

September 2007 Newsletter
Notes from President Connie Kessel

Greetings, Music Colleague!

As I write this, I feel the summer quickly fading into a pleasant memory and the exciting anticipation of a new school year being realized! I hope that you took some time to relax during the summer and feel renewed for the coming school year.

I would like to encourage you to frequently browse the DCMEA & NYSSMA websites for information updates. They contain important information for you and your students! The DCMEA has added a new *Members Only* page to our website. If you are a member in good standing for the current school year, Kim Valentine will provide you with a registration code to set up your “user account.” This will enable you to have access to the *Members Only* page.

The following are important county highlights. Please contact me if you have any questions.

- DCMEA Fall Get-together on October 3, (5 p.m.) at Pizzeria Uno in Wappingers Falls.
- District Participation Fee (new this fall) must be paid to participate in DCMEA events.
- All-County Festival deadlines must be followed. Stay informed and current by reading DCMEA mailings and regularly checking the website.
- Try utilizing the DC BOCES Arts-In-Education Funding Program for paying District Participation fees and All-County student registrations. (*Allow 8 weeks for processing.*)
- Look for two (2) surveys in the fall mail regarding: 1) Elementary All-County Band Live Auditions; 2) HS All-County Festival. These will be sent to area & level specific teachers.

It is vital that you complete and return these surveys! Survey results will be discussed at the next Elementary & Jr. High Festivals, respectively.

The DCMEA provides many opportunities for you to help promote and enhance music education in Dutchess County. Please consider serving in one of the following ways:

- Festival Tee-Shirt Chairperson – *train with Pennie & Connie this year to prepare for next year’s festivals!*
- Standing Sub-Committees: Elementary Band Live Audition Process; Festival Participation Policies; On-line Festival Handbooks; DCMEA Brochure; High School All-County Festival. If you have expertise in one of these areas or simply would like to help, *please contact me!!!*
- Retired Music Teacher Mentor Network (*contact Dana White-Marks*).
- Elementary, Junior High & Jazz All-County Festivals.

The current DCMEA Executive Board’s two year term of office will end on July 1, 2008. We need people to seriously consider serving as a “member-at-large” on the election committee for the next Executive Board (July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2010).

Vacancy Up-date! Paul Scatenato has volunteered to serve as the DCMEA Political Liaison.

Thank you and welcome to the team, Paul!

Lastly, I would like to thank the many people who faithfully and tirelessly serve DCMEA on the Executive Board, as librarians, on standing sub-committees and as festival chair people. Your work greatly enriches the lives of our music students and is a shining example of excellence in our county!

In closing, I wish everyone a strong start to the school year and I hope to see you at our annual Fall Get-together!

Musically yours,
Connie Kessel