

# Con Brio A NewsLetter

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Frank Suggs, *Editor*

## From The Desk of the President

Dear NASPAAM Members,

I hope each of you had a wonderful summer and took the time to relax and enjoy it as much as possible. I worked a lot of the summer revising the music curriculum for my school district. I also took the MENC guitar class at Duquesne University for a week. It was really an exciting class. I know I don't have to tell you how we stay busy during our "off season" from teaching.

NASPAAM had a marvelous conference in the Houston area in March that featured several outstanding performing groups from some of our most treasured HBCU schools. You can read more on that in the section of this newsletter from the Conference Chair. The banquet was a tasteful delight in sight as well as taste and everyone in attendance had a great time honoring many well-deserved people. It was so Texas! Since the conference, our organization has grown in membership. We welcomed old friends and new ones. We are also in the process of inducting a new college chapter.

The Board held its annual summer retreat in June in Birmingham, which will also be the site of our next conference in 2013. The Birmingham Sheraton Hotel was beautiful and the staff was outstanding.

While I am still in the head seat, I would like to take this time to ask all of you to call five people and invite them to become part of the NASPAAM family. I would like to see our membership grow a bit more by the time I leave the office as President. Please make sure your own membership is updated and if you know of former members who have let their memberships lapse, please invite them to renew.

As we plan for the next NASPAAM conference in 2013, I am asking all of you to think about participating by presenting a workshop or other type of session. We love to highlight our members and their performing groups. Also, please send information to the Executive Secretary, Dr. Frederick Taylor about someone you know who would make an outstanding presentation at our next conference.

Now that many of us are getting acclimated to the new school year, I urge all of you to think of how *you* preserve and promote the music of our people in your classrooms.

If there is a lesson that you are particularly proud of or a moment that you would like to share with us, send it to the web master, David Eccles so he may place it on the web site for all to see.

I want to thank you all for a good year and I look forward to finishing my Presidency with many more positive ideas for the organization. I still want to see more classroom teachers involved and students at our HBCU schools become members.

Have a safe and enjoyable year, and I'll be in touch with all of you soon.

*Ina*



**Ina Allen**  
*President*



**Rebecca Cureau Anne Lundy Patricia Culpepper**  
*Rebecca and Patricia attending Anne Lundy's Black Composer's Workshop. - Houston 2011*

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