



The Voice of Music

*An official publication of
the Virginia Federation of
Music Clubs*

Winter 2016

President's Musings

BY JEAN FRAZIER - PRESIDENT

IN THIS ISSUE

I've been hearing lately about the declining membership in our clubs, and no one seems to know what to do or how to go about retaining and getting new members. Quoting from NFMC's "Guide to Membership" "Membership Retention – Keeping Club Members" it says: "After having spent so much time and effort getting members to join the Club, it just makes good sense to do everything possible to make sure they renew their membership over and over. When asked to define their membership retention "program" many leaders say simply "the way to keep members is to provide good programs." That's certainly true. Good programs normally mean repeat members. However, it's the members, not the Club leaders who define "good programs." Instead of relying on a subjective evaluation of the quality of the Club's programs, the Club leaders should put together a retention program that contains a step-by-step approach to involving members and bringing them back." It also talks about using members talents, not just their time. Give them a "little" job to do which can be to assist a committee carry out a fund raiser,

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special programs, etc. Let folks in your neighborhood/area know you are a music club working to help further the music education of young folks in your area.

Continue using the reports on our web site. I am in the process of updating some of the reports with the new chair information. Some of the changes are: Dr. Liana Valente is the new Chair for Arts Advocacy. Her address is 2121 Jamieson Avenue, Unit 709, Alexandria VA 22314. Linda E. Thomason is the new Chair for Poetry. Her address is 209 Wyndhurst Drive, Lynchburg VA 24502. Charlene Gray is the new chair for Music Outreach. Her address is 312 Twin Cedars Road, South Hill VA 23970. Ellen Schaack is the new chair for Folk Music. Her address is 214 East Buck Avenue, Rural Retreat VA 24368. Cynthia Elmore is the new Education Department Chair [Achievement Record Books Judge]. Her address is 9514 Eredine Way, Bristow VA 20136. Cynthia Steinbach is the new Protocol Chair. Her address is 20 Fairfax Circle, Fredericksburg VA 22405. Wendell Anderson is the new Finance Chair. His address is 602 Falmouth Drive, Fredericksburg VA 22405. Judy Caudill is the new Chair for National Music Week & Essay. Her address is 8352 Belle Haven Road, Roanoke VA 24019. These are the only **confirmed** new chairs. I am still working to get some new folks onboard as a VFMC Chair.

Remember to get all your reports completed and mailed; these reports determine who receives certificates at the convention for your hard work during the past year.

Think about attending the convention 19-21 May 2016. It is going to be held at the Hilton Garden Inn located at 800 Southpark Boulevard in Colonial Heights. The room rate is \$99.00 per night; to get this rate we need a guaranteed number of 25 members to attend. Frances Nelson, 1st VP of NFMC has accepted my invitation to be our guest speaker. Christie Conover, a young artist winner, will perform for us on Friday evening after the banquet. She is a soprano with a fantastic voice!! Invite your spouses, friends, neighbors, and family to come to our program on Friday evening.

Please wear your insignia when you have your local meetings, district meetings, state, and national meetings to show you are a member of VFMC and NFMC. Let folks in your local area and other areas you belong to music clubs who are helping youth in their pursuit of music whether it be through, piano, cello, viola, violin, harp, voice, and/or dance. You have taken strides in becoming members of these clubs, be proud and show others you are invested in the sponsorship of youth and yourselves.

Blessings to one and all,

Jean Frazier, President VFMC



Sad news – From NFMC

Margie Garrett from Alabama *passed* away 7 November 2015. **Joe Ince** of Texas passed away 10 November 2015. **Nancy Hatz** passed away 20 January 2016.

VFMC's beloved **Agnes Downie** passed away Saturday, 12 March 2016, as a result of Sepsis. Her funeral is scheduled for Thursday, 17 March 2016, at Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church, Vinton. VA (see obituary later in this newsletter)



Dates to remember:

State Evaluation Reports are due **1 March 2016**. I will be forwarding the form to the club presidents very soon.

VFMC Annual Convention is **19-21 May 2016** in Colonial Heights.

NFMC Southeastern Region Brevard meeting is **22-23 July 2016** at the Brevard Music Center in Brevard, North Carolina. If you've never been, you should make an effort to go to see and hear all the young musicians attending the summer camp. They are FANTASTIC

NFMC 2016 in Tulsa Oklahoma will be **21-25 June 2016**.

About our members:

Elma Swain fell during Sunday School in our church 3 weeks ago resulting in a hairline fracture of her left knee. She is in Springtree Health and Rehabilitation Center, at 3433 Springtree Drive NE Roanoke VA 24012. She has what I call a cast/brace from her groin to her ankle. She is doing better with it than the first time I visited with her. She gets scolded by a therapist if she doesn't keep the leg elevated when sitting in her wheelchair. I know she would appreciate a card letting her know she is thought about.

