los Alamos and one school from SF
    - b) A conflicting event that made preparation of students difficult.
  - 2. VP Band - *Steve Iliff*
  - 3. VP Choir - *Devin DeVargas*
    - a) Choir will need to decide on handbook language in regards to student audition process and MPA registration fees at August meeting.
    - b) Set dates for yearly events
    - c) Will combine Vocal S&E will join GMP S&E
  - 4. VP Orchestra - *Carla Kountopes*
    - a) Brief discussion about outstanding PO's. Gabe nominates Michelle for Music Educator of the year. Dates and locations were discussed and set.
  - 5. VP Guitar, Mariachi and Piano - *Gwen-Marie Lerch*
    - a) Section Meeting met last week and year was recapped, did some troubleshooting with Solo and Ensemble, dates were set from the Albuquerque meeting, will continue to combine with Abq. Losing students for all state and goal state wide to add three more students. S/E is set to be at Capital HS and how several Norteno groups did register. Discussion needs to be had with Carla and Jesse about more modern ensembles going to this S/E. Gwen urged her section to participate in events.
  - 6. NMAA Band Advisory Council - *Robert Chrisman*
    - a) *Laura reports: If we want to continue the current rotation or stop the rotation. Contact Robert if you would like to give your opinion.*
  - 7. NMAA Choral Advisory Council - *Jason Rutledge*
    - a) Discussion about raising MS average to 90, if less than 15 ensembles registered invitations would be made. Motion was tabled for further district discussion.
    - b) Voted no to add men's choir

**VII. SY 2026-2027 Scheduling (20 minutes) @ 11:46**

- A. Scheduling Spreadsheet; tentative dates set in section meetings

1. August 15, 2026 for General Meeting
  - a) Executive meeting before general meeting
2. Vocal Solofest
  - a) October 3, 2026
  - b) St. Mikes, Chaired by Devin DeVargas & Kehar Koslowsky
  - c) Registration due by September 4th
3. Honor Orchestra
  - a) Held at LAHS hosted and Chaired by Michelle R
  - b) Organized by Carla
  - c) Event on September 25, 2026
  - d) Auditions due by 9/11, Rosters announced 9/15, Registration due by 9/18
4. Honor Choir
  - a) November 5th(?) @ DSA
  - b) Registrations due October 1
    - (1) Can't bring students who were not registered
  - c)
5. Honor Guitar
  - a) November 13-14 @ APS
  - b) Rehearsals at AYS
  - c) Concert at del norte high school
  - d) Registration deadline is TBA by Gwen
6. Honor Band
  - a) @ SFHS just need to confirm dates
  - b) *Tentatively*: November 13-14, Conflict with NMMA One Act
  - c) Will ask for LAHS as back up
  - d) Auditions due by 10/2, Judging from 10/3-12, Rosters out by 10/14
  - e) *Tentative*: auditions due 10/2 in person judging, on 10/4
  - f) Registrations due by 10/16
    - (1) Laura asks for a in person judging to get rosters out sooner
  - g) DISCUSSION TABLED FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION!
7. Elementary Music Festival
  - a) TBD
  - b) Will be decided in the fall meeting
8. Orchestra MPA
  - a) SFHS March 10-11
  - b) Registrations due by February 5th
  - c) Chair: Carla Kountoupes Thursday, Megan Tholen on Wednesday
  - d) Co-Chair: Caiti Lord (one day), NEED ANOTHER COCHAIR!
9. Vocal Music Performance Assessment
  - a) Split Days (Not organized by HS/MS days)
    - (1) @CHS 3/3/27
    - (2) @LAHS 3/4/27
  - b) Steve, Zane Host @ LAHS
  - c) Deanna cochair @LAHS
  - d) Christine Subratie CoChair @ LAHS
  - e) Gwen Cochair @ Capital
  - f) Carla Cochair @ Capital

