

SCMEA Orchestra Division
February 9, 2008

Chris Selby, orchestra division president, called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM.

Thank You:

- Amy Strahm (Conference): Thank you for putting together this wonderful conference! We are always looking for ideas on how to improve. Please communicate with Amy any suggestions you have.
- Paul Buyer (All-State Auditions): Thank you for handling the all-state auditions, especially with the weather conditions.
- Melissa Martin, Chris Cordé, David Warlick, and Andrew Levin (All-State Weekend): Thank you to all of you. Thank you also to Christian Williams, for putting together the all-state program.
- Johanna Pollock (Region Orchestra): Thank you to Johanna for all of her work in coordinating Region Orchestra.
- Ginger Greer (Concert Festival): Thank you to Ginger for all of her work in coordinating Concert Festival.
- Christine Hallett (Solo and Ensemble): Thank you to Christine for all of her work in coordinating Solo and Ensemble.

I. Welcome

II. Officer Reports

- Approval of Minutes, Stacey Burnette
 - Chris Selby asked if everyone had read the minutes. After a minute, he asked for a motion to approve the September meeting minutes. Dottie Hanlin made a motion to approve the minutes. September meeting minutes were approved.
- Treasurer's Report, Sharon Doyle
 - The current balance as of 2/9 is \$36,819.22. Sharon asks that the local chairperson for events collect all vouchers and money and send to Sharon directly.
- Conference, Amy Strahm
 - Amy has started a notebook around with conference suggestions. Please let her know these ideas for improvement. She encouraged all of us to go home and recruit colleagues to come to next year's conference.
- Concert Festival, Ginger Greer
 - Next year's fee will go up to \$100. The adjudication form we are using has been in this year's orchestra handbook, and it will also be put on the web site by Monday. Copy these, give to your students so that you and they are familiar with the new rubric. Thanks

to Chris Selby for all of his work on this new rubric. Something new this year is groups who receive a Superior or an Excellent rating will receive a trophy or plaque. For another \$20, name of the group will be able to be engraved on these trophies and plaques. 115 groups and 3,594 students have registered for this event. In the next week or two, you'll be hearing from your region chair about your day, times, etc.

- Concert Festival Chairs and Dates: Region 1: Tammy King, 3/26-3/28, Region 2: Ann Matthews, 4/3-4/4, Region 3: Chris Corde, Chris Selby, Freddie Grace: 4/3-4/4, Region 4: Lynn Auman: 4/3
- Solo and Ensemble, Christine Hallett
 - Judging forms will be put on the web site in PDF format. Next postmarked deadline is quickly approaching (March 5). Please make sure to put the teacher cover letter, along with MENC card. Students receiving a good rating will be receiving a certificate this year. If students are both in solo and ensemble, please consider helping out the site chair by indicating students who are involved in both events.
- Region Orchestra, Johanna Pollock
 - Next year's region orchestra location and hosts: Region 1: Dorman HS: audition (Susan Baier), Marsha Gross (Rock Hill HS): event host, Region 2: Brian Gencarelli: auditions, Diane Atkins: host, Region 3: Colleen Marcou: audition, Johanna Pollock: host, Region 4: Sarah Fitzgerald: audition and host site. By the all-state meeting, we need to get an updated list of South Carolina conductors. Let her know so we can compile a list.
- All-State Orchestra, Melissa Martin and Chris Cordé
 - Chris Corde: check out www.bandlink.org to see if students are involved.
 - Melissa Martin: Thank you for your patience as we are improving the all-state system. Nominations for conductors for All-State: Andrew Levin, Gail Barnes, Dean Angeles, Michael Allen, Bill Scott, Jay Martin-Pinner, Sandy Goldie. Please contact Melissa next Friday, 2/15 with other nominations, so that a written ballot can be created at all-state.
 - Question: Are we considering a commissioned work? Melissa and Sharon both think we should wait a year for a commissioned work. Last year's work cost \$3000.
- All-State Auditions, Paul Buyer
 - The definitive list, version 3 is what you received today. Thank you for your cooperation with the weather. We are adamant that the taped auditions were to be fair-that's why students had to play all of the auditions....no student was denied into the orchestra. If you had a student who made it and who auditioned live, check to make sure that they are on the list.
 - We asked the judges to formulate the opinion "is this person an all-state player, a questionable player, or a player who does not need to be in all-state." No person was cut out of this! This result was one of carefully calculated thought.

