



SWDAA

THE CADENCE

MARCH 2023

ISSUE 6

SWDAA! Convention is almost here! Get ready for lots of fun, laughs, brotherhood/sisterhood, and business. The 2022-2023 SWDAA BoD is ready to welcome you to Lafayette, LA and get the ball rolling. I've got a few convention tips for you!

- Make sure you've got money for the marketplace, an in person SWDAA social hosted by your CoMALs (more info coming very soon!) and souvenirs from Lafayette, LA!
- Bring letters to wear daily and fancy clothes for banquet!
- Come with an open mind and a willingness to reconnect to your organization(s)
- Look forward to meeting your current and future board members, fellow AA members, National Leadership, and Actives!

We hope to see many of you in Lafayette, LA April 14-16! AEA and MLITB.



ERIKA POPE

National President
Life Member of the
Theta Theta Chapter



In 2022, Tau Beta Sigma's Women in Music Speaker Series crossed the threshold of 25 years in being an integral part of all District and National convention meetings. This series has created opportunities for our members to engage with women in the music profession, primarily in the areas of education, performance, and musical sciences such as music therapy. Throughout the years, the scope of the program has broadened in so many ways, including the concerted encouragement for chapters to host their own speaker events and the expansion of the types of music professionals who are selected to be speakers for the series. As a woman in music, this program has always been one of my favorites and if this were a relationship, then this article would be my love letter to the first ever established National Program for the Sorority. Throughout my time as a member of the Sorority and being associated with this series, I have had the chance to come in contact with so many amazing Women In Music, too many to mention in one writing, so I have narrowed the field down to 10 and in no particular order. This list represents both women that I've had the chance to meet and work with from the Sorority, either as a Women In Music Speaker or just as someone who I highly respect in this regard. Enjoy the journey through an Erika Pope curated Women In Music Superstar Tour!

Lia LaFollette - Band director at the Hot Springs Junior Academy in Hot Springs, AR. She's also my best friend and bandmate in The Big Dam Horns, a party band in Little Rock, AR.

Dr. Myra Rhoden - Founder of Athenia Music and Leadership: Empowering Young Women Through Music, which provides leadership and empowerment workshops for girls through music.

Amanda Miller-Sutfin - Assistant Director of Bands at Pocahontas High School, in Pocahontas, AR and music professor at Williams Baptist College. She was also the Midwest District Women In Music Speaker in 2019. She's also my big Sister in Tau Beta Sigma!

Jocelyn Hagen - A commissioned composer, who has written music for a variety of ensembles including the Minnesota Orchestra, North Dakota Music Teachers Association and Boston Brass. Her powerful Women in Music Speaker presentation during the 2019 National Convention, centered on empowering women being able to have a presence in any world setting.

Professor Beth Bronk - Director of Fine Arts at Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISD in Texas, former Director of bands and Chapter Sponsor for the Gamma Phi Chapter of Tau Beta Sigma at Texas Lutheran University, as well as our National VP for Professional Relations for two biennium. An all around rock star!

Dr. Tonya Mitchell-Spradlin - Director of Wind Band Studies and Assistant Professor of Music at PennState. She first served the Sorority as a Women in Music Speaker for the Southeast District Convention in 2018 and then went on to serve as the National VP for Professional Relations during the 2019-2021 biennium.

Heather McGowan - Former SWD President (2013-2014), who now teaches band in Bridgeport ISD in Texas. She's small in stature, but a giant on the conductor's podium!

Dr. LaToya Webb - Assistant Professor and Director of the Laurier Wind Orchestra (That's right...in Canada!). She is also currently serving as the National VP for Professional Relations for Tau Beta Sigma and has been a wonderful energy while organizing the National Intercollegiate Band for this biennium.

Genevieve Geisler - CFO and COO for the Bluecoats Drum & Bugle Corps. Along with holding those two roles with the Bluecoats, she was also a founding member of DCI's IN STEP: Women in DCI Program Committee, which seeks out ways to ensure that women are represented in every facet of the corps identity.

Valerie Naranjo - World renowned percussionist, who specializes in the drumming of West Africa, she also performs with the "Saturday Night Live" house band and has been featured in DRUM! Magazine. She was a dynamic Women in Music Speaker during the 2019 National Convention and just a wonderful soul!



