

Candidate for Region VI Representative: Teena Boone



Biography:

Teena Boone is the music specialist at New Hope Academy in Franklin, TN and has 25+ years in teaching. She has a BS and Masters in Music Education and has completed her OS Treacher Training courses. She has held several offices in the MTAOSA chapter, including president, and was Hospitality Co-Chair for the 2014 AOSA Professional Development Conference.

CANDIDATE FORUM

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

I believe in the effectiveness of the Orff Schulwerk approach for teaching music to children. I see it as one of the most hands-on approaches to growing a child's natural musical gifts. I also feel it is an approach that is needed even more in this age of technology - to provide a child with a more basic connection to who they are and to others around them. It is also a very viable method for music teachers to instruct in a way that can naturally connect to the total curriculum of their school while still teaching solid musical skills. For music teachers, the Schulwerk is a creative way of teaching and of keeping their own musical self active and growing, which keeps the joy in the teaching process for all involved. The challenge in today's teaching environment is adapting to the demands of Common Core and other assessments while still staying true to the purpose of Orff Schulwerk.

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

I have recently held the positions of vice president and president of our local chapter and feel I was able to do a good job and put some fresh ideas in place. Our chapter had already been on a path of financial growth, and while I was president, we began giving back to our membership in the forms of (1) a Level I scholarship each year, (2) a free year of workshops to any brand new teachers who joined our chapter, and (3) financial support for our president to attend the national conference. It was also when I was president that we were approached about hosting the AOSA National Conference, and I found myself in the position of leading discussions and gathering information to help guide us to the decision to say "yes." I held the position of co-chair of Hospitality for this conference. The many tasks that went with this, from planning for the conference to post-conference work, were all formative in further developing my leadership skills. I think this experience will greatly help if I am chosen as a Regional Representative.

I think one of my best strengths is my openness to brainstorming ideas with a group to find solutions, to reach consensus, and to think outside of previous ways of doing tasks. I think this is a place AOSA finds itself right now - having to think of new ways to communicate more, to increase membership, and to provide the quality conference experience for which it has a reputation. I have a heart for promoting Orff Schulwerk and would enjoy being part of the leadership group that is working toward this goal.

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 role of the National Board of Trustees is to provide support for and communication to the general membership. I would work toward fulfilling this role using my personal talents and experience. I would try my best to listen to the needs of my region's chapters and help as much as possible to guide them to ways to meet the needs of their membership. Communication is a big key in this process, and within this communication, the sharing of best practices from other chapters is important. I believe I have a gift for problem solving and think this is an important skill I can bring to this role.

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

My vision is for Orff Schulwerk education for teachers and students to continue and to grow. Young teachers need to hear more about Orff Schulwerk, and the teachers already involved need to seek out and mentor this new generation of music educators. Administrators need to hear more about the benefits of this teaching method and see it being practiced. Seasoned teachers need assistance and support as they are figuring out how to educate their administrators, how to reach the young teachers, and how to continue to do their jobs well as the educational climate continues to change. AOSA needs to continue to be a presence in today's music education development and

promotion at the state and national levels, hand in hand with other quality organizations. AOSA is very inclusive of other methods and arts and works with them side by side to promote solid music education for children. I see keeping these connections as vital for AOSA moving forward.