- It was announced that Josephine Mo (sp?) (6-8) showed up the audition, but is not on the list.
- What you have in your hands is not in chair order. Please look online Monday to see revised list in chair order. We've added six more people who definitely made it in-they are bumping people down, not cutting anyone out.
- Gene Epting had a student made it: 3rd chair, 2nd vln (11-12)
- Adrienne Wells: 2nd chair, 2nd vln (11-12)
- Definitive list, version 4 will be put on the web site.
- We will deal with remote registration issues at the fall meeting. If it works as well as it can, we will be able to push ahead region registration dates. The program we wrote is based off of Western Tennessee's program...it's not necessarily working for SC. You have a list of people who had trouble submitting materials.
- Registration files will probably be sent to Paul via email.
- We're looking at doing auditions a week earlier next year. We have two reasons for this:
 - Plan A: If one school cancels events (deadline TBD), all-state event is cancelled. Alternate date will have to be checked by all students.
 - Plan B: Inclement weather make-up following week. Live auditions only.
 - Plan C: In some way, we would look at region scores, put it through a t-score, and select all-state scores.
- John K: What happens if school districts can't get buses for second date option? We have to be careful...if someone was not given a second option, we would have a liability on us.
- Dottie: Could we consider additional suggestions for Plan C? Email Paul with suggestions
- Freddie: Are we going to vote on it? It does not change the handbook at all. This is in event of inclement weather. It can be brought to the membership, but doesn't have to have an official vote.
- Chris: we are going to do our best to listen to ideas, and formulate a plan c. These different plans are the extreme. The board is NOT in favor of listening to tapes anymore. Tapes are going to be put to rest. Parents who complained were very unhappy regarding tapes-they didn't know that students who were accepted were not kicked out.
- Paul: A plan D would be to cancel the event all together. Of the 22 who sent in tapes, we took 10. We don't want arbitrary decisions to be made-we have to defend our decision.
- Freddie: Commend everyone on the job that was done. Thank you for all you did on that day.

- Paul: Organizational issues: are the kids being rushed? Let Paul know if you have any suggestions at all-state meeting.
- Chris: we are looking at a way to post results, and to post all student scores without the student name listed. We'll have more information for you at All-State.
- Paul: the numbers are not for public dissemination-for your professional development.

III. New Business

- Michael Weaver introduced himself as the new string faculty at North Greenville University. Our school is small: 2000 undergraduates: 2 masters: biblical studies and in business. Bachelor of fine arts: performance, MUED, church music. The school has a motto of "Where Christ makes a difference." He is the first full time string professor at the university. They have a string ensemble made (4, 3, 2, 1, no basses) of non-music majors. Scholarship money available for next fall. The dean of the fine arts department mentioned that students should not have to pay, because of all the scholarships offered. A local church also has substantial financial aid available.
- Weaver would like to be invited in public schools. Please contact him (business cards were passed out). His primary instrument is viola, but also plays violin. Undergraduate degree in music education, Masters is in Suzuki pedagogy as well as Viola Performance. He is also the conductor of youth orchestras in Hendersonville, NC.
- Melissa Martin asked if members would be willing to take items to the teachers at the following schools: Saint James, Porter-Gaud, Byrnes, Socastee, Dreher.
- Chris Selby: Thank you to Andy Preston and Sarah Fitzgerald for bringing their groups down here to play.
- Sarah Fitzgerald: Thank you to everyone who participated in her survey.
- Jennifer Diehn: Choral division has to come to two meetings a year to be in good standing. Members of choral division get letters written to their principals if they did not attend. She thinks that something should be done to hold members of the orchestra division accountable. She'll be willing to write something out.
- Paul Buyer: It is convenient, because three meetings are at three different locations in the state.
- Susan Baier: Commended the patience of the board with all the parent issues and complaints. Parents should be contacting the teacher directly, not the board members. Maybe email addresses should be taking off the web site so that board members shouldn't be contacted. Parents and students should go directly to the teacher, not the board members.
- Paul Buyer: The web site was created in 1999, most of us didn't have email addresses yet. We are working on making the "members only" section.
- Freddie Grace: The difference in us and the choral division is that we have private teachers. How do we discipline them? They are expected to be at everything that school directors are. You're either a part of the membership or you're not.

- Dottie Hanlin: Moved for Jennifer Diehn to draft something up (accountability statement) to be considered by the membership at the next all-state meeting.
- Chris Selby: She'll put in writing, and we'll go from there.

IV. Old Business

- John Kvasnicka: Moved that we adjourn the meeting.
- Christian Williams: Carissa O'Keefe is in what grade?
- Amy Strahm: If you would like to make conference suggestions, see Amy.
- Meeting adjourned at 3:59 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacey M. Burnette