

**Constitution
of the
Arkansas Music Educators Association**

Article I - Name

Section 1. The name of this non-profit, educational organization shall be the Arkansas Music Educators Association (ArkMEA).

Article II - Purpose

Section 1. The purpose of ArkMEA shall be the advancement of all music education in Arkansas. Specifically, it will act as the coordinating agency for the following areas in music education: Choral, Band, Orchestra, General, Higher Education, Elementary, Student Music Educators, Music Technology and other focus groups that may be formed.

Section 2. This organization is the official state music educators' affiliate of MENC: the National Association for Music Education (MENC). The ArkMEA will promote MENC activities and projects, serve music teachers and students, and seek to enhance the support and quality of music education in Arkansas.

Section 3. This organization shall maintain a cooperative relationship with the Arkansas State Department of Education, the Arkansas Activities Association, the Arkansas Education Association, and all other organizations which seek to promote and improve music education in the State of Arkansas.

Article III - Memberships

Section 1. Active membership shall be open to all music educators in the State of Arkansas upon payment of MENC-ArkMEA dues in the prescribed amount. Active members shall receive all correspondence and publications and shall have the privilege of voting and attending all meetings, and shall be eligible to hold office.

Section 2. Associate membership shall be open to any person or commercial business interested in furthering the cause of music education in Arkansas upon payment of prescribed dues. Associate members shall receive all correspondence and publications but shall not vote nor hold office.

Section 3. Student membership shall be open to students enrolled in institutions of higher education. Student members, upon payment of the prescribed annual dues, shall receive all privileges of active compliance except the rights to vote and to hold an elected office; and, upon the compliance with registration requirements, shall be admitted to state, division, and national meetings.

Section 4. Life membership in ArkMEA shall be concurrent with life membership in MENC.

Section 5. Honorary membership, upon recommendation of the Board of Directors, may be conferred by majority vote of the membership present at any convened meeting, in recognition of distinctive service in the field of music education.

Section 6. Membership is open to all retired music educators in the State of Arkansas upon payment of MENC-ArkMEA dues in the prescribed amount. Retired members shall retain all privileges as active members.

Article IV - Government

Section 1. The elected officers shall be: President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Parliamentarian (Past President). These officers shall constitute the Executive Council.

Section 2. The term of all elected officers will be two years. The Immediate Past President becomes the Parliamentarian.

A. No officer, after completing a full term of office, may immediately succeed him/herself except the Secretary and the Treasurer.

B. Any officer, while holding office, may be elected to another office that may be open at that time. The successor to the relinquished office shall be elected for the balance of the original term.

C. Only the offices of President and Parliamentarian shall be filled in order of succession.

Section 3. Chairs for the following focus areas shall be appointed by the President: *Segue* Editor, Band, Choral, Orchestra, General Music, Elementary, Higher Education, CMENC, Tri-M, Exhibits, Historian, Cross-Cultural, Interdisciplinary, Membership, MIOSM, Public Relations, Research, Retired Music Educators, Conference Site, Technology, and Region. AEMEA and ASTA shall also provide Representatives to ArkMEA. Their term of office shall concur with that of the elected officers.

Section 4. The Board of Directors shall consist of the Executive Council and Chairs and Representatives as outlined in Article IV, Section 3. Other music education organizations may provide a representative to the ArkMEA Board with voting privileges contingent upon membership in ArkMEA/MENC. Ex-officio members shall consist of the State Supervisor of Music and a student member representative.

Section 5. Standing and special committees may be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors.

Article V - Elections

Section 1. The membership shall be notified of upcoming elections at the annual business meeting during the non-elected year of the office(s) to be filled, and encouraged to contact members of the Nominating Committee with names of desirable candidates.

Section 2. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a mail ballot and submit to the general membership the names of candidates for office.

A. The ballot shall be mailed no later than August 15, four (4) weeks prior to the election.

B. The ballot shall include the names of the nominees, provisions for write-in candidates, and should be returned postmarked no later than Sept 15.

C. A candidate who receives a majority of votes on the returned ballots is elected.

Section 3. The election for all the elected officers shall be held during even-numbered years.

Section 4. Run-off elections shall be held at the ArkMEA Fall Professional Development Conference.

Section 5. Newly elected officers shall assume duties January 1.

Article VI - Vacancies

Section 1. A vacancy in the office of President shall be filled by the President-Elect.

Section 2. Vacancies occurring in any offices except the office of President may be temporarily filled upon recommendation of the president and approval of the Executive Council until the next election.

Section 3. In case of emergency, the President may, with the approval of the Executive Council, call for a special mail ballot.

Article VII - Meetings

Section 1. Annual Business Meetings. There shall be a business meeting held

in conjunction with the annual ArkMEA Fall Professional Development Conference.

Section 2. Special Meetings. These meetings may be called by the President with the approval of a majority of the Executive Council, or at the written request of not less than fifteen (15) active members of the association. All members shall receive notification not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the meetings.

Section 3. Board of Directors Meetings. There shall be no fewer than two (2) Board of Directors meetings per year. Also, the board may meet at the call of the President or the written request of at least seven (7) members of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Executive Council Meetings. The Executive Council shall meet at the call of the President as necessary.

Article VIII - Policies and Disposition of Assets in Case of Disbandment

Section 1. Basic policies of the Association are:

- A.** The Association shall be non-commercial, non-sectarian, and non-partisan.
- B.** The name of the Association shall not, directly or indirectly, be used in any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office.
- C.** The Association may cooperate with other organizations, but persons representing the Association in such matters shall make no commitment that binds the Association.

Section 2. The purposes for which the ArkMEA is organized are exclusively educational within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law.

Section 3. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, this organization shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law.

Section 4. Upon the dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code,

or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes. It is directed that assets be used for the furtherance of music education in the State of Arkansas as far as this section allows.

Article IX - Quorums

Section 1. Quorums for the transaction of business shall be as follows:

- A. Board of Directors Meeting - a majority of voting members.
- B. Executive Council Meeting - a majority of committee members.

Article X - Rules and Procedures

Section 1. The parliamentary principles set forth in *Robert's Rules of Order, Revised Edition*, shall govern in all cases not covered by the constitution or by-laws.

Article XI - Amendments

Section 1. This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a business session of the Association, provided that the active membership has been notified of said amendments at least fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the meeting.

Section 2. This constitution may be amended temporarily by referendum vote in the following manner: the secretary upon direction of the Board of Directors shall submit the amendment by mail to all active members of the Association; if approved by a vote of not less than two-thirds majority of the returned ballots received within twenty (20) days after the date of mailing the amendment, the amendment shall automatically be in effect until the time of the next regular meeting of the membership. Such referendum votes must be confirmed by a majority vote of the active members present at a regular business meetings.