

# SONGWORKS

Educators Association

Playful Teaching Vibrant Learning

## From the President



Vicky Suarez  
2019-2020 President  
vicky@songworkseducators.com

It's still summer as I write to you, and yesterday I took my teenaged daughter Janie and her friend to a waterpark to enjoy one of the last days of summer vacation. I begin my school year in just a few days, this year in a new school and district for my 17<sup>th</sup> year in public education. I feel ready and even excited to be going back! There are new challenges that come along with starting in a new school: meeting and getting to know my colleagues, learning 450+ names of my students, and learning about the traditions and specific expectations of the community and school. As a veteran teacher, I feel comfortable with all of that, but mostly I feel grateful to have my SongWorks community, and SongWorks principles and strategies supporting me.

Do you experience summer break the way I do? The first week or so I am just trying to let go of the year by resting and relaxing after the hectic month of May. Then I begin to get into a routine at home of household chores and maybe some projects that I've put off until summer break. After a few more weeks I'm usually ready to do some kind of teacher education for myself. This summer I took an Orff Masterclass at Southern Methodist University with renowned teacher Sofia Lopez-Ibor called Music and Dance of Diverse Cultures. Along with my 30 classmates, I spent a delightful week immersed in songs, dances, and games from 30 countries.

Then just a few weeks ago I had the joyful experience of another week at the University of Wisconsin at River Falls, teaching the SongWorks for Musicality course along with dear friends Alice Nordquist, Jake Harkins, and Lisa Schoen. Even though I was teaching at the course this year, like a student I soaked in the principles and practices, experienced well-loved and remembered songs, dances, and games, and learned new ones. Being with my SongWorks community, getting to know teachers new to our group, and being with mentors I've known for 30 years was definitely what I needed to get me ready for a new school year.

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As you ready yourself for another year as a music teacher, I encourage you to find ideas and inspiration here in this newsletter and in past issues. Our organization values and exemplifies the idea of mentoring, so please feel free to reach out to any of us you see here in the newsletter or on the Board. Find us as well on Facebook and Twitter. And make plans to attend our 2020 SongWorks Conference in Dallas, April 2-4. Maybe you'd like to present a session! Lisa Schoen, Conference Chair, recently sent out a call for session proposals. You can email her at [Lisa@Songworkseducators.com](mailto:Lisa@Songworkseducators.com) if you need more information. May this school year be your best ever, full of playful teaching and vibrant learning!

*Vicky*



The Presidential Team

L to R- President-Elect Apprentice Aimee Newman, President-Elect Lisa Schoen,  
President Vicky Suarez, Past-President Max Mellman

**What was the student body like for 2019 summer courses?**

Students who attended SongWorks summer courses came from a wide geographic area: Arizona, Calgary, Manitoba, Coquitlam, BC, Illinois, Minnesota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Washington.

**What do these people do during the school year?**

Some of the course participants teach strings, high school instrumental music, beginning strings, middle school vocal, elementary music, one teaches instrumental and music education at the college level, one has yet to student teach and one is a neuroscientist working to assist a local school district in revising their teacher/learner model based on current scientific understanding of brain function. Imagine the sphere of influence reached through these channels!



Outgoing SongWorks Certification  
Executive Director, Terolle Turnham

**Where did the faculty come from?**

Just as diverse as the students, faculty hailed from Arizona, Colorado, Maryland, Montana, Minnesota, New Jersey, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin.

**Who taught the courses?**

Four SongWorks Certified Educators (Emilee Knell, Emma Shukle, Mary Stockum, and Taryn Raschdorf) participated as teaching and assisting Interns, nine did direct teaching - 5 in SongWorks in Action (Esther Campbell, Molly Feigal, Max Mellman, Betty Phillips, and Leah Sunquist), 4 in SongWorks for Musicality (Jake Harkins, Alice, Nordquist, Lisa Schoen and Vicky Suarez.)

**What about the future?**

Four faculty (Peggy Bennett, Anna Langness, Terolle Turnham and Marilyn Winter) retired from the SongWorks Certification Staff at the close of the course. And Terolle retired from the Executive Directorship and Dale as Business Manager. Betty Phillips is the new Executive Director and Gary Phillips is the Business Manager. Terolle and Dale hope to have moved all important materials to the Phillips' inbox by the end of August!

