

Report to FSMTA Executive Board
From Mark Repasky, Chairman of Community Service Awards
May 26, 2008

Since becoming Chairman of Community Service Awards this past summer, I have spent considerable time and effort learning what my responsibilities are and how to carry them out. A special note of appreciation goes to Paulette Kilts, who helped get me up to speed during the past several months.

2008 WINNER

There were no applicants for the Local Presidents Community Service Award in 2008. Nora Hansen from Panama City was the only applicant for the LeRoy Greenspan Memorial Community Service Award. Three judges reviewed the application and deemed her worthy of the award. She and her teacher were notified in mid-May. A plaque, check for \$500.00 and certificates of recognition as Bay County Winner and State Winner will be presented at the Third General Session on Saturday morning, June 21, 2008. < SPAN style="mso-spacerun: yes"> Tanya Brooks, President of North Florida MTA will accept the award in Nora's name since she cannot attend this event. Nora has expressed her appreciation for being honored with this award.

RECOMMENDED CHANGE TO APPLICATION FORMS

Under the present timeline listed in the application forms, all applications must be in the hands of the Local MTA President or High School Liaison Chairman by March 15. By April 1 the county winners must be in the hands of the State Chairman. Two weeks is probably not long enough for the Local MTA President or High School Liaison Chairman to evaluate the applications, especially if there are multiple entries. I propose we move the date applications must reach the Local MTA President or High School Liaison Chairman to March 1. With the State Conference now held in June, the State Chairman must move quickly to have the applications evaluated, winners declared and arrangements made for the award ceremony at the State Conference. It is vitally important that applications of county winners reach the State Chairman by April 1.

ENCOURAGE GREATER PARTICIPATION

How can we help our teachers to inspire their students to apply for these annual awards? Our local chapters should each have a Community Service Awards chair or representative. Every year they can make announcements or write articles to encourage teachers to involve their students. Teachers should become familiar with the application forms for these awards. They are available from the FSMTA website (www.fmta.org). Students should be encouraged to keep a log of their volunteer activities involving music. Teachers can show students how to set this up. For the Local Presidents Community Service Award, students need to list their activities during their 7th, 8th and 9th grades. The Greenspan Award spans 10th through 12th grade activities. When applying for college, such lists are valuable. These days, student volunteerism is an important part of many college entrance applications.

Service to the community through music can cover a wide range of activities. Examples could include singing in a school, community or church choir, performing at recitals, at retirement centers, at community functions, playing in a band or orchestra, accompanying, serving as a music leader or teacher. If you volunteer your time and it serves the needs of the community, mark it down! A \$500.00 award goes to the State Winner of the Greenspan Award each year, and \$100.00 goes to the Local Presidents Winner. Winning one of these awards reflects very positively on the student and their teacher!

I plan to provide more information about these awards and encourage more participation through our bi-monthly newsletter *The Florida State Music Teacher* in the coming months.