

# SOUNDBOARD

Newsletter for the Alabama Music Teachers Association

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## From the President



Where do I begin? The school year has begun for all of us, and the days are getting shorter and cooler. It is a busy time, and hopefully a productive one. As you work with your students this fall, keep the auditions in mind. We are looking forward to wonderful MTNA auditions in Auburn October 31 and November 1. Many thanks to Jeremy for heading that up. Also, remember the spring auditions coming, for every instrument and voice. If you have questions about any of them, look to our website at [www.almta.org](http://www.almta.org). All of our auditions and their chairs are listed. If you do not find what you need, our auditions chair, Melodie King will have other specific information. Plan now for this important benefit we give to our students. In September I was allowed to attend the MTNA Leadership Summit in Cincinnati. What an incredible experience that was! Leaders from every state, including Hawaii, were there, plus the directors and directors-elect of every division of the country.

We met as a group, learning the background and workings of our organization. Then we met with small groups, helping each other come up with ideas for our states. I am still processing the information I gleaned from everybody, but we will benefit from what I have learned.

Our state is in the Southern Division, and the director, Marc Hebda, is dynamic and organized. We sponsor the MTNA Southern Division competition, which is at UT Knoxville this year. The winners of that will go to the National competition at the MTNA Conference in March 2015. Remember, last year we had two winners who went on to win the National. What a tremendous honor that was for our state and our teachers! Our own Kevin Chance is the Southern Division chair for that competition, and he is also the Director-Elect for the Southern Division. Let's do all we can to support him.

One idea I heard from the Summit was about members. Members come into our organization because of the current members! BUT, members LEAVE our organization because of the current members!! We need to make all members feel welcome and important. When a new member or visitor comes to a meeting, seek them out and talk with them. A great tool is to assign an established member to become that person's "mentor" in the organization. Reminding them about meetings and deadlines for auditions and local recitals is a great way to stay in touch. Another way is by being available to answer teaching questions. If we are excited about what we do and why we do it, then we will have an even greater organization.

Thanks for all your work every day. Let's have a great school year!

— Jodean Tingle, NCTM

## The Montgomery Music Teachers Forum

Our current membership includes:

Les Ames	Betty Gallops	Mildred Little	Patricia Vines
Eunhee Ashley	Adonis Gonzales	Nora McGalliard	Summer Whatley
Evaughn Balkcom	Theresa Gordon	Aeri Moon	Cathy Whigham
Susan Bishop	Ruth Graham	Jane Potts	Donna Wilson
Carrie Carboni	Sally Hester	Vadim Serebryany	Hui-Ting Yang
Ruth Dunbar	Skye Jenkins	Ron Shinn	Sallye York
Kathryn Elder	Hae Na Ji	Elise Smith	
Corine Free	Stephanie Jones	Sarah Tanner	
Dot Fuller	Arlene Judy	Ann Thorington	

MMTF sponsors several annual events. In the fall the Mark McGowin Recital and the Janis McCulley Hymn Festival are held at local churches. In the spring the Helen Boykin Festival, the Helen Boykin Honors Recital, and the AMTA District Auditions are held. Over these events, several awards are given to outstanding music students for achieving a high level of musical achievement.

## Report from the 1st Vice President

After a wonderful conference at the University of Alabama this past June, I'm already getting excited for the next conference! The 2015 conference will be June 4-6th at the University of Montevallo. Our guest artist will be Nancy Weems from Texas. She is thrilled to come perform for us and has already started planning our recital. Peter Mack will be our guest clinician and is sure to be a crowd pleaser for the young and young at heart! Please enjoy their information below and look for the conference registration information in the next soundboard. —Sarah Tanner, 1st Vice President

## Biography for Nancy Weems

Nancy Weems has performed extensively in the United States, Europe, Asia, Mexico, Central America, and the former Soviet Union to wide critical acclaim. A graduate of Oberlin Conservatory and the University of Texas, her solo appearances include concerts in fourteen foreign countries, in addition to the U.S. After a recital in Reykjavik, Iceland, one critic called her *"a rare treasure... Nancy Weems is an extraordinary pianist, grand in scope, and powerful in her interpretation, possessing fantastic technique."* In Mexico City, a reviewer stated that *"Nancy Weems is gradually beginning to occupy the place of one of the top international pianists in Mexico."* A Houston Post article reported, *"The young performer put an amazing display of energy and keyboard technique into a recital that went from strength to strength."*



