

Greetings SCKMEA!

My name is Gretchen Bixler and I am your new president for SCKMEA. I spent some of my Summer, 2011 in several meetings with your KMEA leadership. I am honored to be a part of your SC District and your State leadership team, and I look forward to meeting those of you who are new to our South Central District. If you are not a member of MENC/KMEA, I encourage you to consider this membership one of the greatest investments, both personally and professionally, you can make as a music teacher.

Our State KMEA Board has several exciting implementations for our KS MEA members during the 2011-2012 school year. Please check out the following links to find out how your KMEA Board has been working for you. Links to peruse at your leisure: [ADVOCACY NETWORK](#), [KANSAS MUSIC REVIEW](#), [OUTSTANDING MUSIC EDUCATOR INFORMATION](#), [MENC's NEW NAME!](#)

Your South Central KMEA board members have been working hard for the past several months to find teachers who will motivate, inspire and hopefully bring out the best in you and your students this fall. We hope you will be pleased with the line-up of conductors and clinicians contracted, and we are anxious to see and hear the representation of the wonderfully talented students in our part of the state! *Please find the appropriate link on our website for information about how you can get your kids involved in our honor groups this fall.* If you have questions regarding the honor groups, don't hesitate to contact the chair of that group.

If you are reading this letter before AUGUST 18th, I would like to encourage you to nominate one of our teachers for SCKMEA Outstanding Music Educator. We will accept nominations for Elementary, Middle School and High School music teachers. The nominees for these awards must be music teachers in our SC District. *Please send your nominations for Outstanding Music Educators of SCKMEA to me at president@sckmea.org before August 19.*

As teachers, one of the most important roles we perform is the role of a mentor to our new music teachers. If you are, or are aware of, a first year teacher OR if you know of a teacher that is new to our district, please contact me at president@sckmea.org and we will get all necessary information to him/her.

I wish you good luck in your first months of school and I look forward to seeing you on either October 29 or November 5, 2011, if not before.

Gretchen Bixler