NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION REVIEWS ARTS RESOLUTION

Among the actions of the 1985 National Education Association (NEA) Representative Assembly, June 30—July 3 in Washington, D.C., a resolution supporting MENC's goals for 1990 was referred to the NEA Resolutions Committee, which meets next March. The statement resolved that the NEA president notify education organizations that the teachers association endorses the goals of access to fine arts instruction for all students K–12 and requirement of one Carnegie unit of credit in the arts for high school graduation and for acceptance to colleges.

FIFTY-SEVEN MILLION PEOPLE PLAY INSTRUMENTS

According to a recent Gallup poll done for the American Music Conference, one-fourth of all Americans play a musical instrument, a total of about fifty-seven million people. There is at least one amateur musician in 46 percent of our homes, accounting for more than thirty-nine million households. Seventy-eight percent of these amateurs play their instrument at least once a year.

What instruments do these people play? According to the survey, which was reported in the July issue of UpBeat and funded by the National Association of Music Merchants, piano (the most popular instrument for females), guitar (the most popular instrument for males), and organ are the favorites. Those three accounted for about four-fifths of all instrumentalists. Other popular instruments were flute, clarinet, drums, trumpet, violin, harmonica, and electronic keyboards.

EUROPEAN MUSIC TEACHERS AFFILIATE WITH MENC

With National Executive Board approval last July, members of the European Music Educators Association became the newest affiliate of MENC. Most of these teachers, who are concentrated in West Germany but represent many countries throughout Europe, teach at Department of Defense Dependent Schools. MENC President Paul R. Lehman addressed the October 19th annual conference of the organization in Germany.

NO-PASS, NO-PLAY RULE UPHELD IN TEXAS; BANDS FIGHT BACK

The Lone Star State's controversial ruling that prevents students who fail one course from participating in extracurricular activities (including music) was unanimously agreed to be constitutional by the Texas Supreme Court, according to the August 21 issue of Education Week. H. Ross Perot, head of a panel that recommended an overhaul of the state's schools last year, was the impetus behind the law, which has hit athletic programs hardest but which also applies to school bands. Bands have retaliated in ten of the twenty-two state districts, says Education Week of September 18, by setting earlier district competition dates to ensure that all students can compete.

That issue also reported that the Mississippi American Federation of Teachers plans to push a similar bill through its state legislature this year. The Mississippi Association of Educators, affiliate of the National Education Association, also supports the "no-pass, no-play" concept, but it will work to achieve a ruling from the state board of education rather than through the legislature.

RHODE ISLAND APPROVES BASIC-EDUCATION PLAN

The state Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approved a basic-education program in Rhode Island that guarantees students access to the arts. Implementation of the program over the next five years will cost $10 million, according to the August 21 issue of Education Week.
FOUNDATION FOR ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION IN MUSIC ESTABLISHED

The National Association of Music Merchants donated $40,000 for the establishment of the Foundation for the Advancement of Education in Music. MENC Executive Director John J. Mahlmann stated that the organizations involved will “test the viability of this cooperative venture between education groups and the music industry” during the next six months. Laurie Barton, a music graduate of William and Mary College, will work part-time from MENC headquarters as associate administrator for the foundation. For information on the foundation, contact Barton at 1902 Association Drive, Reston, Virginia 22091.

STATE ARTS AGENCIES RESOLVE TO SUPPORT EDUCATION

The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies Board has endorsed seven recommendations pertaining to arts education put forth by the Arts, Tourism and Cultural Resources Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures. The recommendations included:
• defining basic education to include arts education,
• providing incentives for an effective sequential curriculum in the arts disciplines from elementary through high school,
• providing arts specialist teachers to every school,
• funding arts education training at the college level,
• including gifted and talented arts students in categorical funding for gifted students,
• funding in-service arts education training for elementary teachers, and
• considering funding schools for the arts to provide intensive training opportunities for gifted and talented children.

OPERA AMERICA FOCUSES ON KIDS

OPERA America Education Program’s new publication, “Kids Create and Participate,” communicates information about opera education to interested teachers. For information on the quarterly newsletter, which is published in cooperation with MENC, contact Marthalie P. Furber, Education Director, OPERA America, 633 E Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20004.

HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCE PLANNING CONTINUES

Arrangements have been made for the upcoming conference on high school level general music, sponsored by MENC’s Society for General Music (SGM) and Florida State University. The meeting is planned for June 25–28, 1986, in Orlando, Florida. For information, contact chairpersons Susan Kenney, Department of Music, C-550 HFAC, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah 84602, or William Hughes, School of Music, Florida State University, Tallahassee 32306.

WORLD’S LARGEST CONCERT REGISTRATION READY THIS MONTH

Materials for the World’s Largest Concert (WLC) registration packets are now being prepared, and the first packets will be mailed to registrants on November 15, in time to prepare for the concert March 18, 1986, 12:30–1:00 p.m., eastern standard time. Registration costs $35.00 per school. To register, fill out the form in the Fall Soundpost.

DOES YOUR MUSIC PROGRAM NEED A BOOST?

MENC will soon be offering a boost to the music program of its members at the secondary level under a new initiative that resulted from an NEB directive and negotiations between MENC Executive Director John J. Mahlmann and James Vincent, founder of the American Music Boosters Association (AMBA). MENC is currently looking into ways of bringing AMBA under its organizational umbrella and scrutinizing the benefits to members. MENC members who would like to offer suggestions may write to Boosters, MENC, 1902 Association Drive, Reston, Virginia 22091.

DID YOU WRITE WASHINGTON?

As of September only 60 Congressional representatives—of a needed 218—had endorsed the joint resolution designating March 1986 as Music In Our Schools Month. MENC urges you to support S. J. Resolution 170 and H. J. Resolution 345 by writing to your senator or representative. For details, see the Fall MENC Soundpost.