



AFMC October Newsletter 2023

2023 AFMC Conference Report



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"Opera-tunities" in Arkansas

The 2023 AFMC Conference held in Little Rock on Saturday, September 16, was attended by 27 AFMC members and all but two clubs were represented at the event. The new AFMC Directory was distributed to those in attendance and the new Directory will be sent by email to all AFMC members this fall. The updated AFMC Bylaws will be placed on the AFMC website and not distributed on paper or by email. Three proposals were considered and approved by those in attendance:

1. The Elms Fund and the Hildegard Smith awards are no longer given as state awards. This money has been re-designated for travel expenses for the state president and AFMC's national board representative.
2. The AFMC Districts were voted to be restructured to two districts: North and South: (see diagram on next page) Implications of this change will be determined by the Board and communicated to members in the next newsletter.
3. It was voted to eliminate the appointed position of corresponding secretary. This is in line with NFMC's example.

Please take note of the following reports given at the Conference:

- ◆ National Dues have increased \$2 per member
- ◆ Clubs will have to pay a late fee of \$10 if the Sr. club report is sent after November 1st.
- ◆ Dr. George Keck reported that all NFMC awards were raised 4.5% for next year. A list of awards is available on the NFMC website.
- ◆ A Sr. Club and/or Jr. Club can do an international program and earn money through NFMC awards.

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- ◆ AFMC had a total of 708 participants and 57 teachers in AFMC Jr. Festivals in the Spring. There were 99 Gold Cups awarded.
- ◆ The \$4 fee for Festival Cups is not covering the cost. This is now being supplemented from the Vanguard Account so fees do not have to be raised this year.
- ◆ Past Presidents Dues: \$2 to NFMC - \$2 to AFMC which goes to Young Artist Fund
- ◆ The name of Inspiration Point is now **Inspiration Point Center for the Arts**
- ◆ The former “Together We Sing” program is now called “**Music in Song**” and a new book has been published by NFMC entitled “Music in Poetry and Song”.
- ◆ Dr. Barbara Lippincott has begun to administer and oversee the Vanguard Accounts.

Dr. Chris Thompson led a very meaningful service in memory of **Barbara Rhodes** - *Arkadelphia Philharmonic Club*, **Robin Williams** - *Hot Springs Music Club*, **Byron Reeves** - *Little Rock Musical Coterie*, **Helen Campbell** - *Pine Bluff Musical Coterie*, and **Peggy Lewis** - *Searcy Beethoven Club* (now defunct). Beautiful music was presented by Sally Martens, flute, for the service.

The restructuring of AFMC Districts into North and South gives each district 6 clubs with near equal numbers in each district.

North District

Bella Vista Andante Music Club
NW Arkansas Music, Art, & Poetry
Ft. Smith Musical Coterie
Russellville Music Club
Jonesboro Treble Clef Club
Walnut Ridge Schubert Club

South District

AR-TX Music Connection
Arkadelphia Philharmonic Club
Hot Springs Music Club
Little Rock Musical Coterie
Pine Bluff Musical Coterie
Monticello Music Club





Janine Tiner, Little Rock Musical Coterie member, received the South Central Region's Servant Leadership Award for 2023. Janine has served in several capacities with AFMC and her local music club for many years. Betty Pierce, (left) South Central Servant Leadership Award Chair, and Gloria Grilk, (right) the originator of the award in 2012, are shown presenting the award to Janine (center) during the Conference

An impromptu performance was given by the NFMC Young Artists Leland Ko and Adria Ye during the Lunch Break at the Conference. The pair were delightful and everyone enjoyed conversing with them and (of course) hearing them perform.

It was stressed to Sr. Clubs to submit the Senior Club Treasurer's Report by November 1st. There is now a **\$10 late fee** applied for turning the form in past the due date. A new form has been designed by Jimmie & me to align with what is required from NFMC. Please email one of us if your club needs the new form.



Senior Clubs Treasurer's Report Due: November 1

Send to: AFMC Treasurer:

Jimmie Stephens, 2287 Boston Ave, New Boston, TX 75570, (903) 276-7139
jimmieloustephens@gmail.com

National Music Week

May 5 –11, 2024

"Music...is Yours, Mine, Ours"



NFMC Conference

June 11 - 15, 2024

Isle Hotel
Bettendorf, Iowa

AFMC 2024 Conference

September 14, 2024
Little Rock

South Central Region Federation Days

July 17 - 19, 2024

Inspiration Point
Center for the Arts
Eureka Springs, Arkansas

Empty Chairs Matter!

The AFMC Chairs perform an important function in our organization. They are responsible for promoting certain aspects, styles, and artistic involvements that enrich our clubs and programs.