## SongWorks 2019 Summer Courses

Following the course, 14 faculty remained on campus where Judy Fjell led the group to consider what might happen in the next five years. During this process, Betty and the bunch had the opportunity to begin imagining what her SongWorks Advisory Council might look like and how it might function.

It was not determined whether or not a level 3 course will be offered in 2020 but there was strong investment to continue to offer SongWorks in Action and SongWorks for Musicality.

Providing interested former students the opportunity to participate in assisting or supporting roles is being considered to foster continued growth.

### Course Reflections



Ruthanne Parker

The SongWorks in Action course has given me many things. A chance to reflect on my practice. A renewed sense of purpose and passion for music education. A multitude of songs, games and activities to take back to my classroom. A deeper understanding of concepts and strategies I have been using in my classroom. A network of educators to connect with throughout the year. But perhaps most importantly, the chance to share a new and improved version of myself with my students.

SongWorks was an experience that I will not soon forget. This was such a unique opportunity to learn from many masterful elementary music teachers. The lessons I learned about teaching and working with children will impact my entire teaching career! I am so grateful to have been able to attend this certification course right before I start my first year of teaching. A few areas I will be able to apply SongWorks to my teaching are: classroom management, remembering to always keep a playful attitude while teaching music, and teaching rhythm and pitch. –Kylie Decker



Level I class

Kylie is fourth from the Right in the Back row

# SongWorks 2019 Summer Courses



2019 SongWorks Certification Courses students and faculty

**Join us next Summer!**

*Level 1: SongWorks in Action & Level 2: SongWorks for Musicality*

University of Wisconsin-River Falls

**July 13-17, 2020**

Introducing the new Executive Director for the SongWorks Certification Program, Betty Phillips

By Terolle Turnham, outgoing Executive Director

It is with a sense of excitement and gratitude, that I announce to all of you that Betty Phillips has accepted the position of Executive Director for SongWorks Courses (SWC).

Betty, a SongWorks Certified Educator, has a deep understanding regarding how children best learn. She has years of experience teaching children, in both music and elementary classrooms as well as mentoring other teachers. For three years Betty interned as an instructor of SongWorks in Action and SongWorks for Musicality courses proving herself to be a master teacher who enjoys working with adults.



Betty Phillips

Betty is a charter member of Music EdVentures now known as SongWorks Educators Association. She served as SWEA Secretary for five years. Thus, she is well aware of the workings of the parent organization of our certification programs. Betty has facilitated the planning for college courses held in Oregon prior to calling our work SongWorks so she has experience managing those varied details.

Betty is an energetic, forward thinking and “can do” sort of person who will lead the SongWorks Certification Program into uncharted territory with fervor and care.

We celebrate this transition and wish Betty success in this endeavor.



We're Social! Join us on Facebook and  
Twitter for more ideas and to connect with  
SongWorks Community

<https://facebook.com/SongWorksEducators/>

<https://twitter.com/WorksSong>

## A Message of Gratitude

To: Anna, Marilyn, Peggy and Terolle

From: Betty Phillips on behalf of her colleagues, the SongWork Course faculty

Words cannot express our gratitude for all of the decades of tireless hours you have spent creating, teaching, guiding us as we come to understand and share how best to lead children and adults as they explore the gift of music. You have not only taught us SongWorks principles and practices, you have modeled them in the interactions you have with each other and with us.

You have treated us with respect and dignity acknowledging that we have different strengths, weaknesses, and find ourselves in varying stages of development, just like the children we teach.

You have provided challenging, safe opportunities for us to demonstrate our understandings and skills. When we have been floundering, you have listened patiently, given us constructive feedback and helped us get back on track. Sometimes we've needed a little extra push and you've demonstrated confidence in us by encouraging us to move forward.

There has always been an understanding that it is our responsibility to grow and improve but with the knowledge that you would never give up on us. We have had to dig deep so that we could become the teachers we need to be and that our students deserve.

