Kaden Propps-MO NAfME-C Board President

MMEA Board Report

April 23rd, 2022

 MO NAfME-C had a tremendous success at the MMEA conference this year! We had over 300 NAfME-C members register and attend the conference, which is a great turn out for our first year back in person after our time away due to the pandemic. The sessions that NAfME-C sponsored had an amazing turn out and great reception by all who were there. It was fantastic having Mr. Daniel Jarrett from Branson public schools and Dr. Adam Khel from the University of Hawaii give our members the advice and knowledge needed to start their music education career off on the right track. Well over 3/4ths of our rooms were full with members excited to learn and gain the knowledge to be the best educators they could be.

 Along with our sessions, MO NAfME-C held our annual business meeting on the Friday of the conference. It was well attended and we were able to get many things accomplished in a short amount of time. Our big topics that we covered were centered around the bylaws that had not been changed, advised, or amended since 2012. There were many articles that were out of date and/or practice and we knew we needed to fix them during this meeting. One of the first issues we covered were the terms of each executive board member. The bylaws previously stated that board members were to only serve one year starting on the Saturday morning of the MMEA conference which they were elected and ending the following conference. After discussion with those in attendance, we agreed and voted on extending the terms until May 31st of each year. The biggest reason behind this was to allow the sitting board to have the remainder of the academic year to still have outreach opportunities for NAfME-C members across the state. With this amendment, we also discussed the election and voting process for the new board members. The way we previously were holding nominations and elections only happened at the business meeting that Friday evening of the conference. This process involved the chapters coming in and nominating in person, having the candidates stand up and give a two-minute speech on why they should be elected, and then sending them out into the hallway while the chapters took a vote by show of hands. This all seemed too laxed to be the election process for positions such as these. The MO NAfME-C Executive Board came up with an idea that was then voted on and passed at this meeting to create a more professional and respected way of holding elections. All chapters will be notified in the fall that at the MMEA conference we will be holding elections and those who are interested in the positions could send in an application to be considered and put on the ballot. Once their application is in, it will go through a vetting process by those who are selected by the NAfME-C Advisor, and they will be narrowed down to two candidates for each position available. From there, the names and information of those running will be sent to all chapters so that their members have time to look over each candidate and discuss before coming to the conference where the voting will be held. We felt that this was our best option in trying to make sure that the organization stays on the right track of professionalism and respect all those who are involved.

 In making these changes, the members voted to forgo the election process for this conference and try to do one online by the end of the term. That evening at the NAfME-C reception, I spoke to many members and got some feedback about their ideas and thoughts for the remaining year. Many expressed their concern that there would not be anyone who would be interested in filling the board positions for the next term, and that they did not know how next year would look with all the new changes on top of having a new board. After hearing these concerns, we, the executive board, sat down to figure out a plan. After several hours of brainstorming, the best idea that we could come up with was that we stay on for another term to make these changes within the bylaws and start the groundwork for the new election process. We felt that it would be extremely difficult for a new board and new advisor to come on in the midst of all these changes and have a smooth-running organization. The next morning, I took the time to meet with several Chapter Presidents who were on board with this idea and expressed their full support moving forward. Things might look a little crazy this year in trying to make the correct changes for MO NAfME-C, but we are excited and looking forward to the opportunity to help and create a better working environment for this wonderful organization.

 I would like to personally thank our Secretary Catherine Dean, Vice President of Programing Cooper Smith, and our advisor Gary Brandes for all the help and collaboration they gave into helping create a great conference for the NAfME-C members and all the work they are doing now to lay the groundwork for these changes within the organization. I know I can speak for Catherine, Cooper, and myself when I say that we are extremely excited to be working with our new Vice President of Membership Jessica Arnold, our new Webmaster Gabby Moore, and our new advisor Dorothy Glick Maglione! They are great additions to this board and they will be invaluable in helping make these new changes and creating another great conference in 2023!

Respectfully submitted,

Kaden Propps

MO NAfME-C Board President