I am still in need of:

A full-time Web Site master

Chairs for: Together We Sing and Sacred Music; Chamber Music, American Women Composers, Students Awards Audition.

If anyone is interested in any of these, please let me know at gljeanfrazier@Verizon.net; 540-345-0393.

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! VFMC's Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer are retiring after a long service effective 31 May 2016. We need a new treasurer and assistant treasurer on board effective 1 June 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter. Let me give you a little insight into the job as a State Treasurer from the "State Treasurer's Handbook" NFMC. "The state federation treasurer occupies a position of importance second only to the state president. The oversight and administration of the state federation's funds are critical to its operation, and the person who serves as treasurer should have certain specific qualifications. In addition to the obvious need for trustworthiness, the treasurer needs to have a basic knowledge of accounting, and investment procedures. For VFMC Treasurer information go to our web site and read our bylaws. If anyone is interested, please let me know at gljeanfrazier@verizon.net.

It would be beneficial if an applicant[s] has/have worked with Quickbook or a system very much like it. The treasurer says the busiest time of her year is from August to 15 December with the Junior Clubs Counselors.

VFMC Insurance

PLEASE READ

The Virginia Federation of Music Clubs has purchased Liability Insurance for all VFMC Club Functions. This includes, but is not limited to the 10 Federation Festivals and club meetings. The individual clubs no longer need to purchase their own insurance. The Club Presidents have been emailed a copy of the insurance policy. This is not a certificate. In the past, some of you have needed a certificate for specific programs and locations. These certificates are still available, however they are only for 1 event taking place 1 time. Each event or location will need a separate certificate and I will need ample notification (time, date, location) in order to process the certificate. It is very helpful that your club create a printed program for each event with the statement that you are a member of VFMC and are sponsoring this event.

This past year, for the first time, an event needed a special certificate. The event location needed to be listed on the policy as “Additionally Insured”. This is not a problem, however I need more time to procure this certificate. If your location or event will need this type of insurance I will need to have the information by August preceding the event. This particular type of certificate is expensive unless it is ordered early. Your club will incur the cost of this certificate if not ordered in a timely manner. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding VFMC Insurance.

This is only one of the many advantages you have by being a member of Virginia Federation of Music Clubs. Please show your appreciation and support by becoming involved on at the state level as a chairman or officer. VFMC needs your help and your support in order to continue working for you and the many juniors in Virginia.

Marcia Chaplin

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BY SUSAN TURRY

Our convention is fast approaching and you will need to send me your nominees for the Nancy Hoback Milne Citations for Outstanding Service for 2016. The recipient this year will be from District I at the Hilton Garden Inn in Colonial Heights on May 19 - 21. Please send me your applications (found on the VFMC website or I can email you a copy) for this years recipient no later and/or postmarked by May 2, 2016. I'm looking forward to the recipients you will be sending in for our committee to choose tom this year. Remember the recipient must be from the District that the convention is being held. Anyone in the state may send in a name.

Lynchburg Music Teachers Association (LMTA)

BY LINDA THOMASON, PRESIDENT

Lynchburg Music Teachers Association is a growing club with 23 members and 2 honorary members. President, Rosie Troxel, has had numerous exciting programs for us, including a Christmas Luncheon at the English Tea Room in downtown Lynchburg with harp music as we dined. We have our Junior Festival coming up on March 5, and we have that in the Music Building at Liberty University. Because we draw from 5 different counties, this is considered a community outreach for the university. We have over 300 entries, with some students doing multiple events.

LMTA would like for you to know us better! District I is spread over a great amount of distance, therefore we don't get to see each other on a regular basis. This is a way for us to learn more about our clubs from all Districts in the state. We consider ourselves mighty – mighty professional, mighty good teachers, mighty in fellowship and mightily federated; we keep abreast of state and national news and always keep our membership informed of all events. We wear our insignia at each meeting.

This month, we are featuring one of our teachers: her name is Mary Pritchard. Mary has been teaching for over 25 years. She has taught piano in schools and colleges as well as in assisted living situations. Her goal is for her students to find enjoyment in playing piano throughout their lives. This is Mary's second year with LMTA. She finds the organization gives juniors a sense of achievement that can be measured through participation in the Jr. Festival each year. Her kids get excited and encourage each other to do their best. Mary's Piano Studio gives back to the community. Her students play concerts for Runk and Pratt Senior Living, for TV, community and school plays and church services. There are two piano recitals a year for family and friends, and the spring recital reflects original compositions many students enjoy creating – expressing their musical



thoughts by writing music. Mary says, "I enjoy being a member of the LMTA. Through the organization I have discovered new teaching ideas and newly composed piano music. I hope to continue to learn

and find enjoyment playing piano and seeing the progress of my students."