SWDAA for Education

SWDAA For Education is an initiative created by the SWDAA Board of Directors as a way to increase the recognition of alumni members who are serving as educators in our District. One individual will receive a \$50 Visa Card to supplement their efforts in the classroom. All other candidates' nominations will be used to recognize individuals through our social media outlets.

Deadline: April 21st

<https://forms.gle/VQAU GPpqMRuUwmKz7>



YEAR ROUND
SWDAASTORE.SQUARE.SITE/
For more information contact, swdaafinance@gmail.com

Happy Birthday, March Members!

Kyle Gregory - March 9th
Daniel Sells III - March 10th
Austin Bordelon - March 12th
Kristin McMullen - March 19th
Yslette Arispe - March 26th
Nicole Benedict - March 28th

(* - Distinguishes SWDAA BOD, National Leadership, or Governor/Counselor)

Celebrating our 2022 Award Recipients

Kappa Kappa Psi Alumni of the Year Award:

- Dionicio "Dino" Cardenas

Tau Beta Sigma Alumni of the Year Award:

- Chris Foster

Service to SWDAA Award

- Katie Langley

SWDAA Ritual Scholarship

- Kappa Kappa Psi - Gamma Omega (Texas Southern University)
- Tau Beta Sigma - Zeta Tau (Grambling State University)

D.C. Al Coda Award

- Megan Lambert (Gamma Phi: Kappa Kappa Psi)
- John M. Junkins (Psi: Tau Beta Sigma)

The 2023 Award Recipients will be announced throughout the 2023 SWD Convention at Lafayette, Louisiana.



WENDY STEWART

Life Member of the
Psi Chapter of
Tau Beta Sigma

MUSIC EDUCATION: A YOUNG WOMAN'S EXPERIENCE

How many conductors or band directors have you played under? Of those, how many identified as female? I never had the experience of performing under a female band director or conductor until I was in college and we were directed by a graduate conducting assistant. I joined Tau Beta Sigma in the Spring of 2017 because I was searching for a community of individuals who had a love for music and service on my college campus. The realization about the need for support of women in music came as an MC and continued to grow as an active member. I started to think and realize that while education is a profession primarily fulfilled by women, band directors are often male.

Since joining the profession of music education, specifically in the position of band director, I have never had any obstacles in my path due to being a woman. I recognize that there has been a lot of women that paved the way for this. I've always been treated as a member of the team and I've always felt like a part of the profession everywhere that I've gone. I will admit that there have been many times that I've gone to a conference or a workshop at an event and been the only female in the room and sometimes it's intimidating but I think back to things that I learned as a sister in Tau Beta Sigma.

One essential factor of Tau Beta Sigma is that I will have fortitude and courage to see an ideal, to seize upon it and to follow it wherever it may lead me in Tau Beta Sigma. I have always added the words "and beyond" to that factor because I think it's important to realize how our 5 and 8 go beyond the sorority. They are also essential to your life after college and are something that I strive to live by and instill in my students. This essential factor is something that I rely on when I am faced with a trial, like being the only woman in the room.

