

DISTRICT VIII REPORT  
FALL 2009-Ybor City  
CONFERENCE 2010

President- Lesia Schulha                      Treasurer- Bobby Brader  
President-Elect-Donna Cupicha              Recording Secretary-Linda Rudzinski

The District is now in full gear with Manatee County and Sarasota County having begun their fall meetings and student events. A Multi-keyboard and instruments “Duets & More” program is being held in November in Manatee County , while the Clavinova Festival and Composition contest are underway in Sarasota.. During the first meetings, State Conference Committee sign-up sheets were passed around and filled. Each member present was asked to sign up for at least one job and to then bring in another member to help. I will be forwarding this sign-up sheet to our assisting District.

The date for the FSMTA 2010 Conference will be Thursday November 4-6, with the Foundation banquet the evening of Wednesday November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Several ideas that have arisen for 2010 are as follows:

1. We need to have exhibitors to promote new music, to feature our local stores and artists, and to provide discounted music for our members;
2. If we are unable to go through with a concert artist at the local community college, then we will try to coordinate with a local artist series. The issue is that the concert would then be on Saturday evening at the end of the conference.
3. Participants need to be encouraged to stay at the conference hotel or pay a higher conference fee. We had too many participants skip out of the designated hotel last year. This is an idea that is under discussion.
4. We need to have more variety in presentations to include material for our student and faculty members, including composers, new technology , improvisation and business aspects of teaching.

Currently, many of the smaller tasks have a good number of volunteers, but at this time the hotel and venues are still being researched. The good news is that the State College of Florida in Bradenton is able to help with funding a concert artist-thank you Charles Turon- so we will now be able to have our own concert and Master Class as has been traditionally done in the past.

I have been in contact with Marc hebda regarding conference and hotel issues from the June 2009 Conference. I have also had many emails with Adrienne Leblanc who as President-elect is involved in the next 2 conferences and many thanks to them already!

Respectfully,  
Lesia schulha, M.Mus.  
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