Mentoring Report

April 15, 2023

September 2022 was the first year the Collegiate MMEA and Tri-M programs were incorporated into the MMEA Mentoring Clinic at Margaritaville. I could not attend this event due to Covid, but reports indicate it was very successful. It is my understanding that this will be refined and repeated this fall on September 17-18, 2023.

In January the 45 minute mentoring sessions for Elementary, K-12, Strings, Choir, and Band, were well attended. Young teachers support these events to get new methods and materials, as well as “nuts and bolts” details on how to improve their classroom skills and performances.

We look forward to working with MSHSAA again to distribute the young teacher recruiting letter to superintendents and activities directors in Missouri. Even though the letter is sent to every district in the state the information does not always get distributed to all the young music educators. We need assistance building a comprehensive list of people who are eligible and would benefit from MMEA Mentoring.

District Presidents and their Mentoring Chairs, please continue to reach out to young teachers. It would be beneficial if those officers could attend the Mentoring Conference in September to meet those new to your area.The personal face-to-face relationships with colleagues are a big factor that encourages them to stay in the field.

Finally, a First Year Teachers Guide to Missouri Music Education (basically a handbook) should be our next step. Since every district in Missouri has different processes, procedures, and timelines, every district needs to start gathering information about band, choir, elementary, and orchestra activities in their location. This will be an excellent resource so any music educator moving to a new district can access information.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Litwiller

Mentoring Chair