



"The State of the Arts" TFMC President's Newsletter Autumn 2016

Musical Greetings!

With such a busy summer, September seems to have arrived early and Autumn is only a few days away. I hope that you have great things planned for your Senior and Junior Clubs this year. There are so many events and opportunities available to our NFMFC/TFMC Members. I will mention a few of them in another section of this letter.



There is an old song entitled, "Take Me Back To Tulsa." Bob and I had such a wonderful time seeing and visiting with all our Federation friends at the NFMFC Conference that, like so many others in attendance, we hated to say "good-bye" to Tulsa.

Every day at the Conference was filled—from the first-ever "State Presidents' Day" to the "Memorial Service" on Saturday morning. For me, there were many highlights—including, "Presidents' Day" and singing again in the American Festival Chorus. And any attendee could not help but appreciate all the time and effort that our members voluntarily put into this cultural organization—because the Federation makes a difference and because Music Matters!!

Bob and I also attended the Southeastern Regional Meeting in Brevard this year and were glad to be Tennessee's ambassadors to both of these NFMFC meetings.

TFMC Goals



This graphic illustrates the definition of "Smart" Goals. Those of us who are Club Officers and/or Junior Counselors know the value of setting goals and planning ahead. Here are three achievable goals for this year:

 **Grow our TFMC membership.** Sadly, the report from the NFMFC Convention was that our numbers on a National level are consistently shrinking. Disturbed by this news, Bob and I decided to start the Ebenezer Senior Music Club – to set an example and to "put our money where our mouths are."

No, you do not have to start a new club! But you can invite your family, friends and colleagues to visit your meetings and join in the music. Think of ways in which you can reach out to your community and grow your local club.

 **Become more involved.** If music is meaningful to you, consider how you can "Volunteer" to help your Senior Club or even serve on the State-level.

 **Increase your club's participation in TFMC/NFMFC Events & Activities** Last year, there was more participation in Federated events at both the Senior and Junior Levels in our State than in recent years. Congratulations! Let's keep the trend going!

I have prepared and am sending you a 2016-2017 "TFMC Calendar" of Events during the Federation Year, which I hope will be helpful with your planning.



Music and Culture

At the heart of any Culture is its music. Perhaps you have noticed how many children—and adults—no longer are familiar with American Folk Music and Traditional Hymns. The NEMC Booklets *Together We Sing* were created in an attempt to restore interest in and knowledge of songs from America's rich musical history. Keeping this music alive is a worthy goal.

However, I (as a Church Music Director), along with many other people in our state, was very disappointed that *Together We Sing* became a replacement for, rather than an addition to, the long-standing NEMC's *Hymn of the Month* Songbook.

So, I spoke with our TFMC Sacred Music Chairman, Reverend David Howe, and TFMC Chaplain, Elder Bob Gilliam, about creating a list of hymn suggestions that clubs could use throughout the year. The result is the "TFMC President's Sacred Song Series" list, attached as an addendum to this newsletter. Should you or your club wish to use it, all of the selections are available for listening or printing at www.hymnary.org.



♪ The TFMC Executive Committee and Board of Directors will hold a "virtual" meeting in October. There are several matters to be discussed, including the timing of the 2017 State Convention and the election of a new State Representative. Elaine Knight, a TFMC Life-Member and our current State Representative, has decided to step down and run instead for "Member-at-Large" to the NEMC Board. I will notify you of the Board's decisions.

- ♪ November is "American Music Month." This is the time to include music by American composers in your programs and, if you teach, in your studios.
- ♪ Our TFMC "Angie Greer Music in Poetry" Contest Chairman, Bob Gilliam, wants me to remind you that the postmark deadline for this year's contest is December 1, 2016. Please encourage your Juniors to write a poem about the music they love and enter the contest. Bob will e-mail the rules and application form to you soon.
- ♪ September is not too early to begin thinking about the National Music Week Essay Contest. The 2017 Theme is: "Music—An Adventure for Life."



Thank You!

With the publication of the 2017 - 2020 NEMC Federation Festivals Bulletin, preparations have already begun for the next Festival Season. Let's all say a special "Thank You!" to our TFMC (and Knoxville District) Festival Chairman, Lara Lawrence, for all her hard work and dedication—and for updating us on the latest information!

Don't Forget to Write!

As always, I would love to hear what your club is doing this year. Do you have a new yearbook, a special program or other upcoming event? I hope that you will share your Club's news!

"Chordially,"
Janie

Janie Gilliam, Ph.D.
TFMC President



“TFMC President’s 2016-2017 Sacred Song Series”

- ♪ September 2016 ~ "I Sing The Mighty Power of God"
- ♪ October 2016 ~ "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"
- ♪ November 2016 ~ "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"
- ♪ December 2016 ~ "Joy To The World"
- ♪ January 2017 ~ "Another Year Is Dawning"
- ♪ February 2017 ~ "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"
- ♪ March 2017 ~ "Be Thou My Vision"
- ♪ April 2017 ~ "Christ The Lord Is Risen Today"
- ♪ May 2017 ~ "For The Beauty of The Earth"
- ♪ June 2017 ~ "This Is My Father's World"
- ♪ July 2017 ~ "America, The Beautiful"
- ♪ August 2017 ~ "Leaning On The Everlasting Arms"

All the hymns above are available for reading, listening and printing at www.hymnary.org.

TFMC President's Theme 2015-2017: *"Music Speaks To The Heart!"*
TFMC President's Hymn 2015-2017: *"I Sing The Mighty Power of God"*