In 1984, Ms. Weems won the Artistic Ambassador Competition sponsored by the United States Information Agency in Washington, D.C. As a result, Ms. Weems represented the United States in an international concert tour, including the countries of Norway, Denmark, Iceland, and the U.S.S.R. In March, 1987, Ms. Weems presented a solo debut recital at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. The music critic of The Washington Post praised "Weems' powerful technique" and "delightful mix of strength and flexibility." In 1987, Ms. Weems was invited for a second international tour to the countries of Mexico, Jamaica, Trinidad, and Costa Rica and in 1993, to Taiwan and Hong Kong. In addition, Ms. Weems has represented the United States in the 1981 Van Cliburn International Competition, and won top awards in the International Recording Competition. She has appeared as guest artist with numerous symphony orchestras, and has given master classes in music schools and conservatories in the United States, Europe, Asia, and the West Indies. Ms. Weems was an exchange professor and guest performer at the Royal Academy of Music in London, England; Sungshin Women's University in Seoul, Korea; and in 2008, the International Piano Master Class Series of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Currently, Nancy Weems is Professor and Coordinator of the piano area at the University of Houston Moores School of Music in Houston, Texas. Her students have won top awards in many national and international competitions including the first prizes in the MTNA Collegiate Artist Competition, the Corpus Christi Young Artist Competition, and the Nena Wideman National Young Artist Concerto Competition. Many of her current and former students now hold positions in music schools and universities worldwide, and several have successful performing careers under professional artist management. A dedicated teacher, she was named the Outstanding Collegiate Teacher in 1991 by the Texas Music Teachers Association, and received a University of Houston Teaching Excellence Award in 1995. Professor Weems regularly presents lectures, recitals and teacher workshops and has been a featured MTNA convention artist for the states of New York, Washington, Minnesota, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, Louisiana, South Carolina, Mississippi, Arkansas and Texas. In addition, Ms. Weems has been a frequent presenter at the Music Teachers National Association Convention and the World Piano Pedagogy Conferences.

Ms. Weems has recorded for the Albany and the Bay Cities labels. The recording, "Classical Hollywood" was nominated for a Grammy award in 1990. In addition, she has been featured in recordings of American composers Arnold Rosner and Chris Theofanidis.

## Peter Mack Biography

Irish pianist Peter Mack is in great demand as a performer, clinician, convention artist, adjudicator, and teacher. Celebrated for his moving playing, and his easy rapport with audiences, he has performed throughout the United States and Europe, as well as in Australia, India, and the former Soviet Union. He is the winner of the New Orleans, Young Keyboard Artists, and Pacific International Piano Competitions. His prize in the Sherman-Clay competition included a Steinway grand piano. Naturally, he is a Steinway artist!

Peter Mack is well known for his extensive repertoire, having performed twenty-six concertos with orchestras. A choral scholar at Trinity College Dublin, and a fellow of Trinity College London, he has a doctorate in piano performance from the University of Washington. His principal teachers were Frank Heneghan and Bela Siki.

In 2013, Dr. Mack received the extraordinary honor of being asked to deliver both the Advanced Piano Masterclass at the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) annual convention in California and the Masterclass for MTNA Winners at the biennial National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy (NCKP) in Illinois. His students are frequent winners of local, national, and international competitions. He is the proud teacher of eighteen MTNA national finalists, and two MTNA national first place winners.

A former board member of MTNA, Peter Mack was the chair of the MTNA National Conference Planning Committee for the 2014 Chicago conference.

Peter Mack's 2014 list of engagements includes performances in two of the most acoustically perfect performance spaces in Europe; the Salle Cortot of the Ecole Normale in Paris, and the Haydnssaal of the Esterhazy Palace in Eisenstadt, Austria. Dr. Mack is Professor of Piano Performance at Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle.