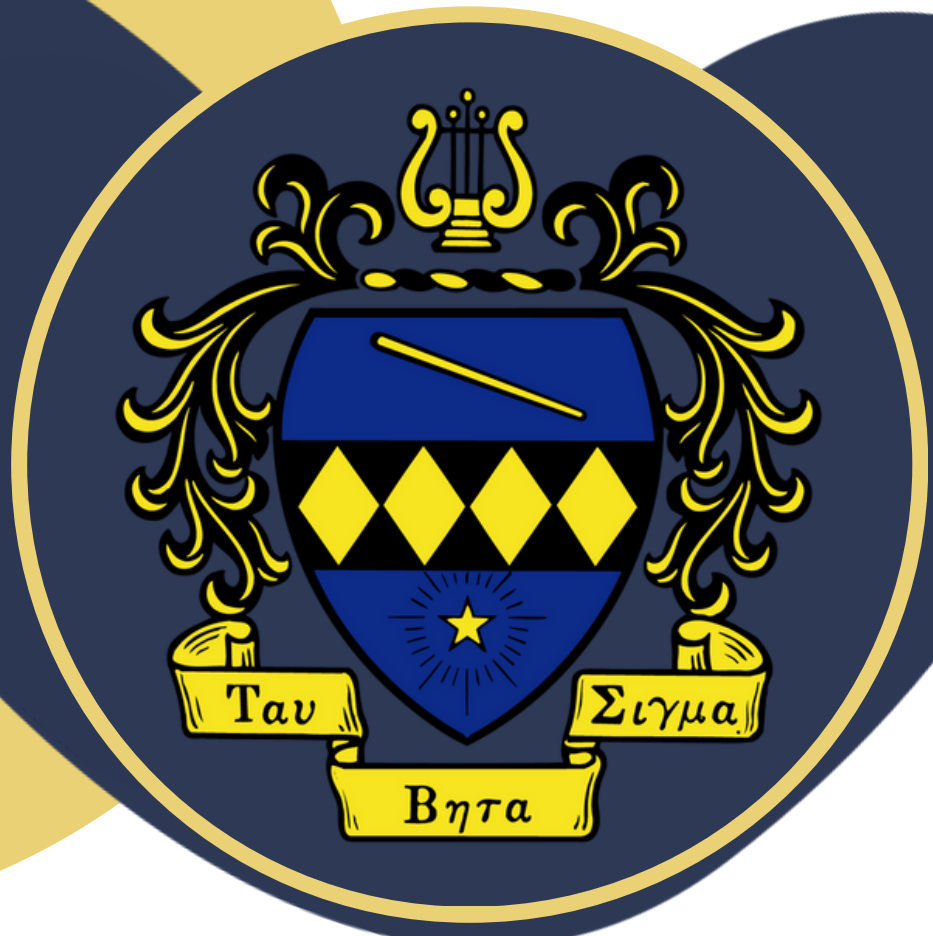


So, what does it mean to be a woman in music? For me, it means that I get to represent a minority in this career field for my students and show them fortitude. It is rare that I sit in a room of band directors and I am the only woman but it does occasionally happen. I am fortunate that I get to share my love of music with students each day and I am proud to represent a minority among band directors; a minority that is increasing each day. To all my music educators, Happy Music in our Schools month and to those who are women in music education, Happy Women's History month!

CELEBRATING 77 YEARS!

TAU BETA SIGMA

From The Southwest District
Alumni Association of Kappa
Kappa Psi & Tau Beta Sigma



*Are you attending
#SWDCON23?*

Registration Cut-off is
Friday, April 7th at
11:59pm (cst). Late
registration is \$105.00 and
you will not have a seat for
the banquet.

Sign up today at:
[https://kkytbs.swoogo.com/
2023swdcon/begin](https://kkytbs.swoogo.com/2023swdcon/begin)





Women's HISTORY MONTH MARCH 2023



WHAT DOES WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH MEAN TO YOU?

Women's History Month is a chance to recognize women who have changed the world, whether it's in small ways or big ways. So many women do so many amazing things that never get noticed, so having a month to try and help shine a light on those things is really special.



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR SWDAA TO CELEBRATE THESE OBSERVATIONS WITH OUR MEMBERS?

It is important for SWDAA to celebrate these observations because it reminds and encourages our members to have an open mind and be an ally for underrepresented demographics. It shines a light on the importance of diversity and equity and tells our members that we care about who they are as human beings.

HOW CAN ONE BE AN ALLY FOR WOMEN AND OTHER MARGINALIZED GROUPS?

One can be an ally for women and other marginalized groups by listening, having empathy, being engaged, and being an advocate for those groups. More privileged groups/individuals must recognize that they are privileged and use that as a voice for the people that either can't have a voice at all or are forced to whisper.





2023-2024 SWDAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Ryan Smith
Finance Director



Open
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Ciara Gibbs
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The terms of the 2023-2024 Board of Directors will start following the conclusion of the 2023 Southwest District Convention. Congratulations to all!



2023

SWD

CONVENTION

LAFAYETTE, LA | APRIL 14-16, 2023

DAYS TILL #SWDCON23 FROM MARCH 31ST, 2023:

**14 DAYS
OR
2 WEEKS
OR
3.84% OF 2023**

Contact us at:

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- Ciara Gibbs, Finance Director
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- Kelton Ashcraft (KKPsi) & Chelsea Zuniga (TBSigma)
 - Co-Members at Large
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