

SCMEA Orchestra Division
February 28, 2009

- Chris Selby, orchestra division president, called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM.
- Chris Selby announced that handouts are available for pick-up at the door. He mentioned that weather is an issue, but that decisions will be made at dinner tonight, and then will be announced to students tonight at rehearsals.

Officer Reports

Approval of Minutes, Stacey Burnette

- Sarah Fitzgerald moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by many. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report, Sharon Doyle

- The current balance as of 2/28/09 is \$43,264.51. Needs to see Sarah Lopes, Jose Carrion and Ann Matthews.

Concert Festival, Ginger Greer

- Copies ran out of the rules and regulations for 2010, but these will be posted on the website. She has all the supplies for concert festival. A few things: 1. Next year, if fees can't be in on time, there will be a \$25 late fee. 2. Concert Festival teacher forms (located on the website) need to be emailed/faxed to the site chair immediately (this year, due March 13 and future years). 3. You need two original copies of scores for this year and future years. 4. For next year, at least one selection will need to come from South Carolina's graded list (already on the website). Other lists than can be references: FMEA, GMEA, NYMEA, TMEA (these can be found on Luck's website). For next year, if there is a question about graded pieces or to get a piece on the list that isn't already on there, fill out a form (will be posted online by Monday) and send in along with a scanned copy of the score. This process needs to be done by January 15, 2010. This is around the same time that registration is due. Question: only one piece has to be from the list? Yes-the other piece is your choice. Question: can we use something from another list? Yes. Concerns from previous years: in consideration of sight-reading issues, JW Pepper has sent 20 pieces (\$4000), multiple ones so that overlap and/or repetition (groups hearing other groups perform) won't happen. Next year, groups will not be allowed to listen to other groups during sight-reading. Number of groups participating: up 2 groups from last year, number of students: up 400 students from last year-our programs are growing-this is good! Suggestion for standing rule change: change the word "vocal" to "audible"-confusing-clapping isn't allowed after the performance time begins. For site chairs, please make sure that all rented music gets back to Ginger Greer in sellable condition. Ginger needs to meet with site chairs for concert festival. All changes that have been made and are being made will be online-there will no longer be a handbook. Handbooks cost SCMEA 1000s of dollars. Forms will all be online from now on (www.scorchestra.net).

Solo and Ensemble, Christine Hallett

- Christine sent email reminders-hopefully everyone has gotten it. The Solo and Ensemble postmark deadline is March 6. She has materials for site chairs. We're using spreadsheet that Phillip Pagal created-she'd like for us to go to this in future years.

Region Orchestra, Johanna Pollock

- Johanna is not here-no report. Phillip Pagal will be taking over this position next year.

All-State Auditions, Paul Buyer

- There is a committee who will be compiling excerpts. Please make sure that he has these today. Chris Selby: we have been having technological issues in communicating with our membership. Please make sure that you are inputting his email address so that emails don't get bounced back. Please email Paul Buyer directly-that way the lines of communication will be opened. His email address can be found on the web site.

All-State Orchestra, Susan Baier, Melissa Martin and Chris Cordé

- Thank you to Susan Baier for everything she has done this weekend. Bernhardt sponsored our hospitality room-thank you to them.
- Melissa Martin: Brian Gencarelli and Patrick Murch will be taking over all-state orchestra next year. Thank you Melissa for everything that you have done. Christian Williams: please check the program insert for correct name spellings. Chris Selby: Chris Cordé is in charge of all of the winds-he does a lot of behind the scenes work. Every seat is filled in the orchestras! Chris Cordé: The band kids look forward to coming to all-state every year. All the sections have the top all-state band kids in them. Susan Johnson: we should have winds, brass, percussion for one piece for the 6-8 group. Couldn't the 9/10 orchestra winds, brass, percussion kids rehearse with the 6/8 group while the 9/10 kids are rehearsing their string piece? Chris Selby: we would need to draw up a proposal. Paul Buyer: how hard would it be to staff the 6/8 orchestra with 6/8 winds, brass, percussion? It was mentioned that Middle school bands are producing better kids

than in years past. Most of the membership reacted negatively towards this suggestions. Chris Selby: timeout: you need to create a proposal that we can start reading and tweaking. Freddie Grace: first suggestion is workable, but when we've used 6/8 WBP before, it hasn't been a good thing-we've have the kids come for the whole weekend and only practice a piece for 20 minutes. Ginger Greer: it needs to be decided now. Susan Johnson: proposes the 6/8 orchestra to implement one symphony (full orchestra) piece, where 9/10 players will be used. The 9/10 orchestra will perform one string piece. Norman Neff-seconded. Melissa Martin: conductors submit program music by May 15. Ginger Greer: are the candidates aware that they will be conducting a full piece? Majority Motion passes. Comment: the 9/10 music was too heavy...good kids are having trouble. Chris Selby: all-state conductors presented other music that was much harder...we did not accept a lot of music choices (most of it was 20th century). We need to be careful when we vote-we voted for these conductors-we are actually voting for them and their piece choice expertise. Susan Baier: suggested giving the new conductors a CD from the previous year would help them get an idea of what the groups have done in previous years.

