



District 4 - North Central General Meeting

August 15, 2026

Los Alamos High School & Google Meet

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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

1. Call to Order and request for time-keeper to keep us on track

A. Meeting called to order at 10:02 AM

B. In attendance: Megan Tholen, Deanna Teague, Zane Meek, Christine Subratie, Caiti Lord, Gwen Marie Lerch, Carla Kountoupes, Gabe Tafoya, Devin DeVargas, Steve Iliff, Dhamaris Mendez, Clarissa Riggins, Jacob Lucero, Deb Minyard, Rick Hernandez, John Tiranno, Galina Austin, Laura Eberhardt, Michael Campbell, Valerie Collins, Ricardo Mendez, Jeremy Bleich, Laura Aguayo, James Bigham, Will Varner

2. Ethics Statement (1 Minute)

"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".

3. Approval of May 16, 2026 Meeting [Minutes](#)

- a. Steve moves to approve the minutes**
- b. DeDe seconds**
- c. Valerie opposed to change item in Treasurer section (fixed)**
- d. Steve remotions**
- e. All approved**
- f. Motion passes**

4. Motion Document

- a. When making a motion, please add the motion and names of persons making and seconding the motion to the [motion document](#)

5. President's Report

- a. President - Zane Meek (15 minutes)
 - i. State Level Updates
 - 1. Read [Monday Notes](#); lots of important information
 - 2. Daniel Fear has officially taken over as NMMEA Executive Director
 - a. **New NMMEA address (for PO's):** 3702 Fairfax Ave, Farmington, NM 87402
 - i. Neill will be helping some but won't be too involved**
- 3. Copyright
 - a. Copyright is a hot-button issue; publishers, copyright holders, and, of course, copyright trolls are being more aggressive in seeking out and suing copyright violators
 - b. The implications of this for us as an organization has mostly to do with honor groups. The only real way to ensure that we are in complete copyright compliance are to distribute only original copies of music to all participants and increase fees to account for this additional expense
 - c. We must also be sure to be copyright compliant with our own groups and students at MPA and S&E events
 - d. Sheet music is considered a "consumable"; under the law, anything considered a "consumable" should not be copied
 - e. [Somewhat helpful link](#) but always remember: none of us are lawyers so we shouldn't assume we have a complete understanding of copyright law in the way a lawyer or judge would interpret or understand it should it ever get to that point
- 4. District documents
 - a. We must be sure that all our policies and practices remain in alignment with NMMEA or they may not be able to back us if something goes wrong

- b. Updates to the [handbook](#) have been made per the changes we voted on in May and August 2025
- 5. [All-State Audition Info](#) is available on NMMEA website
 - a. [All State fees](#) will remain the same as last year
 - b. Same audition process as last year
- 6. Be sure to renew your [NAfME Membership](#) before it expires; you cannot register students for any events, participate in discussions or vote without it being current.
- 7. 2026-2027 State Dates
 - a. October 15-24, 2026 - Choir, Guitar & Orchestra All-State Audition window
 - b. October 24, 2026 - NMAA/NMMEA State Marching Band Contest
 - c. October 28-November 7, 2026 - Wind and Percussion & Jazz All-State Auditions
 - d. January 6-9, 2027 - All-State Music Festival & In-Service Conference @ UNM
 - e. January 21-23, 2027 - Jazz All-State @ ENMU
 - f. April 13-14, 2027 - State Choir Contest @ Cleveland HS
 - g. April 15-17, 2027 - State Concert Band Contest @ Cleveland HS
- 8. New NMMEA Support Team - these people do WORK for us; thank them when you see them
 - a. Neil Swapp - Webmaster and NMAA State Contests Coordinator
 - b. District Event Registration Manager - Linnea Jackson
 - c. All State Music Coordinator (All-StateMusic@nmmea.com) - Cody Jackson
 - d. All State Site Coordinator - Carrie Glass

6. Treasurer's Report - Gabe Tafoya (15 minutes)

- i. Financial Update
 - 1. [Updated 25-26 Events Report](#)
 - 2. [Event Fees](#)
 - 3. [Honorarium Schedule](#)
 - 4. [Quote Template PDF](#) - [Quote Template Sheet](#)
 - a. You can use either of these, or request a specific quote from me.
 - b. If you use the [Sheet](#), please **make a copy** before you edit!
 - c. If we make any changes to amounts, I will update these!
 - 5. [26/27 Contract Template](#) - please make a copy for your event!
- ii. **Steve moves to approve the Treasurer's report**
- iii. **DeDe seconds**
- iv. **All approved**
- v. **Motion passes**

