

Candidate for Region III Representative: Shelly A. Smith



Biography:

Shelly Smith instructs children in grades PreK-5 at Mari Sandoz Elementary School in Omaha, Nebraska. She teaches movement and recorder at several AOSA Teacher Education courses and has served as a workshop clinician at numerous professional development conferences, school districts, and AOSA regional chapters.

CANDIDATE FORUM

1. What do you see as the role of Orff Schulwerk in music education today?

Orff Schulwerk plays a vital role in music education in the United States and throughout the world, giving children an opportunity to express themselves in creative and imaginative ways. A child who learns to make music in an environment filled with rich experiences using Orff Schulwerk media develops essential creative thinking skills that serve as a foundation for musicianship, problem solving, and interacting with others, and ultimately becomes a life-long musician and supporter of the arts.

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 teaching career, I've had the good fortune to develop many professional relationships and utilize my organizational skills with hundreds of talented educators through my involvement in AOSA. I am comfortable working in small group settings in person or using internet/electronic resources. I prefer to listen and gather as much information as possible before offering my opinion, and I work best with an overall goal in mind, taking or developing the steps necessary to complete tasks in a timely fashion.

I have a deep commitment to the current and future success of AOSA. I want to work to ensure future generations of music educators have the resources and tools to be successful in meeting the ever-changing needs of the students whom we serve and to develop practices to stay up-to-date with current educational trends.

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?

The NBT is the governing body of AOSA. Its responsibility is to guide and direct internal business to ensure the successful future of the organization. Each member serves a unique role by serving on various committees that maintain the yearly operations of AOSA. The NBT is ultimately responsible to both the organization and the membership, and I eagerly anticipate serving to the best of my abilities.

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

I envision a future AOSA continuing to support both veteran and new teachers by providing the highest quality educational and professional development opportunities and by utilizing the Schulwerk in the ways Carl Orff and Gunild Keetman intended. Such support would also include exploring possibilities to use current educational practices and technology, and investigating ways to reach teachers that might not otherwise receive support and professional development in Orff Schulwerk.