Most chairs report in some way either to a national or regional chair about that particular area in the life of AFMC, but it is difficult and disheartening trying to report if no one sends in a report!



I must admit that most of these were new to me before I became AFMC President and I am still growing in my knowledge and appreciation of their purpose. Some of our Chairs have submitted a short article for these newsletters and that has helped to bring an awareness to us all of fresh opportunities and creative ideas in that area. I don't think each club can do everything in this panoply of options, but we can increase our awareness and inclusion of these worthy aspects of music. Some of these areas reported to NFMC have the possibility of receiving an award, either a certificate or even a monetary award! George and Ouida often say that awards are not given because no one applies!

***Chairs:** Let's make an extra effort this year to promote your area of responsibility! Look up the NFMC Chair of your area and probe them for ideas. Write a short article for the next AFMC newsletter if you have not submitted one before and share your passion and knowledge with us!

***Club presidents:** Consider having someone in your club with a panache in a certain area to serve in your club as "Chair of" Delegate that person to stay alert to the selections in your programs that may fit one of the Chair categories and send in a report about it.

***Club officers and members:** Have a look at topics on the following list and determine which areas you have neglected or would like to encourage in your club activities. Contact your AFMC Chair for ideas! Are there any of these that you are unfamiliar with? Look them up on the NFMC or AFMC websites. Most of the work of our Chairs is not that time-consuming consisting of sending in a report once a year. We have a few Chairs of areas that have **not** been filled.

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Dance | 2. Music in Schools/Colleges |
| 3. Stillman Kelley/Thelma Byrum Awards | 4. Publications & Website |



Would you or someone in your club be interested in sitting in one of these "chairs"? Contact me if you have questions about that area and if you are willing to help AFMC by serving in that area.

**AFMC Chairs
2023-25**

American Women Composers
Vicki Carr

Arts Advocacy
Laura Ferguson

Awards Promotion
Dr. George Keck

Celebrate Strings
Mandie Poemoceah

Federation Cup & Festival
Shelly Brown

Folk Music
Barbara Knott

Founders Day
Carolyn Walker

Junior Composer
Linda Kennedy

Marie Smallwood Thomas Scholarship
Carol Moore

Music in Poetry
Dr. Barbara Lippincott

Music in Schools/Colleges

Music in Song (Together We Sing)
Donna Smith

Music Outreach
Betty Pierce

National Music Week & Essay
Christine Graham

Opera
Dr. Maggie Garrett

Ouida Keck Award
Janine Tiner

Parade of American Music
Sheree O'Rorke

Past Presidents Assembly
Gloria Grilk

Public Relations
Donna Smith

Publications & Website

Sacred Music
Dr. Thomas Bolton

Stillman Kelley/Thelma Byrum Awards

Veterans Award
Frank Ferguson

Wendell Irish Viola
Dr. George Keck

Thank you to those that have served and presently serve as AFMC Chairs.



From Tom Bolton, AFMC Chair of Sacred Music

As the AFMC Chair of Sacred Music I receive and pass on to the NFMC the reports of the AFMC clubs reporting on Form AR 11-1, which are due on April 1 each year.

I must admit as president of my local club, filling out those reports is not my favorite thing to do. However, I did feel obligated to this past year to fill out all the reports that pertained to my club, especially the one for which I was responsible as state chair. I

passed on the **two (!) reports** I received from Arkansas clubs. Even though we did not have an exclusively sacred program last year, we did include sacred music on several of them. I included those programs with my report with the sacred music numbers highlighted to indicate our inclusion of this genre.

Another part of the questionnaire asked if any of our members had been active in church members for 50 years or more, and to my surprise eight of us had!

This summer I was shocked to receive an NFMC Achievement Award for our club's outstanding performance and dedication to Sacred Music (see photo). In addition, all eight of our church musicians of 50+ years received individual certificates.

Two lessons were learned. Submit your forms – you never know. And you can bet we are doing an entire program of Sacred Music this year!