Springfield Music Club

BY SUSAN R. MAHER, PRESIDENT

Springfield Music Club (SMC) concluded another successful Spring Festival with over 900 students participating in events from piano solos to strings and voice events. Cindy Abernathy and Gail Cope chaired this event at Columbia Baptist Church in Falls Church, VA. Their leadership and attention to detail ensured that the event run without a glitch. The addition of a master class for a third year in a row, this year led by Narciso Solero added another dimension to this festival. Students who participated in this master class offered for free, as well as their teachers, gained invaluable knowledge and appreciation for the finer points of musicianship.

SMC is looking forward to the Sonata/Sonatina Festival and the Composer Competition events coming up.

The winter is a time when music plays a big role in our lives as it is the primary focus during the holiday season. Many of our members and students participate in concerts and events. We also had a nice program in December offered by young pianist George Fu who performed works from Beethoven and Schumann during our December General membership meeting.

We continue to focus on providing good communication and in helping our members grow by providing opportunities to learn through our pedagogy meetings and other programs that teach how to be a better musician and teacher.

We have a great group of teachers who like what they do. We see that through their students. They are happy children, well adapted who love their instrument and enjoy music.



OBITUARY

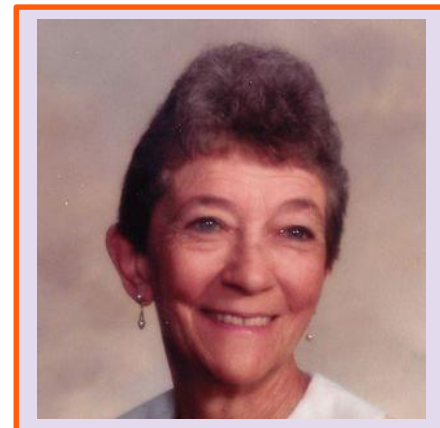
Agnes Lewis Fox Downie, 90, of Roanoke, Virginia, died on Saturday, March 12, 2016. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Joh Forbes Downie; and her daughter, Patricia Hunt Downie.

Agnes was born in Ashland, Virginia, on June 18, 1925, to her late parents, Sally Hunt Carter Fox and William Cowper Fox. She began the study of piano at age 5, and continued her studies as a special student in performance and concertizing with Professors of Music in Charlottesville, Virginia, then Richmond Professional Institute (now VCU) at age 16 until her marriage to Joh Forbes Downie on May 31 1947.

Agnes was a talented pianist whose lifelong passion for music left a legacy for many to remember. Agnes taught piano in Roanoke for over 50 years, influencing the lives of countless young musicians. She was a member of Thursday Morning Music Club for 50 years where she held positions on the state and national level, serving as President in 1987 and reelected in 1989.

In 1995, she organized a group called "Agnes and the Rinky Dinks". In 2001 she was elected President of the Virginia Federation of Music Clubs, receiving many honors including the Nancy Hoback Milne Citations for Distinguished Service in 1994, and most recently, she was honored by the National Federation of Music Clubs in May 2015 in Roanoke, Virginia, with the Rose Fay Thomas Fellows Award for her lifetime commitment to music.

Agnes was a past member of the Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church and for the last 15 years was a member of Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church in Vinton, Virginia, where she served as the pianist, accompanist and director of the hand bell choir until retiring this past December. Her gifts in music are



matched by her gifts to the world through her children. Agnes was devoted mother, chosen in 1989 as the Toanoke Valley Mother of the Year.

Survivors include her children, Kathleen Downie Cauthorn (Mason), Rob Downie (Brenda), Jay Downie (Debbie), Bill Downie (Pam) and Steve Downie (Mindy); grandchildren Todd Cauthorn (Nicola), Kristin Cauthorn Shannon (Mike), Ashley, Drew, Kelsey Downie Thueneman (Daniel), Meagan Downie Price (John), Christopher and Alison Downie; great-grandchildren Jacob, Matthew , and Mia Cauthorn, Mason and John Henry Shannon, and Carter Price.

A private interment in Evergreen Burial Park will precede the Memorial service, which will be held at 11am on Thursday, March 17, 2016 at Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1130 Hardy Road, Vinton. The Rec. James Smith will officiate. The family will receive friends from 3 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 16, 2016, at Oakley's South Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church in her memory. Online condolences may be expressed at www.oakeys.com

Oakeys South Chapel 540-989-3131

The Roanoke Times March 16, 2016