



27 February 2009

To all members of the Central District MMEA:

It gives me a great sense of sadness to write this note to you regarding an event that has happened on February 20, 2009. From what I understand, Dennis Wrenn was getting his Algonquin Regional High School Jazz Ensemble ready to come home from Greece that morning when he indicated to someone that he was not feeling well. His group was boarding the plane for the return flight home from Greece when Dennis collapsed at the terminal and efforts that were made to revive him were unsuccessful.

As you all know, Dennis touched so many lives not only at Algonquin Regional but also across Central District and across the entire state. He was one that always had an opinion about something and whether or not you always agreed with him, you respected him for being a champion for kids and music education. I always found Dennis to be eager to do what ever he could to help others, a giving person who was not selfish in any way. He passed away doing something he loved...looking after the welfare of his students and bringing them memorable experiences both musically, and life-related.

I think the best way that we can remember Dennis and honor him for everything that he contributed to music education in our corner of the earth is to continue to do what we do every day...to strive to connect students with great music, with great musicians, and with great experiences so that they will come away with a love and respect for music that they will carry with them their whole lives.

In light of the situation, the Central District MMEA Executive Board met on Monday, February 23, 2009, and made the following appointments:

1. Mr. Henry Morel of Nipmuc Regional High School in Upton was appointed as the new Central District Treasurer;

2. Past District Chairperson Buddy Bibeault of Blackstone-Millville Regional High School was appointed to serve as Senior High School Concert Chairperson for Central District,

3. Mr. Thomas Reynolds of The Bromfield School and Mr. Steven Archambault of the Lunenburg Public Schools will be maintaining the District website.

4. Ms. Sherri DerKazarian and Mr. Doug Miller of Wachusett Regional High School in Holden, and Ms. Amy Collins of Algonquin Regional High School in Northborough will be acting as the Scholarship Committee and are looking at the present applicants now. Because Dennis was such an advocate for these scholarships, the Executive Board voted to present these scholarships as the "CDMMEA - Dennis F. Wrenn Memorial Scholarships".

I wish that this whole thing was a big misunderstanding and that Dennis would emerge as though nothing happened. Unfortunately however, I believe we have lost our esteemed colleague and I think that we will have to carry on with as much resolve as before to keep the good work of the Central District going.

When I get more information regarding arrangements, etc., I will make sure that I forward them to you. My sense is that it will take some time, perhaps weeks, to get his body sent here from Greece. In the meantime, I will be in touch regarding our next meeting and where we go from here. Thanks for your patience and watching for the next e-mails.

Sincerely,

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Chairperson  
Central District  
Massachusetts Music Educators' Association  
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