

SCMEA minutes: Conference meeting 2/9/13

Temporary Secretary – Angela Rex/Cortney Dial

2 handouts given @ meeting: Agenda & orchestra division calendar for 2013-14

WELCOME:

Marsha Gross calls meeting to order.

1. Attendance: has attendance for everyone to sign and put date for today since she had computer issues today.
2. Announcements – Congratulations to Sharon Doyle on earning her Doctorate.
3. Thank you's: Colleen Marcou & Sharon Doyle for conference; Dawkins & Cario MS for excellent performances; special thanks to Soon Hee Newbold for her gracious demeanor and willingness to serve/help out with things. Someone took off with one of the cello folders from the reading session and that music has to be taken back to FJH. Colleen will send out an email to retrieve.

OFFICER'S REPORT:

1. Approval of minutes: Diehn: correction in last meetings minutes: new people intros Colleen introduced Joanne Mosquera & Andrew Lynn – please correct these spellings to those typed. Spartanburg site should be May 3rd and 4th not as printed on website – for Solo & Ensemble. Richland 2 - Mooningham correct spelling; Dottie Hanlin; Koger Center not Kroger Center; Date – S & E registration should be March 8th Minutes approved as corrected

2. Treasurer's Report: Sharon Doyle

Current Balance: \$61, 692.48 we have enough money to pay all bills. \$3000 worth of medals ordered for S & E. Money for All-State and conference is going in and out

3. Concert Festival: Ginger Greer

She proposed having everyone turn in registration earlier due to bus issues and scheduling concerns. September has been proposed.

Colleen Marcou: says would be ok for 4x4 even though don't have students

Sharon Doyle: can keep PO open and not send check or get \$\$ back

Paul Buyer: issues with people who are new having issues getting checks cut?

Ginger Greer: issues are with people changing the number of groups at the last minute – not the details of grade level you play

Susan Mears: could we turn it in at the region event?

Ginger Greer: Let's just move it up to some point in December.

**Most folks agree

Dottie Hanlin: this is just registration \$ and such, don't worry about pieces you're going to play

THIS YEAR'S CONCERT FESTIVAL SITES & CHAIRS:

Region 1: Jeff Kuntz, 3/21-23, Chapman HS

Region 2: Brian Gencarelli & Dr. Michael Weaver, @ North Greenville U, 3/15-16

Region 3: 3/21-23,

Region 4: Cane Bay HS 3/21-22

Jeff Kuntz: what about people using copies vs. originals

Paul Buyer: I used copies and originals for judges with my own fingerings and bowings.

Ginger Greer: Don't do that just put comments in your original scores with pencil

Christi Lewis: Can we have a note to judges about instrumentation issues?

Ginger Greer: You can give a note to a judge, just don't expect them to act on it or read it. It is not a good idea to give them notes.

? of performing things from the graded list. Ours is terribly out of date. Please use the graded lists from the other states such as GA, TX, NY, etc....Questions about graded level – email Ginger.

4. Solo & Ensemble: Christine Penney

Christine is absent:

Spartanburg should be 5/3 & 4.

Reminder: We need a chairperson for Lexington 1 & 2.

(Johanna says who is not here☺ Melissa Martin has been voted in by her absence.)

Registration is now on website, in Excel file. DO NOT WRITE IN THE PURPLE at the TOP!!!!Start on line 13. Scroll down until you find your site.

Paul Buyer: Region 4 is now at Ft. Dorchester HS the first weekend in May. Saturday mainly. Only Friday times for kids who have a valid excuse for not coming on Saturday. Rhonda Arnold is site chair.

Marsha Gross: Region 1 April 26th - Chesnee High, Tammie Burrows; May 3 & 4 – Jeff Kuntz @ SHS

All events are still \$5 per event! Solos and per ensemble member. For 1-8 students – if nine kids please go to Concert Festival.

Please have cover letter (with current NAFME card) PO or checks. Send to address on Excel form.

Sharon Doyle: **Even if the check comes late, if the PO has a date prior to the postmark – you're ok. IF the PO is written after the due date, then you'll be charged the late fee. For most districts it is 10 days. Please get it in. Make checks payable to SCMEA or SCMEA-ORCHESTRA.** The bank

does not want to take checks made out to Sharon Doyle or Paul Buyer! This has to do with Non-Profit status. IF it made to one of us, they don't want to take it. You will have to re-write the check. It can be 60 days before I get the checks b/c of the turn around through the site chairs. This may be why it takes time to get notice of the need for corrections to your check. Your district needs to put SCMEA ORCHESTRA DIVISION as a vendor to help this. Sharon has the paperwork to help you with this.

John Kvasnicka: Concerns with confusion with general DO's sending checks to the wrong place. Asked questions trying to get Sharon to possibly create an address form for us to put on line and give DO's or financial secretaries.

Sharon Doyle: We can do this to help.