From Sheree O'Rorke, AFMC Chair of Parade of American Music

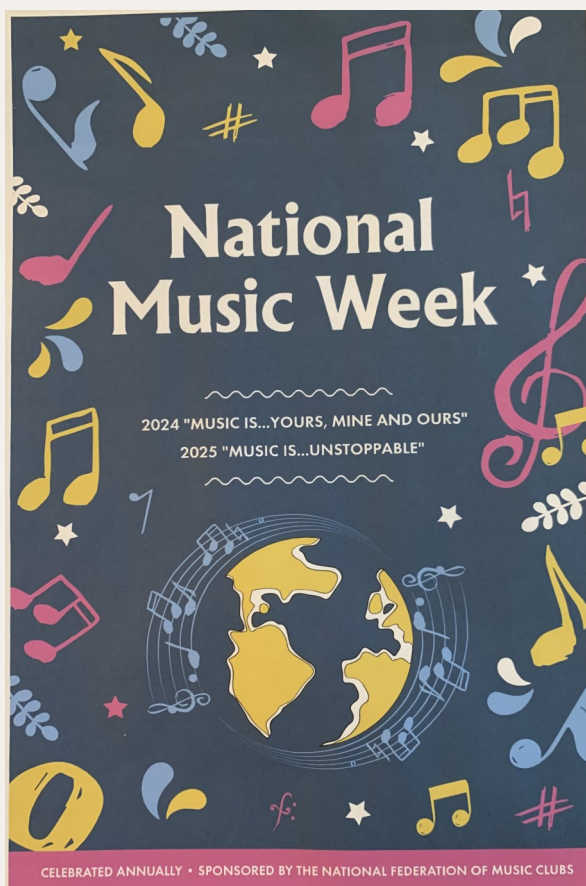
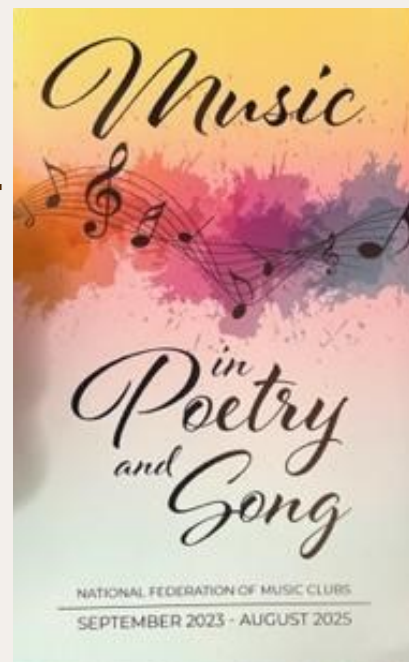
"Happy fall everyone! Yesterday, I was blessed to hear another Florence Price composition played by a guest violinist with the AR Symphony. Not only is she an American composer, but she is from Arkansas. I am glad her music is being shared more. I would like to challenge you for your Parade of American Music programs to share your favorite American Composers that are undiscovered "gems" that move you musically. I look forward to hearing who you shared for your program next month.



New NFMC Publication - Music in Poetry and Song

All club presidents in attendance at the September Conference received a copy of this new and excellent publication by NFMC. Copies were also given to club members to give to absent club presidents. The books are \$4 each. Please read the following recommendation of the book by Suzanne Babbie, President of Little Rock Musical Coterie.

"This text is extraordinary! The NFMC editors did a fabulous job of assembling monthly songs and poems, complete with composure and poet bios for every month from September 2023-August 2025. The book is a real treasure. I'm passing out copies to each of our board members. In case other members want to order copies of this wonderful new NFMC publication they should email Ashley Baird with the number of books they want. Ashley's email is ashley@nfmc-music.org She will ship the requested books along with an invoice for payment." Suzanne Babbie



How is your club planning to observe National Music Week in 2024?

In making plans for NMW week, go to the newly designed NFMC website and do a search for National Music Week. There you will see two pages of downloads related to National Music Week. These include coloring pages for students, brochures, mayor and governor proclamations, radio scripts, forms, ideas, rules for the National Music Week Essay Contest (grades 7-12) and much more! Check it out!

Contact Christine Graham, AFMC Chair of National Music Week, for more information.



Focus on Folk Music

Hello AFMC Members:

Let me introduce myself. I am Barb Knotts from Bella Vista and a member of NWA MAPS. AFMC President, Kathie White, appointed me to serve as **Folk Music Chair (State)**. I look forward to being in touch with each of you, and learning about and sharing all the wonderful activities your groups are planning related to folk music.

I think NFMC's folk music definition is a great starter: *"Music that is significant because of its person-to-person connection, reflecting concepts of heritage, history, humor, heartaches, and other aspects of everyday living. Folk songs are passed from generation to generation and often aren't traceable to a composer or writer."* Please consider all the possibilities this definition offers to your club and its members.

I have sent each club the form that needs to be sent to me by May 1, 2024, detailing all folk music activities and moments your club provides this year. Review the form so you know NFMC's expectations. Let's make our Arkansas annual NFMC folk music report the richest it's ever been.

I hope you will also send me communications about your folk music moments AS THEY HAPPEN (or successes you've already had) . I'll share with all of you so you can consider incorporating into your programs and outreach. Look for an article on folk music in each of Kathie's newsletters. Send me your ideas; can't wait to hear from you. Let's connect and bring folk music center stage.