- g) Laura Aguayo Site Host @ Capital
- h) Registration due Jan 29, 2027
- 10. Guitar MPA
  - a) March 2, 2027
- 11. Band Music Performance Assessment Day
  - a) Split days
    - (1) LAHS @ 4/7
      - (a) Devin Chair
      - (b) CoChair NEEDED
      - (c) Jason R. will be site host
    - (2) CHS @ 4/8
      - (a) Rick requests to perform at LAHS day
      - (b) Steve co Chair
      - (c) Gwen Co chair Capital Day, TBD
  - b) Registration due March 5
- 12. Choir and Harmonizing Insts S&E
  - a) @CHS 4/17/26, Gwen site host
  - b) Chaired by Treasurer
  - c) Gwen Site Host
  - d) Guitar, Norteno, Musica Latina will balance choir to keep event in the black
  - e) Registration by 3/19
- 13. Strings S&E
  - a) NMSA hosted by Carla
  - b) May 8th
  - c) Chair: Co Secretary 1 or 2
  - d) Registration due by 3/25
- 14. Wind and Percussion S&E
  - a) @ Milagro Hosted by Clarissa
  - b) Chair: Co Secretary 1 or 2
  - c) Cochair Dhamaris Mendez
  - d) May 1, 2027
  - e) Registration due by 3/24
- 15. Spring Executive Meeting
  - a) May 15, 2027 @ 8am
  - b) LAHS
- 16. Spring Meeting
  - a) May 16, 2027 @ 10:00am
  - b) LAHS

B. Replacing dates, sites, chairs, and hosts event by event, as needed

C. What you see are the event dates from the year

**VIII. New Business (15 minutes) @12:56**

A. Nominees for NMMEA Awards

1. Administrator of the Year
  - a) Dr. Alexandra Robertson, Principal of Ortiz Middle School (Nominated by Zach Vigus)
2. Award of Distinction
  - a) Steve nominates Los Alamos

3. Educator of the Year
    - a) **Gabe nominated Michelle Rosette**  
(1) **Michelle accepts the nomination**
    - b) **Caiti nominated Zach Vigus**  
(1) **Zach Vigus did not accept or decline, Carla texted Zach to ask for acceptance, and he did accept.**
    - c) **Laura nominates Steve Iliff**  
(1) **Steve accepts the nomination**
    - d) **Discussion leads to having a ranked survey sent out by president**
  4. Emeritus Teacher of the Year
    - a) **Caiti nominates Marilyn Barnes**  
(1) **Caiti reached out for confirmation of acceptance**
  5. Hall of Fame
  6. John Batcheller
    - a) **Megan Tholen nominates Jacob Lucero**
    - b) **Jacob accepts the nomination**
  7. New and Emerging Teacher
    - a) **Laura Eberhardt nominates Devin DeVargas**  
(1) **Devin accepts**
- B. Nominations and elections for officer positions: @ 1:16
1. President - Zane Meek is eligible for election one more time and has volunteered to serve again if there is nobody else interested; nominees?
    - a) **Gwen moves to keep Zane as president**
    - b) **Laura seconded**
    - c) **All in favor, none opposed**
    - d) **Motion passes**
  2. Treasurer - need new person; Gabe Tafoya has volunteered to serve; other nominees?
    - a) **Gabe Tafoya is nominated by Gabe Tafoya**
    - b) **All in favor, none opposed**
  3. Co-Secretary 1 - need new person; nominees?
    - a) **Steve nominates Christine Subratie**  
(1) **Christine accepts**
    - b) **All in favor, none opposed**
  4. Co-Secretary 2 - Caiti Lord is eligible for election two more times; nominees?
    - a) **Caiti accepts renomination**
    - b) **All in favor, none opposed**
- C. Change MPA to flat fee for all size groups  
1. **Already discussed earlier**
- D. **Any further business**
1. **Can be further discussed in the fall meeting**
  2. **Contact VP or President for anything before 6/11**
- IX. **Vacancies @ 1:22**
- A. SFPS - Various
    1. **Several .2 position open**
  - B. Others???
- X. **Announcements**
- A. SF Youth Symphony Orchestra, Jazz, Mariachi - auditions in SF and LA

1. [Go here](#) for audition dates, times and locations

**XI. Next Meeting & Adjournment**

A. August 15, 2026, 10:00AM @LAHS (tentative)

B. Motion to adjourn?

1. **Devin moves to adjourn**
2. **Dede seconds**
3. **All in favor , none opposed**
- 4.