"Mack is one of those lucky ones, born with a completely balanced set of talents. He has perfect piano hands, his technique is all but infallible, he has boundless temperament, style and taste, and above all, he communicates directly.... In all capacities he is indefatigable...." --Los Angeles Times



photo by Michelle Smith-Lewis

## Updated Contact Information Needed for New Membership Directory

**To all AMTA Members:** We need your updated email addresses, physical addresses and phone numbers! If any of your contact information has changed in the past year, please email your updates to:

Mark DeGoti, AMTA 2nd Vice-President  
email: [mdd0012@auburn.edu](mailto:mdd0012@auburn.edu)

## News from Shoals Area Music Teachers Forum

We were thrilled to have Kevin Chance present a Judges Workshop on September 13<sup>th</sup> at the home of Noel Beck. One of our students demonstrated her expertise in both Keyboard Theory and Performance. Forum members were then guided through the detailed aspects of judging AMTA events. Kevin shared tips from his extensive judging experience and made suggestions for

improving critiques by using age-appropriate and meaningful language. It was time well spent!

We are continuing our efforts to provide high quality, fun events for our students. The highlight of our summer was the Kidz Jamm held on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Fifteen participants played blues or jazz style pieces accompanied by bass guitar and drums. This event is held in conjunction with the annual Shoals Area Handy Festival, a tribute to W.C. Handy, the father of the blues. We're also looking forward to an event-filled fall. Our "Make It Minor" performance party was held on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Students played pieces in a minor key and dressed up in Halloween costumes, making it a fun event for all! In November, we host the Ritz Recitals for our more accomplished students. Built in 1927 as a silent movie house, The Ritz Theater in Sheffield is the perfect venue for this event. It is equipped with a stage, a beautiful grand piano, and wonderful acoustics for our students' performances.

We will round out the year with individual studio recitals and our Christmas Luncheon in December.

*Shoals Area  
Music Teachers  
Forum*



*Elizabeth Counts, President*  
*Carol, Lynn, Vice President*  
*Lynne Crabtree, Treasurer*

**Members**  
Noel Beck  
Yi-Min Cai  
Elizabeth Counts  
Lynne Crabtree  
Christine Enlow  
Carol Lynn  
Anita Scott  
Kristie Smith  
Gail Spires

**Events**  
Ritz Recitals   Music Olympics   AMTA District Auditions  
W.C. Handy Festival Kidz Jamm

## Report from the Collegiate Chapters Chair

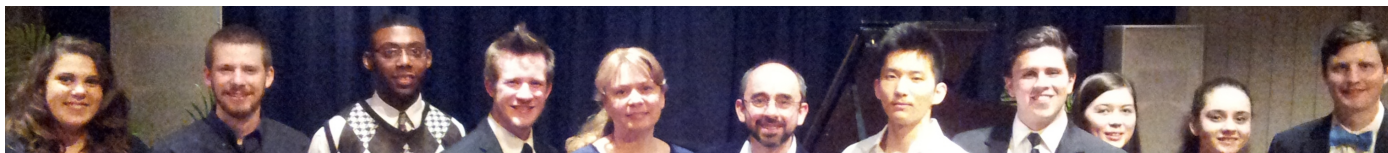
Dear AMTA Members,

I'm delighted to report that we now have 5 active Collegiate MTNA Chapters in Alabama. University of Alabama A & M, University of Alabama at Huntsville, University of Alabama, Samford University, and Auburn University. Hopefully by the end of this year we will have three new chapters join our state. It has been so wonderful to see the excitement grow over the past few years. This past June we had 7 collegiate members participate and attend the State Conference at UA. The Collegiate Luncheon at the conference was a great success and the students were able to network. UAH Collegiate Chapter and Alabama A & M Collegiate Chapter both presented a wonderfully informative Poster Presentation on Performance Anxiety. Alabama A & M received Honorable Mention and UAH won the Poster Competition. Cindy St. Clair from UA submitted a proposal for the Collegiate Member Presentation on the topic of: "Brain Power: Effective Mental Preparation and Memorization." Christina Kettering from Auburn also submitted a proposal on the topic of: "Basic Building Blocks: An Approach to Introducing Advanced Techniques to Younger Students Through Finger Pedaling and Melodic Voicing." Both were wonderful topics that were researched extensively. Cindy was granted the opportunity to give her lecture at the State Conference and it was wonderfully received. This year's State Conference will continue to feature the Collegiate Chapter Poster Competition and Collegiate Member Presentation Competition. The deadline for this coming year's submission is **April 1, 2015**.

