

# iaje WISCONSIN *news*

The quarterly newsletter of the Wisconsin Chapter  
of the International Association of Jazz Educators

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## President's Message

Is there any time of year that is not busy for music educators? I have the great luxury this semester of being on sabbatical, but as I have done a larger than usual number of clinics and festivals, I see programs that are in constant motion. Jazz bands are playing at festivals and contests. Hundreds of solos and ensembles have been prepared and performed in the last month (you probably are aware that there was a shortage of judges this year). Concerts and musicals are happening. I did an honors band last weekend, and one of the participating bands was leaving two days later on a trip to Washington, D. C.! As the weather starts to improve teachers and students both dare to think about the end of school as being somewhere out there, almost visible. But there is so much to do before the end of school. Does anyone work as hard as band students and teachers? Coaches usually only have one sport and one season to worry about (or two at most), and most athletes aren't in season all year. But band people are!

What should not be lost sight of is not just the level of activity that the programs maintain, but the quality work that is going on in these programs. As mentioned, in the festivals and clinics I have done since January I have worked with groups from many schools, more than I usually do in such a short period of time. Without naming any names, I would just like to express my amazement at the great work being done all over the state, not just in jazz, of course, but in all areas of music education. Perhaps we jazz educators don't need a pat on the back right now, but I figure it can't help. So give yourself a big one.

There are a couple of things I would like to report from the IAJE conference in Anaheim in January where I was privileged to represent the state chapter again. The one forum in which the presidents are actually serving the state chapters is at a meeting of any interested state presidents, something that I understand is fairly new at the conference. I reported to you last year that my feeling coming out of that meeting in New York was that the Wisconsin IAJE is in very good shape, based on the observations made by other state presidents. This year I would report the same feeling (especially considering that only about 25 states have even been represented at these meetings). However, the one thing I heard about that I have chosen bring back and try out here in Wisconsin is the idea of having a larger board of the state unit. (See the article on elections elsewhere in this newsletter.) There are a couple of good reasons for this, I believe. First is that having more board members gives

## Summer Camps

In the May issue of the newsletter we will be printing information on summer opportunities for jazz study for students and teachers. You have probably read about some of these opportunities already in the *Wisconsin School Musician* or even the *Jazz Educators Journal*. For those of you who are running camps, please send any information that you wish printed to Kurt Dietrich at Ripon College. This information will be printed as an informational service to members. However, if you wish to place an ad for your camp, feel free to send an advertisement, preferably in copy-ready form. Ad rates are \$20 for a quarter page, \$50 for a half page or \$75 for a full page. Ads (with payment to Wisconsin IAJE) should be forwarded through Roberta Porfilio-Sawall, Washington Jr. High School, 500 W. Washington Street, New London, WI 54961.

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## • President, continued from page 1

more people a sense of ownership of the state unit. More people are involved, so that not so many people are sitting around thinking that decisions are being made by only a few. With that sense of ownership, comes more interest in the group. More interest in the group results in more positive things getting accomplished on the state level. And with just a critical mass of more bodies, not only are there more ideas floating around, but it is more likely that there are at least a few people who will take the ideas and make something come of them.

Another bit of news from the conference. State presidents are also asked to preside over some of the sessions at these affairs. One of the sessions I presided over was a presentation by John Kuzmich. You have seen him for years in the *Jazz Educators Journal*. He was editor for some time, and has been writing the column on new jazz teaching materials for years, and for a shorter time, the column called "Watch Out!," which most often deals with issues of technology. I will tell you that Kuzmich is one of a kind, perhaps even "certifiable." (I found myself trying to imagine what his junior high music program is like.) But what a fount of knowledge. I strongly suggest that you check out his home page on the World Wide Web. There are links to more jazz and technology sites than you can imagine. This is not for "techies" only. Look at <http://home.earthlink.net/~jkuzmich/>

This issue of the newsletter, I'm sorry to say, doesn't have any of the practical or pedagogical articles that many of you appreciate so much. However, there are lots of little bits of news that should be of interest to most of us.

• Kurt Dietrich

## Welcome! New Members

In case you missed it in the latest *Jazz Educators Journal*, the following are new members from Wisconsin. You probably know a couple of the names on this list. Encourage them to be active in the organization.

Mark Butzow, Stoughton  
Brad Curran, Oshkosh  
Jeff Erickson, Stevens Point  
Sharon Haraldson, Sun Prairie  
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## Advertising

As you see in this issue and will see to a greater degree in the May issue, advertisers have determined that this is a good place to publicize their services. Currently the newsletter goes out four times per year to approximately 250 members. Please support the advertisers who help support our effort. Let them know that you saw their ad in this newsletter.

# Notes



## Elections: Officers, Board

In the May issue of this newsletter, there will be a ballot for everyone to vote for new officers for 1999-2001. Karen Johnson, as President-Elect, will automatically become president for 1999-2001. Elections will be held for a new President-Elect, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer. The current board is soliciting candidates for these offices. However, if any of you who are not contacted but are interested in running for office, please contact Kurt Dietrich at Ripon College as soon as possible.

As noted in the President's Column, one of the ideas that came up in the presidents' meeting at the January IAJE convention in Anaheim was the notion that larger boards are helpful for making more things "happen" in state units. The current board is also contacting people who might have an interest in serving on the board in some capacity other than as an officer. We will be starting with the model created several years ago by then-president Bob Baca of having representatives from the various areas of the state. It is also envisioned that there would be a student representative, perhaps a college representative (although there may well be enough college representation on the board without a special rep), a middle school representative, a vocal jazz rep, strings, etc. Again, if you have ideas about a reformulated, enlarged board, or would have an interest on serving on the board, please contact Kurt Dietrich.

## Convention: A Student's View

There is no better experience for a future educator than the IAJE International Convention. The Convention has opportunities of all sorts for educators and musicians of all ages and levels of experience.

As a college student attending the Convention, I gained knowledge in several different areas of jazz and music education. There are clinics ranging from beginning improvisation techniques to how to run a jazz festival to new technologies in the field of music. Not only are there numerous amounts of clinics, there are dozens of concerts given by ensembles of all levels.

The whole Convention is a flood of information. Everywhere you go there is new knowledge to be gained. If you are a college student and think that at anytime in the future you may be running a jazz program of any type this Convention is a must. The IAJE Convention is an invaluable experience for all.

• Jeanine Johnson, *President of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Chapter of IAJE*

## IAJE-WI Fall Clinic

We are still planning to go ahead with a fall clinic day sponsored by our state IAJE. To recap what was reported earlier: The idea is a day of clinics for students and directors to "kick off" the jazz season. It will be early in the year, probably mid-October. We hope to offer clinics at at least two sites this year. There will be a fee, but one that will not prevent widespread participation. There will be no group performances, as this will be for individual students and directors to get help and direction. There is still a great deal of organization to be done on this project, but we hope to be able to present a fairly detailed description of the clinics in the May newsletter. Some jazz educators have offered their services already. Anyone else who wishes to be in on the planning or presentation of these clinics, please contact Kurt Dietrich or Karen Johnson.

c/o Kurt Dietrich  
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