Barb Knotts, Folk Music Chair & Music Enthusiast

bknotts1947@gmail.com or 314-41-0700

1 Lasswade Ln, Bella Vista AR 72715

Folk music in Arkansas – it's a 'Natural.'

Every time your club puts together a program, consider including folk music. Few types of music are better at bridging the performers, selections, stories, and audiences. Begin by considering folk selections in the Music in Poetry and Song book provided recently to each club president.



But don't stop there. Be creative!

- Weave the narrative of grandmother's quilt into your selections--haunting melodies of spirituals, Delta blues, Ozark life.
- Remind your audience of the music from local or national folk groups—consider a sing-along based around Pete Seeger's rendition of The Arkansas Traveler.
- Invite young music enthusiasts and their families to programs highlighting folk instruments (dulcimer, native American flute, harmonica, banjo) --everyone will love to participate. Hopefully, some will follow-up with trips to folk heritage museums throughout Arkansas.

“If it was never new & it never gets old, then it's a folk song.” -Oscar Isaac

The moments you create are the beginnings of everyone's musical experiences. Music is meant to be shared. That's what folk music does; it's music for everyone.

Folk music helps reinforce your sense of history. An old song makes you think of times gone by.
Pete Seeger

Check out these websites for more ideas:

Folk Music - Encyclopedia of Arkansas (<https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/folk-music-5003/>)

Ozark Folksong Collection - Digital Collections (uark.edu) (<https://digitalcollections.uark.edu/digital/collection/OzarkFolkSong>)



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

STUDENT/ COLLEGIATE AWARD OPPORTUNITIES



AWARD AMOUNT	AWARD	APPLICATION DEADLINE
\$20,000	Ellis Duo Piano Award	February 1 (Odd Year)
\$20,000	Young Artist Award	February 1 (Odd Year)
\$5,000	Lynn Freeman Olson Piano Pedagogy Award	March 1 (Odd Year)
\$3,000	Student/Collegiate Auditions	March 1 (Odd Year)
\$2,000	Classical Guitar Award	March 1
\$2,000	Paris French Horn Award	March 1
\$1,500	Student/Collegiate Composition	March 1
\$1,500	Lynn Freeman Olson Composition Award	March 1 (Odd Year)
\$1,500	Music Therapy Awards	March 1
\$1,500	Valentin Violin Award	March 1
\$1,500	Van Roy Music Education Award	March 1
\$1,500	Nelson Double Reed Award	March 1
\$1,000	Mehan/Morgan Music Education Award	March 1
\$800	Nelson Tuba Award	March 1
\$800	Bluhm Flute Award	March 1
\$750	Wiegand Music of the Faiths Award	March 1 (Odd Year)

Please be sure to review Senior category awards, as some awards have identical age requirements. See form CA 20-1 for full details.

For award requirements and application forms visit the NFMCF website @ www.nfmc-music.org

Do you know an aspiring woman composer in your area?

Tell her about the Febro Grilk Arkansas Women Composer Award offered by AFMC! There are two awards: 1st Place is \$500 and 2nd Place is \$200. Please spread the word, show the form, print it out, or send the newsletter to some young woman composer. You might also share it with any college music faculty members in your area. Here is the Application Form with eligibility requirements:

Febro Grilk Arkansas Woman Composer Award

Entry Form for 2024

Award: \$500.00

Second Place Award - \$200.00

Ages 16 and older (no boundary)

Deadline: July 30, 2024

Eligibility

at least two years of residence in Arkansas

Letter of recommendation

Picture and Bio

Permission for all the above to be made public

Requirements

Composition must not have been published

Composition should be written for voice, instrument, or ensemble.

Entry Form, Manuscript, and Recording should be sent together by Postal Service.

Composer allows and aids the presentation at an AFMC meeting.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Cell# _____

Contact for information or Send composition to:
Alice Martinson, 1052 County Road 310, Berryville, AR 72616
alice.martinson@outlook.com



“Opera-tunities in Arkansas” Fall 2023

Dr. Maggie Garrett, AFMC Opera Chair

**Nov. 2, 7:30 & Nov. 5, 7:30 – Amelia Goes to the Ball (Menotti)
Ouachita Baptist University**

Nov. 5, 3:00 - Opera Workshop – Henderson State University

Nov. 9-10, 7:30 – Opera Scenes – University of Central Arkansas

**Nov. 14-16, 7:30 – Games of Chance: An Evening of Opera
& Musical Theater – UALR**

Nov. 16-19, 7:30 – Amahl & the Night Visitors (Menotti) – U of A

Opera in the Ozarks Summer 2024 Season

La Traviata Giuseppe Verdi

The Crucible Robert Ward

Beauty and the Beast Vittorio Giannini

L’Enfant et les Sortilèges Maurice Ravel