

Candidate for Region II Representative



Malia Walter

I have taught for 23 years in both Elementary and Middle School settings and have held every office in the Sierra Nevada chapter of AOSA.

I have had the great fortune to have been VP and President twice each and have served our Music Education community at the state level.

CANDIDATE FORUM

1. What do you see as the role of Orff Schulwerk?

Orff Schulwerk helps us to teach the whole child in a meaningful way. Through the use of movement, instrument playing, and vocals we can engage our students in the important subject of music. Through creative projects such as student composed music and dances, we go one step further and build our students into problem solvers and thinkers who will become lifelong learners. People who are lifelong learners will be prepared for the future and creative problem solvers will be the ones leading the way. We not only do all of the above, but we also help our colleagues in the regular education classroom address their standards through the medium of music, without ever having to degrade the value of a strong music education for its own sake. This is the strength and power of Orff Schulwerk in music education today.

2. What are your leadership strengths and how do you think they would contribute to the work of AOSA and promoting Orff Schulwerk?

In my various roles in local and state music educator organizations, I have been a voice for those that I represent within our profession and always have at the forefront of my thoughts, what is best for children. I listen to all sides of an argument and analyze all the information before making decisions. I have been complimented on my ability to stay calm in a variety of situations and draw the essence out of important discussions.

3. What is the role of the National Board of Trustees as it relates to the general membership and how would you fulfill this role?

Any representative, including the National Board of Trustees, should reflect the needs and beliefs of

those they represent. I would do this through open communication and consistent contact with chapters in my region. I would also like to look into using the wonders of technology to enhance and improve support to the leadership of our local chapters. Region II happens to be quite widespread in mileage, but could be well served by video conferences, large group discussions via FaceBook or other sharing technologies.

4. What is your vision for AOSA and Orff Schulwerk in the future?

AOSA and Orff Schulwerk are strong foundations that music educators can use to further their work with children. The best way to convince anyone that a product or a philosophy is worthwhile is to show them in action, and our organization already does a great job of this with high quality local clinics and a world class professional development conference. I came out of college unsure that I had made the right choice for my profession and was “saved” by members of our local AOSA chapter and so I believe that we need to work hard to mentor and support our new educators.

The strength of Orff Schulwerk is that it is so diverse. I believe in living a balanced life, and I have learned to bring that mindset into my teaching and as a member of AOSA. Continuing that balance, with emphasis on support to our members, would be my focus for the future of the organization.