

Dear fellow women in band (and friends),

November 20, 2022

I hope your school year got off to a good start this fall. Here we are, already 10 weeks into the semester! I can't believe it! For me, it has felt like a complete whirlwind. So many new things going on at my college this year and a very full schedule for me!

Before anything else, I would like to say thank you to everyone to came out to MBA this year in June. We had a wonderful conference, even with all the Covid precautions that many people still continue to take. I think for most of us, we probably managed to get Covid either in the spring or summer and hopefully made it through without too many complications or long-term effects. Covid certainly has turned our world upside down and caused us to look at everything in our lives completely differently. I'm sure we are all facing students with additional challenges in their lives as they adapt to the real world again. I am only thankful that we get to continue conducting and teaching and working with students of all ages. I truly treasure my time with my ensembles and the wonderful people in them.

We are hoping to have a booth at next year at MBA. This would be the first time, I believe. We had a few hoops to jump through and some wrinkles to iron out, but I think we've got it all worked out now. We are very excited! It's a great opportunity to reach out to some potential members and connect with other women in our field!

Currently, we are looking forward to the MMEA Conference. Our **meeting has been scheduled for Thursday at 4:00-4:45 in the Cedar Cove room**. I'll send you a reminder as it gets closer. Our proposed clinician was not selected, but we will try again next year! We are hoping to sponsor another clinic that supports women in the band world, so I'll keep you posted on that as well.

In regards to making plans for this upcoming January, we will need **volunteers to sit at our MWBDA booth** and work to get some new members interested! I realized last year that it makes a HUGE difference to have someone sitting at our booth. We had so many young women stop by to talk and express their interest in our group and then JOIN! I will send out a Doodle poll or Sign-up sheet or something soon.

For now, take care and stay warm as the weather gets colder! My college hosted an honor band this Saturday, so I've been SWAMPED getting all those details together with nominees, selecting students, doing part assignments, sending out music, etc. I rehearsed the music with them last week on Thursday (5 new pieces for me to learn!) and we had a great time. The music is very tough, but the students worked hard and did a great job. Dr. Curran Prendergast was our guest conductor, but I also conducted one piece on the concert. Today I am ready to crash, but of course, I'll be back at the college for a student recital at 3pm today! We just keep going!

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you in January! If you have not renewed your membership yet this year or you are not sure when you need to renew, please contact Jo Ellen Shroyer at jemshroyer@gmail.com. If you like, you can go to the webpage now to renew your membership! Jocelyn set this up about 4 years ago, and it's GREAT! If you need to update your preferred email address or any other information, please contact Jo Ellen about that as well. She can also let you know when your membership renewal date is.

Here's the main web page: <https://www.mwbda.org/>

And here's the membership renew page: <https://www.mwbda.org/membership.html>

Sincerely,

Elke Overton
MWBDA President
Associate Professor of Music
Jefferson College