We currently have over 60 active collegiate MTNA members and they are not only benefitting from many of the wonderful programs and opportunities MTNA and AMTA has to offer, but they are also giving back to the local community. University of Alabama's MTNA Collegiate Chapter this year will be presenting a community service recital at an assisted living facility and inviting UA faculty to give lectures. Their chapter President is John David Thompson. Samford University's MTNA Collegiate Chapter is looking forward to another active year, and their chapter President is Trent Smith. Alabama A & M University's MTNA Collegiate Chapter is looking forward to presenting again at the State conference, and to doing some outreach into the community. Their chapter President is Kevin Eberhart. University of Alabama at Huntsville's MTNA Collegiate Chapter is presenting two member recitals in the local community and inviting the local pedagogues to have their students perform a recital in UAH's new recital hall. They are submitting presentations to be considered for the State Conference, the MTNA Collegiate Symposium in Dallas, and the National Conference in Las Vegas. They are also starting a lecture series which will invite local pedagogues to present on pedagogical topics. Their chapter President is Matthew Gardner. Auburn University's MTNA Collegiate Chapter will be presenting two community outreach recitals at retirement communities and giving a two hour interactive "Introduction to Music" lecture for the homeschool association on their Music Day in the spring. They will help host the MTNA Solo Competition in a month and will help out the local association with their Festivals and District Auditions in the Spring. They also plan to submit a poster for the State Conference this year. Their chapter President is Christian McGee.

Thank you to all Collegiate Members for your enthusiasm and commitment towards the love of music and pedagogy.

Sincerely,  
Joshua Pifer  
AMTA Collegiate Chapter / Faculty Forum Chair  
Lecturer in Piano, Auburn University



- State-of-the-art facilities and an all-Steinway school
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- Sample lessons available. Email [kasman@uab.edu](mailto:kasman@uab.edu) or call (205) 934-8942 for the details.

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**Dr. Yakov Kasman, Professor/Artist-In-Residence**  
**[www.yakovkasman.com](http://www.yakovkasman.com)**

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### **UAB Piano in the News (season 2014-2015)**

- **October 12** UAB Piano Series presents 16year old American virtuoso Eric Lu, winner of the international piano competitions
- **November 16** UAB Piano Studio and Piano Ensembles recital
- **January 25** UAB Piano Series presents Pavel Nersessian, winner of the international piano competitions, prof. of Moscow State Conservatory/ Boston University
- **March 21** UAB Piano Series presents Nikolai Lugansky, one of the most famous piano stars in the world
- **April 12** UAB Piano Studio and Piano Ensembles recital
- **May (TBA)** Second Annual UAB Piano Day for pre-college students. Master-class and festival of polyphonic music "Bach and Friends". Reynolds-Kirschbaum Hall.

**[www.uab.edu/cas/music/](http://www.uab.edu/cas/music/)**

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Superior performing ensembles open to all students regardless of academic major  
Outstanding music faculty comprised of dedicated artists, teachers, and scholars  
Competitive scholarships and performance awards available in all areas

### DEGREE PROGRAMS

Bachelor of Music in Performance (Instrumental, Piano, Vocal)  
Bachelor of Arts in Music/Bachelor of Science in Music (Instrumental P-12, Vocal/Choral P-12 - Music Education)  
Bachelor of Arts in Music/Bachelor of Science in Music (Instrumental, Vocal/Choral - General Music)

### ACTIVITIES

"Pride of Dixie" Marching Band • Symphonic Band • Wind Symphony  
Studio Jazz Band • Percussion Ensemble • UNA Pep Band • Jazz Combo  
Collegiate Singers • Vocal Jazz Ensemble • Chamber Choir  
Shoals Symphony at UNA • Opera/Musical Theatre  
Chamber Ensembles: Brass, Woodwind, String, Piano, Guitar

