

SCMEA Orchestra Division
February 12, 2005

Susan Baier, orchestra division president, brought the meeting to order at 3:00pm at the Charleston Convention Center.

Thank You:

Please sign attendance sheets.

Please complete Phil McIntyre's survey of the convention.

Thank you to Sarah Fitzgerald for a wonderful convention.

Thank you to our wonderful performing groups: Jerry Gatch, *South Carolina Philharmonic*; Jennifer Diehn, *Dawkins Middle School*; and Melissa Martin, *Lexington Middle School*.

May 1st is the deadline for audition tapes in order to be considered for performance at convention next year.

Bands of America: Eric Martin encouraged orchestra students to participate in the Honor Orchestra of America. Next year the festival will be in the spring in Indianapolis. Flyers were distributed and left with Susan Baier for those interested.

Exchange Students: Richard Wagner talked about supporting international exchange students by finding host families.

Officers' Reports:

Approval of the Minutes (Amy Strahm): Sandy Goldie approved the minutes from the September 11, 2004 meeting. Freddie Grace seconded.

Treasurer's Report (Sharon Doyle): We are in good shape! We did a better job with checks coming in and not bouncing. There were no bounced checks this year; however, deadlines are still being missed. Please send something to let Sharon Doyle know of a check delay due to district processing. Be prepared for late fees if you have waited too close to a deadline. Johanna Pollock approved the treasurer's report. Chris Selby seconded.

President-Elect (Sarah Fitzgerald): She is currently taking suggestions for next year's convention. A notebook was sent around to add ideas.

Concert Festival: Jacob Dakon was not in attendance. E-mail Jacob Dakon with questions at Jmdakon1@yahoo.com.

Solo and Ensemble (Angela Rex): Thank you to the membership for getting everything done in a timely fashion. Thank you to the site chairmen for being patient about the medals and certificates. All medals and certificates have been distributed.

All State: Chris Corde could not be here. He still has the list of conductors available from last year. Please e-mail him with any other suggestions at credc@sc.rr.com.

Sarah Rose added that registration for All State at Furman University is from 4pm to 6pm. Auditions begin at 6pm. Everyone will be involved in auditions. A list of students by their sponsor's name was passed around to the membership. Please double check this information. Students will choose a student activity Saturday night. An onsite repair person will be present at all times.

Region Orchestra (Chris Selby): A list is going around if you would like to be a potential region conductor. The dates of Region and All-State are not on any form we hand out. The teachers need to make sure to provide this information to the students. It has been too difficult to put Region together after the school year has started. Chris Selby suggested having the region chairs begin looking for conductors and talking about music the preceding year. The following members are the region chairs this year:

Region One: Denise Burcham-Auditions will be held at Dorman H.S.

Region Two: Pickens Staff

Region Three: Johanna Pollock

Region Four: They will divide into Site Chair, Jean Epting, and Audtion Chair.?

Next year all Regions Orchestras will be on November 11th and 12th. We are working on making it possible for conductors to be excused from sponsorship in order to conduct. E-mail Chris Selby with any questions at cselby@rnh.richland2.org.

All State Taping (Paul Buyer): Everything went well. There were some last minute changes to the roster, but the program is at the printer.

New Business

Andre Levin, South Carolina Division ASTA President, presented the State Studio Teacher of the Year award to Robert Jesselson . He presented the School Teacher of the Year award to Johanna Pollock. Congratulations to our outstanding South Carolina teachers!

Sharon Doyle talked about House Bill 3499 expanding the requirements of physical education in K-5. They will have to hire more PE teachers, affecting our budgets. The expansion of time in the PE class will affect our classroom time if we are not careful. The movement standards in our standards do not count towards PE minutes. The ABC Project and Arts Alliance Project are currently working on a presentation to the sub-committee.

The All State soloist will be Amberly Cox.

2006 Tentative Dates:

Please contact Susan Baier if you foresee any major calendar conflicts with these dates. The calendar meeting is May 1st.

