

Greetings! It has been far too long since my last website letter. Lots of interesting things have been going on though, so this shouldn't be too hard to write.

First of all, we still need YOU to join MoAJE if you have not already done so. Besides the general warm fuzzy feeling you will get by supporting jazz education in our state, there is a more tangible benefit, IF you join before the MMEA conference: Scott Harris from Shhh! Productions will provide you with a free All-State Jazz Band CD. Thanks, Scott, for the offer and for your Corporate Membership. Thanks to our other corporate members also; so far we have St. Ann Music and Jazz St. Louis on board.

Here are a couple more thoughts about joining MoAJE. We would love to start doing other jazz education outreach, such as clinics, workshops, scholarships, etc. But first we need to stabilize our membership and finances. However, if we get as many members as we had a year ago, we will have more money than ever before...probably about 4 times as much. Why? Because under the IAJE state unit structure, only about \$5 of your nearly \$80 annual dues stayed in Missouri. Our dues are now \$20 – less for you, and more for us to work with!

Also, if you have been waiting to see what other groups will pop up to fill the IAJE void, and whether or not you will need to pay dues to them, the wait is over. (Actually it has been over for several months, but as I said...far too long since the last letter.) The Jazz Education Network (JEN) is a new organization to check out, BUT there will be no state level involvement or dues. If enough MoAJE members are interested, we (MoAJE) can join for \$25 per year, making it possible for MoAJE members to join JEN for an additional \$10 each. That is it though – no MoJEN, even though that would sound cool...sort of like mojo. Oh well.

I am looking forward to another great MMEA conference. This year's All-State Jazz Band promises to be outstanding, as does its conductor, Michael Kocour from Arizona State University. There will be a jam session Wednesday night (10:30 to midnight) in the upper area of the Black Bear Lodge. And there will be a big band reading session the next night in Salon C with the same start and end times.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns about MoAJE, and please don't forget to join before the conference!

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