

Dear Choral Colleagues,

Another school year begins! I am sure that this finds all of you busily preparing, with the excitement and accompanying trepidation that it brings. The executive committee is also busily preparing for the year to come. We met in July, thanks to the gracious hospitality of Paul Hallsted. Following are a few of the things discussed in that meeting that you need to know right away.

Our President – Elect, John Flanery, has accepted a new position in another state, which precipitates another election. We are sorry to lose his talent, dynamism, insight, and vision, but wish him much happiness in his new position. You will receive an email soon from Geri Brink asking you to consider running or suggesting another candidate.

Marilyn Bernard prepared a draft of the requested All-State Policy Statement. That committee will meet on September 9 to complete the document and we will vote on accepting it at the January meeting.

Derek Gilmour is working with our webmaster to try to make it possible to add the option of submitting auditions online. We should be able to complete instructions for both kinds of submissions on the website soon.

Officers are creating g-mail accounts so that it is easier to communicate with the person that you need to reach. We will also be adding a membership list with email addresses to aid us in contacting each other.

A big change: We will not be using the Convention Center for meals during All-State. The simple reason is that we lost money both years by having the meals served there. We realize that the convenience was nice to have, but it doesn't seem to be a responsible choice for us. There are many places to eat within walking distance to the Convention Center, with even more opening up recently. We will be sending out a list, as well as a contact for the Taos Cafeteria at NMSU (a rather brisk, but doable walk). Hopefully, we will find the choices, variety, quantity of food, and price to be a more suitable way to get everyone fed.

A big thank-you to Shera Jemmett for getting the audition recordings done so quickly and so well!

And, finally, many thanks to Geri Brink, Paul Hallsted, and Derek Gilmour for their wonderful help and support. They truly "know the ropes" and are amazingly generous with their time and expertise.

Best Wishes for a Wonderful Year of Music Making!

Louise Loomis