

ROPA VP Report – July 2020

- First big task after the conference was going through the exit surveys and compiling them into one, easy-to-read document so we as a board know what things to do differently in conferences to come. This is how we end up with things like more MAL breakout time, a new delegate breakfast instead of a presentation at the end of a long conference day, feedback on speakers, who we want to invite back, what topics people liked or didn't like, etc.
- Second big task is assigning the MAL groups. I go through and update the budgets for every orchestra and make MAL assignments accordingly.
- I usually design three separate questionnaires to go out to delegates during the year. This year we had initial reach-out at the beginning of the season and then a fall check-in. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, all of our communication to the delegates was focused on those issues. **Delegates, please *respond to your MALs*. We try to keep the questionnaires brief, and we very much want to respect your time, but it's really important that you take the time to answer these questions. We really do take your answers seriously.**
- I touch base with all of the MALs throughout the year, but we have at least three meetings or conference calls a year to discuss the delegate responses to our questionnaires. We have had many more calls this year due to the pandemic.
- Proofread all editions of The Leading Tone
- My other main job is helping to recruit and bring in new orchestras by sending info to interested parties and communicating with representatives of regional orchestras. This year, I had the pleasure of bringing in the Opera Philadelphia Orchestra! We have a handful of other orchestras in the membership pipeline, and I will continue my recruiting efforts when those orchestras are playing together in person again.
- If you have orchestras that you play in that are not in a players' conference that you think would be good candidates for ROPA, please come talk to me! The only requirement to join ROPA is that you have a CBA. Or, if you play in an orchestra that is not yet organized but you think there may be some interest there, please let me or your MAL know and we will put you in touch with the right people.