- Brian Gencarelli: All-State conductor ballots: some conductor bio copies are here-he sent them out via email (a lot bounced back however). On the ballot, mark them in the order that you want. He will tally them up and will have results hopefully by the end of the day. Make sure he gets the ballot by the end of the meeting. For next year: people who are not selected will remain on the ballot-he'll keep rotating them through. After 3 years, if they haven't been selected, they will be taken off the ballot. In future years, voting will take place online by the September meeting. Names were submitted to him by email. Paul Buyer: mentioned that Kirt Mosier is on the ballot for the 6/8 and 9/10 orchestras. He wants to commission a work-he could potentially compose a string piece-this could work for the new proposal for the 9/10 group. Comment: We don't have to always have commissioned work. Lynn Auman: can we add comments of observers of these composers' work? Brian Gencarelli: we shouldn't post that-shouldn't be available for the public to read. Lynn Auman: we absolutely should post it. Chris Selby: let's open the floor for comments about prospective all-state conductor candidates. Ann Buttimer: Rebecca McLeod: conducted at FSU summer camps-she's fantastic-works well with kids. Susan Baier: Jeff Brogan: from New Jersey: impressed with what he did with kids-musicianship, very motivating, she was very pleased with him-used to be conducting teacher at Ithaca, associate conductor with New Jersey symphony. Brian Gencarelli: mark your choices, if you have any questions for him, email him. By the September meeting, he hopes to take nominations. He will keep a file of bios- build a database. Unanimous "thank you" to Brian from membership for doing this.

New Business

- No new business.

Old Business

- OPA award discussions have been tabled. Brian Gencarelli: Chris Selby and I have been playing with numbers-trying to make things work. We've looked into possibly changing point values; we've also looked into implementing an elementary award criteria. Hopefully the new numbers system won't penalize anyone for school size, etc. It's been constructive discussion so far with Chris Selby. I want to get a committee together-if it passes, it would go into effect 2011.
- Janice Hutton: BJU has offered the state to use their campus on a two-day schedule. They're willing to hold it there year after year. There are no scheduling issues with the campus: no buses, no building issues-the snack shop is willing to cater the event. Revised schedules are available today, but it will also be posted on the website. She mentioned that there is no prayer required during rehearsals, and that the dress code has changed: pants and jeans are now allowed. She'll answer any questions that you have-hey'll open dorms for housing at no cost to the student. (Note: most comments were written down, but all comments could not be recorded due to everyone speaking at once and the speed at which people were talking). Comment: 4:30 concert for those who have to travel far distances-it's a late night. Tim Bennett: administrators don't like it when kids are pulled out-they would be missing the whole day. Comment: push it to Thursday night? Lynn Auman: it's a 6 hour trip from Myrtle Beach...we would have to leave Thursday after-school, drive through the night-it wouldn't be any more cost effective for us. Brian Gencarelli: for those people coming from the lowcountry: kids will get up super early to go on trips-can you leave in the early morning? Jennifer Diehn: it would be nice to have Sunday-we are all giving up time with our families on weekends like this. I live here locally and I'm not seeing my family this weekend. Chris Selby: we have agreed to have all-state in the upstate: if we can decide on things for the entire state, that's what we need to do. We need to consider the students and ourselves. Comment: 4 hour rehearsal time with a 15 minute break-this would not be acceptable in any professional situation. Comment: that's what the rehearsal schedule is this weekend. Ginger Greer: could we have it somewhere else in the state? Lynn Auman: I don't find it equitable for lowcountry people to travel. Chris Cordé: is it better to have everyone travel to the midlands? Chris Selby: if we're equitable in having everything in Columbia, we're still inequitable. Catherine Crowe:

upstate people are not opposed to traveling other places-we just need to know facility spaces. If facilities can be used in other places in the state, people need to speak up. Chris Selby: we need to understand our old logic before we throw it out. Comment: where the students have to travel is the equitable issue-this is something worth pursuing. Becky Leonard: isn't this whole thing all about BJU kids not being able to participate? Chris Selby: timeout: we can't base anything religious issues...once we bring religion into it, it becomes a whole different issue. We can't be fair going down that road. Janice: you need to put housing specifications in the proposal. For financial and time commitment reasons: having all-state on two days-that's the reason for the proposal. Catherine Crowe: two day and changing facility issues will not work together. Chris Selby: bands forever have had their facilities in the same place-administrators will get used to this if we're consistent year after year. Janice Hutton: BJU has gotten dates reserved for us for 2011. Sharon Doyle: from the financial standpoint: we don't have a lot of money to pay for halls. The Koger Center hall bill was \$2500 plus extra fees. Converse is not charging us, and BJU is kindly offering their facilities to us. Chris Selby: I'm honestly thinking about having all-state in a school setting-not thinking a hall such as the Koger Center. Janice Hutton: this process has been discussed for 5 years-that's why she started this proposal for discussion since nothing has been done in 5 years Lynn Auman: a rotation was done in previous school districts that she taught in. Looking at a rotation is the most equitable thing to do. Chris Cordé: the schedule is the issue, but it seems like we're moving away for the proposal all together. Chris Selby: this is the second reading of this. Comment: the two day schedule seems to lessen the prestige of all-state. Paul Buyer: this is almost like block scheduling for all-state. Discussions were tabled.

- Chris Selby: For tomorrow, our plan B for wintry weather conditions: concert before lunch (11:00 concert), much shortened dress rehearsals, everyone would leave right after lunch.
- John Kvasnicka: Moved that we adjourn the meeting. Seconded by many.
- Meeting adjourned at 3:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacey M. Burnette