### AUDITION DATES

November 21, 2014 • January 30, 2015  
March 7, 2015 • April 25, 2015

University of NORTH ALABAMA  Department of Music and Theatre  
[www.una.edu/music-theatre](http://www.una.edu/music-theatre)

## College Piano Concerto Audition

College piano faculty are encouraged to enter undergraduate and graduate students in this audition. It will take place on Friday, March 13, 2015, at Samford University's Brock Hall. For further audition information and forms please visit <http://almta.org/audition-forms>. The deadline for receiving forms is Friday, February 13, 2015.

Brent Reeves  
Audition Chair  
[brentreevespiano@bellsouth.net](mailto:brentreevespiano@bellsouth.net)



### Correction

In the AMTA State Winners and Honorable Mentions List from the last issue, Andrew Burleson and Abrielle Le should have been listed under Division I Honorable Mention instead of Division III. We apologize for the oversight.

## Birmingham Metro Music Forum Annual Theory Exams & Master Class

The exams will be held at Samford University on January 17th, 2015, beginning at 9:00 am. All students of AMTA teachers are welcome to participate. So it is time again to start preparing your students for this annual event! Although not all of your students may leap at the idea of taking a written exam, we have found that many of our students respond very well to this alternative type of musical achievement. As always these exams are laid out following the Keith Snell Theory books. There will be a written portion, ear training as well as sight reading. This year we have reserved Bolding Studio at Samford University for a more inviting and intimate space for our masterclass. Remember, each student who passes a level receives a trophy! For more information contact Carrie Black or Barbara Shinn. Hope to see you this January 17th!

Carrie Black, Theory Exam Chairman



## Independent Music Teachers Forum News

Welcome to the fall teaching schedule of trying to dodge the many commitments of our students while trying to encourage piano practice on a regular basis! The MTNA web site is a source of good information for the private, independent teacher!

MTNA web site (mtna.org)

- Member Resources
- Copyright Information
- Professional Support Line
- Professional Insurance Coverage
- Personal Insurance Coverage
- The Independent Piano Teacher's Studio Handbook  
by Beth Klingstein (AMTA conference clinician 2013)

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me. I will try to answer promptly, and if I cannot help you, I'll try to find the right person for you to contact.

—Frances Schwemmer, NCTM



**2014 – 2016 Officers**

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*Frances Schwemmer*

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Visit us at [www.hsvmta.org](http://www.hsvmta.org)

## SPORTS VS MUSIC

Jon McClaren, manager of the Alabama Piano Gallery in Vestavia Hills gave a talk to the Birmingham Metro Music Forum about sports versus music. Here is some of the information from his talk:

Music lessons, especially piano study, is an isolating activity. Students must practice alone, concentrating on their studies, only combining time with other students in class settings or recitals. Perhaps that is why families are being drawn more to sports activities and less to music activities. Sports are group studies, with students learning teamwork. Parents and students both have opportunities for socializing in team sports. They are also (hopefully) learning to cooperate with each other and practice good sportsmanship. Sports take more and more of the time and money from school-age students and their parents. Travel ball is keeping students busy weekdays and weekends. As teachers we are seeing this reflected in our studios. Students miss more lessons and recitals, and their practice suffers. We should be concerned about this. Jon suggested that we make a more concerted effort toward bringing students together in classes and social situations. Also, make the parents aware of the benefits of music lessons. Sports are short-lived, **with most people no longer practicing sports after the age of 18**. Music benefits, however, last much longer. **Many people continue to play or sing into their 80's**, and music stimulates the brain. Let's brainstorm to see what we can do to bring students together and make music as important to families as music is to us. — Submitted by Jodean Tingle, AMTA President

### Annual Costs of sports a year per child

Soccer - \$8,295

Cheerleading - \$9,710

Baseball/Softball - \$4,620

Football - \$4,490

Gymnastics - \$4,400

Lacrosse - \$5,740

According to Forbes Magazine, In 2011, The American household with school age children spent an average of ..... \$11,704 per year on youth sports.