Your wisdom, compassion, dedication and courage to always move forward in the pursuit of excellence is inspiring and humbling. We know it has not always been a smooth road for you but we are so thankful you persevered. As we, the new Faculty, follow your footsteps we hope to demonstrate that yes, you have taught us well. We are ready because of you!



Anna Langness



Marilyn Winter



Peggy Bennett



Terolle Turnham

How will you start the school year off on the right foot? What song games make an appearance during the first few weeks of school?



Jake Harkins, DC

Kinder: Come and Follow Me

1<sup>st</sup>: Willow Tree

2<sup>nd</sup>: Looby Loo

3<sup>rd</sup>: Old Brass Wagon

4<sup>th</sup>: Going Down the Railroad

5<sup>th</sup>: Seasick Sailor

6<sup>th</sup>: Old Joe Clark

At the start of each school year my instructional focus may appear simple: folk song games. However, these song game gems provide just the right combination of experience I am seeking in order to establish and nurture a classroom community. They involve lots of movement and singing, and unfold with an intention of attention to student-centered learning. These song game experiences support student choice, and empower us to be together in community. During the unfolding of these song games and the study of their rich musical content, I set up, manage, support, and scaffold expectations for behaviors in our learning environment. These include interactions (student to student, teacher to students), appropriate responses to each other, movement expectations, feedback language, literacy study, and use of instruments and materials, among others. I have selected each of these song games for my context, which includes the various ages and stages of development at the start of our school year. The endless pathways of opportunities to explore and discuss our physical, verbal, and non-verbal interactions (behaviors), the playful nature of the song games, and richness of study during our first four weeks together makes each an invaluable part of establishing our learning environment.

Greet a Friend and Say Nice to Meet You 3,4

Penny Song 5

My Landlord 5

Oh, Here We Are Together K, 1

Come and Follow Me K, 1

Muffin Man K, 1, 2



Vicky Suarez, TX



Ruthanne Parker, PA

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Instead of putting up the state standards, I am going to post the SongWorks principles in a visible place in my classroom. Not only will this be a reminder for me to stay focused on providing an engaging learning experience and a safe classroom environment for my students, but it will let them be 'in on' my goals for our time together.

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I have started using the first song games of the year to weave in expectations for our learning community, by playing a bit, and then pausing briefly here and there to ask, "How did we work together? How were we respectful? Responsible? Ready to learn? How did we act with integrity? How did you feel?" It is powerful to hear my students describe what they are experiencing during these song games. I learn so much about them!

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Bumpity, Bumpity, Yellow  
Bus  
I'm Going Downtown  
Oh, Here We Are  
Together  
Come and Follow Me  
Darby Town name game



Alice Nordquist, MD

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I like to read some of the past newsletters to prepare for the year.

*Editor's note:*

*Did you know? All of our past newsletters are available at [songworkseducatorsassociation.com/resources/newsletters](http://songworkseducatorsassociation.com/resources/newsletters). You can even sort by topic listing where you will find a collection of back to school articles and activities! Song scores and detailed activities for all of the songs features here plus many more are available in our MEMBERS ONLY section.*

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Mary Stockum, CO

2020  
**SONGWORKS**  
EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Dallas, TX  
Westin DFW Airport  
April 2-4, 2020

Featuring Sessions by **SongWorks Educators and Innovators**  
from across the **USA, Canada, and Japan**



Learn more at [songworkseducators.com](http://songworkseducators.com)  
*Registration opens in January!*



**2020 SongWorks Conference**  
**April 2-4, 2020**  
**Dallas, TX**

### **Presentation Proposal Guidelines**

Do you teach playfully so your students can learn vibrantly?  
Consider a conference session sharing those key experiences.

#### **An Overview**

1. **Review** the Proposal Selection Factors below as you create your proposal.
2. **Submit** a separate form for each session you are proposing.
3. **Submit** your proposal(s) at: [Submit Form Here](#) by **August 31, 2019**.
4. **Update** your SWEA membership to be considered for conference presentation.
5. **Contact me** at [lisa@songworkseducators.com](mailto:lisa@songworkseducators.com) if you have questions or want to discuss your thoughts.

