

## January 2009 Provisional Members Board Report 3A

Currently there are **28** provisional members listed on the state database.

Since the last report **no members have become active or forfeited their memberships.**

**The following members are close to their expiration dates.** If they are part of your local association, please let your membership chairman know so he or she can check in with these provisional members to see if they need assistance.

Zuleika Abreu MIMTA 3/1/09

Josh Ewing MCMTA 10/1/09

Olga Farah MIMTA 3/1/09

Patti Gray UPMTA 5/1/09

Becki Velazquez PSMTA 10/1/09

Erol Yalim BCMTA 6/6/09

### List of provisional members by local association and expiration dates:

#### **Name and expiration**

Zuleika Abreu MIMTA 3/1/09

Patricia Baker TALLMTA 5/21/11

Carmela Barbour TCMTA 4/16/11

Esther Diaz-Alejo MIMTA 2/25/11

Rosemarie Dreyer CFMTA 7/1/11

Luanne Dwyer TCMTA 10/7/10

Josh Ewing MCMTA 10/1/09

Olga Farah MMTA 3/1/09

Shazkya Fernandez TCMTA 10/25/10

Serena Ferraguti BCMTA 9/3/11

Lili Fest PBMTA 8/3/11

Christina Gibbs PMTA 10/7/10

Patti Gray UPMTA 5/1/09

Christine Jutras SSMTA 6/11/11

Peter Krueger PSMTA 9/25/11

Cheryl Lew UPMTA 8/25/10

Laura Meredith JMTA 12/22/11

Bobette Morgan SSMTA 8/4/10 *Is student member for 2008-2009 but is still under three year provisional requirement.*

Barbara Muze BCMTA 8/13/10

Patricia Ockert TAMMTA 3/13/11

Denise Tomlinson BCMTA 8/13/10

Janine Truesdell MSMTA 3/13/11

Rita de Petris Vallis TCMTA 11/9/10

Silvia Vargas MIMTA 8/18/11

Silvia L. Vargas MIMTA 12/22/11

Becki Velazquez PMTA 10/1/09

Erol Yalim BCMTA 6/6/09

Jonathan Ziegler PMTA 9/9/10

At this time I would like to bring up the case for "open membership". With the economy in the state it's in I feel that it is time to join MTNA in open membership.

In working with the provisional members over the past few years I have determined that we are losing many prospective active members due to economic and family difficulties. Several have gone through divorce, dealt with caring for sick family members and loss of jobs due to having to move to a new area. I can speak from experience since I, too, was a provisional member and had to deal with working full time, raising two small children and being the only caregiver for my aged parents-in-law. It took me 9

years to become active. If my parents-in-law had not passed away when they did, I would not be in this job today.

I know many of us in the past have been very much against open membership. Therefore I have listed some things for us to think about and I ask that at the June Conference State Executive Board meeting we be allowed to have a 10 minute discussion on this matter.

- It is extremely unfair that a provisional member can move out of state and join that state association and then move back to Florida and automatically be accepted as an active member. Yet we have people that live here in Florida that must go through the provisional requirements to become active members.
- Some individuals may join just so they can have the credentials without the schooling many of us have. But I have found that in every professional association there are those unscrupulous individuals that want the name recognition without the work. We have a code of ethics that is supposed to prevent members from unscrupulous activities. It should be discussed with each individual before they are accepted as a member.
- MTNA has provided a wonderful national certification program to improve the level of professionalism within the field of music teaching. At this time there is little incentive in our state to become nationally certified since active membership automatically sets us higher than provisional membership.
- Perhaps many of us think that some new members may undercut our tuition fees for lessons. I have found that if a person asks me my tuition fee before discussing anything else, I really don't want them as a student anyway. How many of us advertise to get students? How many of us have a waiting list because of our reputation?
- I have found in my community that there are several teachers that just won't join or come to a meeting because they feel so intimidated by the provisional status. It's as if they are second class citizens. They have expressed a desire to become part of a group and get more training and knowledge to become better at what they do. This kind of person would be an asset to our local associations, not a burden, since they would be able to grow as a music teacher and music leader in the community. On our state application someone has to endorse the new member. Perhaps they could be assigned a mentor to help them integrate into the local association. This would be for all members, not just those without a music degree.
- Our mission statement says in part: *The primary purpose of the Association is the advancement of music in the State of Florida through excellent teaching, learning, and performing which seeks to recognize individual achievement at all levels. Specifically, the Association strives to raise and maintain the standards of music teaching; stimulate public interest in music; encourage the study of music; and protect its members in all matters pertaining to the profession.* I feel that this can be achieved with or without the provisional membership category.

Report submitted by

Tanya R. Brooks, NCTM FSCTM

FSMTA Provisional Member Advisor