

# PMEA District 12



## Spring 2008 Newsletter

### President's Message

Scott Cullen, President

With the rapidly approaching end of the school year comes the end of my first year as your president. I would like to thank everyone for the patience, understanding, and help offered to me. I could not fulfill the obligations of this position without your support. I am truly looking forward to my second year and continuing to serve District 12 even after my term has ended.

I would like to take a moment to highlight some changes and new additions to the District 12 Board. After the general election in November, **Dr. Bruce Glenn**, choral director at Radnor High School, and **Sue Dickinger**, choral director at Conestoga High School, were installed as Vice-President and High School C/I Chair, respectively. After a short term as our Advocacy Chair, District 12 unfortunately has to say goodbye to **Jenny Neff** and wish her the best of luck in her new position in District 11. I am pleased to announce **William Wenglicki** has taken over the responsibilities of the Advocacy Chair. Many might assume the role of President is the most important position on the board, though I can say unequivocally that the Secretary/Treasurer's importance to the success of the district far outweighs that of the president. With that in mind, you can understand the upheaval experienced when the position suddenly became vacant in December. Without hesitation, **Kevin Cooper** of Springfield High School offered his time and experience to District 12 and offered to take on this position. With Kevin, I think we can rest assured knowing that District 12 is in the most capable of hands. With Kevin's appointment, we are now left with a vacancy in the Adjudication Chair position. Anyone interested in filling this role should contact me at [president@pmeal2.org](mailto:president@pmeal2.org).

District 12 once again experienced a successful year of fests, festivals, workshops and another fall in-service. To each and every one of our hosts, I would like to extend a very grateful thank you. Without your commitment, our members and our students would not have reaped the benefits of these enriching experiences.

Should anyone have any interest in conducting a survey among our District 12 members, please do not hesitate to contact me. PMEA will create a survey for its members at no charge to you or the district. I have created two successful surveys myself and encourage everyone to take advantage of this resource. Please assist those conducting future surveys by participating in those surveys that might come your way.

I have learned a lot in my first year as President and am looking forward to serving District 12 next year. Thank you to the Board and everyone who has offered any help and advice over the past year. As always, if there is anything I can do that might be of help to you or your program, please let me know. In the meantime, I wish everyone a rejuvenating and restful summer.

Respectfully,  
Scott Cullen

*Congratulations to our 2008 District 12 Citation of Excellence Award winner,*

*Julia Farber, an outstanding elementary music educator who teaches at Jordan Bank Elementary School in the Oxford School District.*

### Your District 12 Board:

- Scott Cullen, President
- Michael Britcher, Past President
- Bruce Glenn, Vice-President
- Kevin Cooper, Secretary/Treasurer
- Anne Sprissler, Curriculum & Instruction Chair
- William Wenglicki, Advocacy Chair
- Currently vacant, Adjudication Chair
- Ryan Fegley, Webmaster
- Sister Lauretta Linsalato, Liaison to the Archdiocese

### Curriculum & Instruction Committee:

- Christine Gehring, Elementary
- Anne Sprissler, Middle School/Chair
- Sue Dickinger, High School
- Alison Reynolds, Temple University

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## Advocacy Tips

Although March was "Music in Our Schools Month," it is always important to share with others how music is touching the lives of our students and improving our communities every day. With the upcoming elections, it is important to include our message with community members on a regular basis.

The Iowa Arts Council has produced some tips for success for the Music Achievement Council which include the following:

- Put facts which support music education on marquees and community bulletin boards.
- Provide a recording of school performing groups as "hold music" at district music (obtain copyright permission first).
- Provide music statements on "table tents" for restaurants, especially if the school is holding a fundraiser night at the location.
- Have students write letters inviting community members to performances.
- Schedule an open house for people to visit rehearsals.
- Broadcast music interviews on your local cable channel.
- Profile student artists.

Links:

<http://www.iowaartscouncil.org/>

<http://www.musicachievementcouncil.org/>

## Jenny L. Neff, Advocacy Chair

## Advocacy Chair Position

*Advocacy Chair* is an appointed position. The role of the Advocacy Chair is to gather and lend support to PMEA members in District 12. Advocacy e-mails and links are shared with members through the website. New laws, research, and factors which might affect school music programs are shared, as well as information that might

communicate to schools and communities the importance of music education. This position is especially important in the climate of high stakes testing and Act 1 in Pennsylvania. I have enjoyed my position as Advocacy Chair this year, but have accepted a new position at Bala Cynwood Middle School in the Lower Merion School

## Jenny L. Neff, Advocacy Chair

District, which is part of PMEA District 11. I look forward to serving PMEA in other roles in my new district, and will work with the new District 12 Advocacy Chair, Bill Wenglicki, as he transitions into the position by the end of the year.

## From the Webmaster

Greetings, District 12! I hope you have enjoyed the recent changes to pmea12.org. Since becoming webmaster in the Fall of 2006, I have been working to make pmea12.org a more user-friendly tool for

the members of District 12. More changes are coming in the near future, so be sure to check the site often for updates. If you ever notice any problems with the website or have any suggestions as to how it could be

## Ryan Fegley, Webmaster

improved, please don't hesitate to contact me at [webmaster@pmea12.org](mailto:webmaster@pmea12.org). Any and all suggestions are welcome! Best of luck to you and your students during the upcoming spring concert season!