October 1: Region Auditions

November 11-12: Region Orchestra (all regions)
December 3rd: All State Solo Auditions
February 9-11: SCMEA Conference
February 24-26: All State Orchestra
March 3-4 or 10-11: Solo and Ensemble Festivals (regions choose)
March 29-31 or April 5-7: Concert Festival (regions choose)
Reminder: You can take your group to a different region for Solo and Ensemble if there is a date conflict in your region.

Susan Baier proposed officers for next year:

President: Sarah Fitzgerald
Vice- President: Susan Baier
President Elect: Chris Selby
Treasurer: Sharon Doyle
Secretary: Amy Strahm
Concert Festival: Ginger Greer

All other positions are appointed positions.

Freddie approved the proposal for the new officers. Melissa Martin seconded. All members voted in favor.

Three-tiered All State Proposal:

First reading: We propose that the current All-State configuration be modified into three orchestras; the structure being: Grade 6-8, Grade 9-10, Grade 11-12.

The committee for this proposal is Chris Corde, Sandy Goldie, Susan Johnson and Rosa Kelly.

Thoughts and Concerns from the Membership (responses to questions were given by Chris Selby):

Freddie Grace: Will all be full orchestras? This can be decided by the committee. Are the venues capable of having rehearsal space? Many of the old venues are accustomed to having this many groups.

John Kvasnicka: Would region be in three groups? No, there would have to be a separate audition for All-State. Region would remain unchanged. This would allow 50% more students to participate.

Paul Buyer: We have to look at numbers and if it would be acceptable to make the groups smaller. A policy needs to be made about the potential for cutting numbers in the orchestra due to talent base. This needs to be dealt with in a committee. Right now it is at the discretion of the region. A handbook change needs to be made to accommodate this flexibility.

Ginger Greer: Would the level come down if you are accepting that many people? Ann Ezell said in an earlier meeting that a number of students are lost after 9th and 10th grade with the “why bother” mentality. The division of the orchestras might prevent this drop.

Sandy Goldie: If we had more spots, it would allow for a margin of error. Those students we question why they did not make it into an orchestra would have a better chance.

Chris Selby: I am hearing that a lot of good students are being left out.

Christi Lewis: What would be the audition material? This will be decided later.

Gail Barnes: Florida has a model for the 3 tier program

Teresa Russ: Is there a reason for not grouping to ability? We are trying to avoid the second level orchestra.

Susan Baier: The grouping of students needs done by a minimum age, not grade level.

Live Auditions Proposal:

First reading. We propose that we move towards live auditions for both Region and All-State orchestras. The Region auditions will remain the same with each region hosting the separate auditions. Students accepted into the Region orchestra will travel to USC Columbia for live auditions for All-State orchestra. Auditions will take place on the first Saturday after the first week of school in January. Gail Barnes and USC will host and organize the auditions. It is the intention that the Up-State will host All-State orchestra every year, the Mid-State will host the All-State auditions every year, and the Low-Country will host conference every year.

The committee for this proposal is Catherine Crowe, Gail Barnes, Jennifer Diehn, Paul Buyer, and Christine Lewis.

Thoughts and Concerns from the Membership (responses to questions were given by Chris Selby):

Ginger Greer: Is it an extra day? Yes.

Paul Buyer: I was afraid of one area not having to drive; however, it would help to always have the event in the Up-State. This way the convention would always be in the Low-State, the live auditions would always be in the Midlands and All-State would always be in the Up-State.

Johanna Pollock: Parents can drive their own children if there is a chaperone/bus problem.

Susan Baier: The audition date could be the first week in January. This date is currently open.

Chris Selby: This will not be voted on until a third reading which will be next year. This would be for the 2006-7 school year.

Old Business

Susan Baier read a letter from Patti Foy thanking the Orchestra Division for supporting Amy Strahm at the SDMENC meeting in Tampa. Susan Baier encouraged support and mentoring for newer teachers.

Sarah Fitzgerald talked about the two octave scales for Junior All-State. Chris Selby suggested we all stay consistent with the lower two octaves.

Chris Selby requested that he meet with the committees for the new proposals.

John Kvasnicka motioned to close the meeting. Andre Levin seconded.

Respectfully Submitted:

Amy E. Strahm