

DISTRICT VIII REPORT
JUNE 2010-GAINESVILLE

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

District VIII has been very busy with preparations for the Fall 2010 Conference to be held at the Hilton Garden Inn by Sarasota-Bradenton Airport. We are trying to address many of the concerns raised by previous conference attendees and are happy to include lower hotel rates, 2 big-name publishers for BOTH exhibits AND presenters, and free transportation to and from the airport AND the concerts, and a free Continental breakfast for members. District Student Day continues to be run and held at the local level. In Manatee County there were 17 performers who obtained honors in the Performance portion and passed the rest to qualify for the winners' concert, various cash prizes and the state medal. There were no entries for District Concerto Competition this year, for which the winners had to travel to Jacksonville.

At the local levels, both Sarasota and Manatee counties had 5 and 8 monthly meetings this year. Manatee County had a mixture of Sunday afternoon at 2:30 for the opening meeting and the Christmas Musical treats, as well as the traditional Thursday mornings and one Saturday after Student Day testing. Sarasota had all of their meeting this year Saturday at 1 pm or early Sunday afternoon. Many interesting programs were presented ranging from group performances to teaching improvisation and composing for children. Manatee county had their bi-annual PIANOS & MORE multi-keyboard and multi-instrument fundraiser this year with great success and only 1 group rehearsal required! Sarasota County again had their Scholarship competition followed by the winners presented at the year-end tea.

Finally, as District president I am pleased to have just found out that both Community service awards were won by members of our District; Marion Cox in Sarasota County and Melodie Dickerson in Manatee County.

Respectfully submitted,
Lesia Schulha