## Higher Education News

Music teacher education departments in Pennsylvania continue with the restructuring of their music education curriculum to accommodate the Pennsylvania Department of Education's requirements for nine hours..."regarding accommodations and

adaptations for students with disabilities in an inclusive setting.... At least nine hours... must address the instructional needs of English language learners."

These hours will need to be featured in the

## Allison Reynolds, Higher Ed C/I Chair

curriculum on or before January 1, 2010. For more information, please visit the Pennsylvania Department of Education website (<http://www.pde.state.pa.us>), from which I quoted!



## Elementary Sharing Session

Christine Gehring, Elem. C/I

You are invited to a District 12 elementary music sharing session!

Thursday, October 9, 2008  
4:30 pm to 6:30 pm  
116 West Gay Street, West Chester  
Cost: FREE

Please bring one lesson plan to share if you are an elementary classroom teacher, or one piece of music if you are an elementary band, string or choral teacher.

Registration includes Act 48 hours, dinner, sharing session, and you can sign up for a

teacher discount card that can be used at Taylor's Music Store that day!

Please send the form available on [www.pmea12.org](http://www.pmea12.org) by October 1 to Christine, or e-mail your RSVP to: [cgehring@oxford.k12.pa.us](mailto:cgehring@oxford.k12.pa.us).

## A big thank you to Fest hosts

Anne Sprissler, C/I Chair

Thank goodness the spring season puts a renewed energy in our lives! Music teachers need it! When other teachers come back after spring break they count the days until summer. We, on the other hand, count how many rehearsals left until the musicals, concerts, adjudications, Fests, Festivals, Regions, and All-State performances. District 12 music teachers are busy!

There are some exceptional elementary and middle school music teachers who went beyond themselves and their own music programs and hosted Fests this year. At various Fest dates this third marking period, more than 700 young musicians had the opportunity to collaborate and perform beautiful music together with guest conductors highly regarded in their fields. I would like to take a moment to publicly thank the host directors for doing an outstanding job of taking care of every little detail to make the 2008 Fests such a success. These colleagues deserve a round of applause.

### Chester County 5/6 Band Fest

Brooke Abrahams  
Deborah Newnham

### Middle School Song Fest

Charles Ulrich

### Delaware County 5/6 Band Fest

Kathleen Boyer

### 7/8 String Fest

Katrina Kelly  
Timothy Celfo

### Elementary Song Fest

Danielle Cullen  
Valerine Crescenz  
Shannon Kamph

### 5/6 String Fest

Joe Greenhalgh  
Jeff Shaull  
Jane Urban

### Middle School Bell Fest

Anne Sprissler

Thank you to the directors who have hosted in the past, and have taken second and third turns just so the Fests would continue. If your school district has participated in Fests year after year and have not yet hosted, 2009 could be your year. Scheduling and facilities can be tricky but there are creative solutions. Some schools have offered their facilities if another school district would co-host. Please consider stepping up.

It has been an exciting year to be C/I chair. Besides attending Fests, it is my charge to organize the Fall Inservice Conference and attend local and state Board meetings. Working within PMEA is truly a rewarding experience and I have gotten to know so many of the extraordinary men and women in music education in Pennsylvania and I am truly in awe of the level of excellence that is manifested in District 12.

## Summer Conference

Anne Sprissler, C/I Chair

Plan on attending the Professional Development Seminar this summer at State College from July 27-29, 2008.

It is a conference organized by Sharon Pot-

ter, the state Curriculum/ Instruction Chair. The weekend usually features a keynote speaker, followed by workshops according to instrumental, choral, general and orches-

tral strands.

See the [PMEA.net](http://PMEA.net) website for more information.



## Fall 2008 Inservice Conference

## Anne Sprissler, C/I Chair

Clinicians are lined up for this fall's Inservice Conference, but we need a facility to house the event. Garnet Valley and Oxford School Districts have graciously hosted for the past three years. The host reserves the

school facility, one gym, 2 computer rooms and about 12 classrooms. The host works with the cafeteria staff from the school for providing lunch. I will work closely with the host in all matters. Please e-mail me

through the [pmea12.org](http://pmea12.org) website if you feel your school would be able to host this exciting event in the fall.

## High School Festival Hosts for 2008-09

District Chorus Auditions  
Saturday, November 22, 2008  
Strath Haven High School  
John Shenkweiler, Host

District Band and Orchestra Auditions  
Saturday, December 13, 2008  
Unionville High School  
Scott Litzenburg, Host

District Chorus Festival  
January 15-17, 2009  
Phoenixville High School  
Kate Nice, Host

District Band Festival  
January 29-31, 2009  
Bishop Shanahan High School  
Chuck Keating, Host

District Orchestra Festival  
February 5-7, 2009  
Ridley High School  
Keith Roeckle, Host

Region Chorus Festival  
February 19-21, 2009  
Marple-Newtown High School  
Chris Vogel, Host

Region Band Festival  
March 5-7, 2009  
District 11 TBA

Region Orchestra Festival  
March 19-21, 2009  
***Site and Host Needed!***

## PMEA All-State Festival and Inservice Conference April 23-25, 2009 Valley Forge, PA