#### **Conference Selection Factors**

##### **1. Applicability/Value**

Will attendees be able to immediately incorporate what they learn into their teaching?

Will you share your process and intentions for learning so others can apply your ideas in their classrooms?

##### **2. Repertoire**

In addition to the core study songs of SongWorks, a **variety** of repertoire is welcomed.

##### **3. Variety**

Overall range of conference topics and types of activities are considered in the selection process.

We look forward to receiving and reading your proposal!  
You will be notified of the status of your proposal no later than  
**November 30, 2019**



## 2019-2020 MN Area Workshops

### September 21

#### SongWorks and Ukuleles

Deerwood Elementary  
1480 Deerwood Drive, Eagan, MN

### November 16

#### Song as Curriculum: From Game to Study

University of Wisconsin, River Falls  
410 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, River Falls, WI

### February 1

#### Preschool and Primary

Taylor Falls Elementary  
648 West Street, Taylor Falls, MN

### May 2

#### Playing with Masterworks

Middleton Elementary  
9105 Lake Road, Woodbury, MN

### **Saturdays**

**9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Cost: FREE!**

**CEU's  
available  
upon request**

*All are welcome!  
Bring a friend!*

*Workshops led by  
SongWorks  
Certified  
Educators*

*Experiences are  
crafted to enliven,  
enrich and  
encourage you in  
your teaching.*

*Renew your  
passion to  
teach musically,  
playfully, and  
vibrantly, using  
innovative SW  
principles and  
practices.*

*We appreciate being able to contact you in case of  
inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances.*

RSVP to Molly Feigal at [feigalmj@hotmail.com](mailto:feigalmj@hotmail.com)



SATURDAY  
SEPTEMBER 28  
9:00-12:00

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
FELLOWSHIP HALL  
WADSWORTH AT  
77TH & 7755 VANCE DRIVE  
ARVADA

ENTER AT BACK OF CHURCH, LOWER PARKING LOT

ALISON CARTER, MARY STOCKUM  
ANNA LANGNESS

PRESENT

NEW SONGS & GAMES  
NEW APPLICATIONS OF ANTIPHONING  
MOVEMENT TO MAPPING A MASTERWORK

FREE

3 CEU hours  
Certificate available

Questions? Email [alangness@gmail.com](mailto:alangness@gmail.com)  
call/text 303-466-7956

The Purpose of SongWorks Educators Association is to search for and practice ways of making music and interacting with people that preserve and celebrate the dignity of both. As a guiding principle, this purpose will focus our work on:

- 1) Practices that foster interactive, facilitative learning environments.
- 2) Strategies that empower the learner within the context of music experience and study.
- 3) Networks that encourage collaboration between diverse disciplines, professionals, and interest groups.

## SWEA Board of Directors

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**President:** Vicky Suarez, TX

**President-Elect:** Lisa Schoen, MN

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## SWEA

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**Support the mission of SWEA with membership dues or donations!**

\$45 Regular \$75 Sustaining \$100 Patron \$20 Student

Join or donate online at:

[www.songworkseducatorsassociation.com](http://www.songworkseducatorsassociation.com)

Would you like to submit something to be considered for the SWEA Newsletter or Happenings?

Email [ruthanne.fisher@gmail.com](mailto:ruthanne.fisher@gmail.com)

## SWEA Committees

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**Website Chair:** Pam Vellutini, OR

**Newsletter Chair:** Ruthanne Parker, PA

**Academic Coordinator:** Taryn Raschodorf, VA

**Grants Administrator:** Emilee Knell, UT

**Emerging Pioneers Advisor:** Samantha Smith, PA

**Visiting Scholars Chair:** Peggy Bennett, MT

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The password for the secure *Members Access* area of the SWEA website will soon be updated. Members who have renewed their membership within the past year will receive the updated password in an email from the Registrar. In order to keep your membership current, please visit our [Membership Renewal](#) page. If you are uncertain about the date of your last dues payment, or if you have any other questions about your membership, please contact Registrar Alice Nordquist: [registrar@songworkseducators.com](mailto:registrar@songworkseducators.com).

Thank you for your support of the SongWorks Educators Association!

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