7. Registering for Events-

- a. **You will NOT be scheduled if you have not registered for any event**
- b. **If the form is closed and you still haven't registered, you will not be able to participate**
- c. **Student name needs to be listed in registration for Honor Groups**

8. Section Meetings (30 min) - Focus is on confirming dates, sites and site hosts for 2026-2027 and scheduling events for 2027-2028; honor ensemble info and music (as needed) in relation to copyright; PO's and event registration

- a. Officer Reports and Reconciliation of 2026-2027 event calendar after section meetings (15 minutes)
 - i. VP General Music - *Megan Tholen*
 - ii. **No Elementary Fest due to low numbers**
 - iii. VP Band - *Deanna Teague*
 - iv. **Band Dates are set**
 - v. VP Choir - *Devin DeVargas*
 - vi. **Still planning on having 2 separate days for Choir MPA**
 - vii. **Choir dates are set**
 - viii. VP Orchestra - *Carla Kountoupes*
 - ix. **Orchestra dates are set**
 - x. VP Guitar, Mariachi and Piano - *Gwen-Marie Lerch*
 - xi. NMAA Band Advisory Council - **Still need a volunteer**
 - xii. NMAA Choral Advisory Council - *Jason Rutledge*

9. SY 2027-2028 Scheduling (30 minutes)

- a. [Scheduling Spreadsheet](#); tentative dates set in section meetings
 - i. Try to stay with historical dates unless there is a pressing need to change

10. New Business (20 minutes)

- a. Need a worker to distribute tickets at All State from 2:00-4:15; this job can be split
 - i. **Rick will distribute tickets on that Saturday January 9th**
- b. How to cover costs of Honor Ensemble music
 - i. **Rick suggests we raise MPA fees if your district is requiring/paying for groups to go**
 - ii. **Need to figure out the estimated cost per student to have folders, Gabe volunteered to have it out by the end of the week**
 - iii. **VP's are sharing previous programs to get an estimate**
 - iv. **Steve suggested that each group figure out how many students are going and then divide the amount evenly to get the price**
 - v. **Steve had a motion on NCNMMEA to purchase the music/per folder and then distribute the price evenly amongst all students**
 1. **Up to the directors on how to pay for that**
 - vi. **Caiti and Gabe had questions on how to be able to bill and have PO's for these events**
 - vii. **Laura suggested that we raise fees this year and ask for donations and eat the rest of the fees**
 1. **We can't move too quickly on this so we need to revisit for a more permanent solution**
 - viii. **Caiti suggested we have this figured out in the May meeting**
 - ix. **Motion passed to raise fees for Honor groups from \$20 to \$25**
 1. **Clarissa seconded the motion**
 - x. **Steve moved that each section VP is responsible for acquiring/purchasing and distributing the correct amount of legal copies amongst their sections**
 1. **Valerie seconded the motion**
 - xi. **Name on music needs to be listed as NCNMMEA not as their personal account name**
 - xii. **Again, cannot share scores or parts, so directors will need to purchase their own if they are going to rehearse their students**

- c. Officers and VP Elect
 - i. Utilizing having officer elects who will shadow for a year starting on an even year, unless the officer wants to run another consecutive term
 - 1. Creating a constitutional change for officer elects
 - ii. Rick moves that we create VP and Officer Elect positions to serve in the August meeting for now and in May for the future before the officers term is up
 - 1. Clarissa seconded
 - 2. All approved the motion
 - iii. Steve moves that we change in the handbook that officers can complete 2 terms plus part of a term they take over for someone else.

11. Announcements

- a. Congrats to our NMMEA Award winner:
 - i. Devin DeVargas, New and Emerging Teacher of the Year
- b. **NMSA Orchestra Honor Group for All-State conference**
 - i. **If you want to help out Carla's group at All-State, please email**
- c. SF Youth Symphony Orchestra, Jazz, Mariachi - auditions in SF and LA
 - i. [Go here](#) for audition dates, times and locations
- d. VP's (Band, Choir, Orchestra, General Music, Guitar, Piano, Musica Latina) are up for election at the May meeting
 - i. Please consider serving; your community needs you!

12. Next Meeting & Adjournment

- a. Saturday, May 15, 2027, 10:00AM @ LAHS and Google Meet
- b. **Motion to adjourn by Devin at 12:31 PM**
- c. **DeDe seconded**
- d. **Meeting adjourned at 12:32 PM**