### Travel in Sports

The explosive youth sports movement has become a \$7 Billion Dollar Industry in travel alone.

### Medical Costs

Sprains and strains, fractures, contusions, abrasions and concussions top the list of sports-related ER diagnoses for kids ages 6 to 19 — at a cost of more than...

\$935 Million Dollars Each Year

## Report from the Baldwin County Music Teachers Association

The Baldwin County Music Teachers Association sponsored the Gulf Coast Young Musician Competition on Saturday, October 25, 2014 at the Eastern Shore Presbyterian Church in Fairhope, Alabama. Participants were not limited to BCMTA students. but included anyone who studied piano privately.

Three divisions competed for trophies, medallions and cash. The winner in each division received \$100, plus a trophy. Second and Third place winners received medallions. Division I had two classes: ages 7-8 and 9-11. Division II had three classes: ages 12-13; 14-15; and 16-18. The Steinway award, a large trophy, was presented to the over-all winner. For further information go to [bcmta.net](http://bcmta.net) or call Jeanne O'Connell at 251-928-2055.

Jeanne O'Connell, NCTM  
Baldwin County Music Teachers Association

## Wiregrass Music Teachers Forum

*Established 1995*

### Annual Events

- o Hymn Festival
- o Sonata Festival
- o District II Auditions
- o Honors Recital



### Annual Scholarships

- o College Music Major Scholarships
- o Summer Music Camp Scholarships

Janet Blair, President  
Rebecca McManus, Vice-President  
Hilda Hagins, Secretary/Treasurer

# Piano Studies

Auburn University | [www.auburn.edu/music](http://www.auburn.edu/music)

## Piano Auditions

Saturday, February 14, 2015 9:00AM–4:00PM



### Degrees

- Bachelor of Music Degree (Performance)
- Bachelor of Arts in Music
- Bachelor of Music Education
- Master of Education in Music Education
- Specialist in Education in Music Education
- Doctor of Philosophy in Music Education

### Piano Faculty

- Laurelie Gheesling
- Josh Pifer
- Jeremy Samolesky  
*Area Coordinator*



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## Report from the MTNA Foundation Chair

It's autumn in Alabama! It's the end of October and we are finally getting a bit of fall weather in Alabama. School, football season, fall festivals, and all the other traditional fall events are in full swing. As educators in the state, we must continue to further our own educations and stay current on new ideas and trends in our fields. Even though some of our greatest music is centuries old, there is always something new to be learned and experienced! MTNA Foundation is offering scholarships and grants to members of our organization for this purpose. I am asked so often what the foundation does with the money that you send to them. This is just one of those things! I ask all of you to go to <http://www.mtnafoundation.org> and peruse the site for all the opportunities open to professionals and students alike!

We are nearing the end of the year, and the deadline for 2014 contributions will be here soon. Christmas decorations are already in the stores! Now would be a good time to contribute if you haven't already done so. To those who have contributed so generously, I want to say a heartfelt thank you! Your donation is truly appreciated and will be well utilized to keep the arts alive and well. Here is our list of donors for 2014 :

Joshua Gonzalez  
 Joshua Pifer  
 Benjamin Rollings  
 Connie Schweigert  
 Barbara Shinn  
 Ronald Shinn  
 Julianne Steele  
 Jodean Tingle  
 Margery Whatley  
 Linda Williams  
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 Skye Jenkins

Amy Morgan  
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 Adam Bowles  
 Kevin Chance  
 Syble Coates  
 Kathleen Fisher

Our numbers have grown this year, and it is wonderful to have new names on the list! Total donations are \$971.50. It is every member's responsibility and privilege to support our foundation. One of our college members rounded up their membership dues by a small amount to support us. I believe that every member could do at least that much! I ask each of you to consider supporting the foundation with just a few dollars more. Your contributions keep our programs growing to serve all members and further the arts for generations to come! Go to the website to contribute or mail a check to:

Music Teachers National Association  
 MTNA Foundation  
 441 Vine St, Suite 3100  
 Cincinnati, OH 45202-300

— Connie Teague, MTNA Foundation

## Local Association Presidents – 2014-15

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