

Dear Federation Friends and Colleagues,

Congratulations to all as the Michigan Federation of Music Clubs enters our second century. I am completely overjoyed with our progress this year as an organization.

First, many thanks to our leadership at the club and state level. We are working tirelessly to seek, train, and advance those up and coming leaders. Leadership education is the foundation to sustain your senior clubs through artistic excellence and membership growth.

Next, congratulations to the Festival teachers and students on another successful season. We added one new Festival site and several new Festival teachers. Michigan now boasts 227 junior clubs and 3,911 junior members. While the new Festival site is in Southwest Michigan, the largest area of growth is Southeast Michigan. We desperately need to add another Festival site. Your input is always welcome.

Our crown achievement this year is the launching of the new MFMC website: MFMCMI.org. We secured Indiana Technology, the same technology developer used by the National Federation of Music Clubs, to 1) create a new Michigan website with the most current web technology; 2) integrate both the NFMC and MFMC sites for real-time communications and information; and 3) prepare for the up-coming Festival management system. Ultimately, this project allows us to better serve our membership by combining resources, up to date information, and methods to communicate needs.

Website Phase One included the structural design, general information, additional links for Michigan specific information including leadership, achieves, competitions and awards, Festivals, membership, news, publications, complete convention details, and more. Please take some time to explore.

Phase Two began in April with the addition of an MFMC and Club Calendar and leadership pages. We have added MFNC and NFMC meetings and events; however, please consider submitting your club programs. I have personally enjoyed visiting several clubs and programs this year. The calendar is another publicity avenue and membership growth opportunity for you.

Phase Three includes the Festival online management system. However, there is no confirmed date from NFMC.

Your input is important. Let us know what you like and what you need on this site to better serve you and your club.

Next, it has been an honor to work with the Southeast District on this convention. Its success is due to a strong collaborative effort and listening to the needs of our organization's members.

Future convention plans include continuing to expand leadership education; performing artist and teacher professional development; student and junior scholarships, awards, competitions, and festivals; and collaborating with like organizations. The performing arts is an integral part of our cultural heritage. Convention is the one event where we can all come together.

Finally, and most importantly, thank you for the many invitations and visits to your clubs. While attending many, weather did not allow me to attend all on the calendar. It is at these events where you have shared your ideas and concerns. Please continue to send emails, call, text, etc. as we are all learning, growing, and serving.

It is my honor to serve. Thank you for all you do.

Laurie M. Marshall, President

Michigan Federation of Music Clubs