Marsha Gross: Postmark deadline is March 8th. No entries accepted after 3/25. All sponsoring string teacher's must serve as chaperones and be on site for S & E. From Christine: Please have a chairperson or someone from your site to pick up medals and certificates at the All-State meeting on Saturday.

5. Region Orchestra: Phillip Pagal (Chris Corde filling in for Phillip) –

Chris Corde: region information for next year – 10/5

Region 1: Susan Baier Dorman HS; Nov. 8-9 Chapman HS Norman Neff & Tammie Burrows

Region 2: League Academy – Catherine Crowe & Kathy Robinson, Nov 15-16 @ AU; Heather Raffini

Region 3 Crossroads MS – Colleen Marcou; Nov 22-23 Lexington HS Johanna Pollock

Region 4: Ft. Dorchester Paul; 11/15-16 Myrtle Beach - Lynn Auman

6. All-State Orchestra: Kathy Perry & Patrick Murch

Cayce HS – traffic issues; you won't be able to get a bus in close due to the low hanging awning!

Not too far of a walk. Car riders can drop off under the awning but cannot stop. You'll have to park a little ways off but not too far. A map is coming – check the website.

Next year: Patrick will not be assisting next year. Looking for volunteers to help her.

All-State @ Furman U. Ginger Greer will be site host.

7. All-State Winds: Chris Corde – everyone is on board and signed up.

Ginger Greer: asked for list so that she can make connection with kids from her school who are in the band and ask them to ride along with the orchestra folks.

8. All-State Auditions: Paul Buyer (region online registration)

156 6th-8th graders register - 4 no shows

211 register 9-10 group - 54 no shows

137 register - 11-12 group - 42 no shows

All 18 were accepted to this group despite judges request not to.

102 sponsors with 12 absences,

Excerpt issues - please help him by looking over these when he asks you to - to help catch any of his mistakes

Check out procedure will be streamlined next year. Thanks to Kat Pollock. Please do not watch over him while he feeds cards into reader. Once all cards are accounted for, then folks can leave. Published results were poorly administered. Results will not be posted until Tuesday. Preliminary results will be sent out on Saturday night with the disclaimer that you do not tell the kids until Tuesday.

Susan Mears: what will you email out?

Paul Buyer: spreadsheet of all results

Susan Mears: please don't tell the kids. Lots of issues with some students who had hearts broken with misinformation.

Paul Buyer: it is getting better. Thank you for professionalism.

Christi Lewis: Everyone needs to look at the calendar before they sign up to sponsor students. Do not schedule wedding gigs, concerts, parties, etc... if you are a sponsor. This is irresponsible and against the rules!

Paul Buyer: concerns for efficiency of auditions. Polled the 6-8 judges to make sure everything ran smoothly.

Marsha Gross: reiterates professionalism of monitors and judges. There was a complaint due to a comment that was made and it hurt the child's feelings.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. If you have students participate in All-State from 12-13, see if they can participate in the All-National Honor Ensemble through NAFME: <http://app.getaccepted.com/nafmeensembles>
2. Discussion of region and allstate qualifications and audition procedures:
 - all rules are on website
 - SCMEA is a teacher organization and our students can participate. This is not a SC state organization. We have to watch the guidelines. We must follow them and that students are able to participate. Teachers must follow all rules.
 - Paul Buyer: teachers must affirm one of the three requirements for the teachers. (in orchestra at school, private teacher - who is a member and no program at school, conductor of ensemble)
 - Marsha Gross: Executive board was absolutely hammered with problems about Region/All-State.
 - Colleen Marcou: parents think that b/c it's a public school group they have the right to anything - entitlement!. It is not a right for them to participate b/c they live in SC. It has ben discussed to change it to SCMEA all-state not just SC All-state.
 - Marsha Gross: there is no excuse for you to not make an event with the new 2 year calendar out. It is a liability issue and it's against the rules. **YOU MUST BE THERE AS THE TEACHER!!!!**
 - Sarah Fitzgerald: proposing to change Sunday deadline to another day and then she will post on the website.
 - Christi Lewis: Concert Festival in Region 3 is usually Thursday - Saturday - can we change it on the calendar?
 - Marsha Gross: yes change to 3/20-22

- GENERAL FOLKS: Issues with CF dates: this will be readdressed @ All-State.
- REGION CHAIRS on coordinating dates: REGION 1: Susan Baier, REGION 2 – Angela Rex, REGION 3 – Johanna Pollock, REGION 4: Paul Buyer
- Sharon Doyle & Marsha Gross: Please go ahead and get all the dates for 14-15 as well!!!! Despite the issues with school calendars.

3. PRESENTATION OF NEW PROPOSAL from Paul Buyer: redraw of region lines and have 3 orchestra @ each region instead of 2. Region 1 & 2 will combine. The orchestra set up will be the same as All-State. 6-8 will play level 3 music, 9-10 will play level 4, 11-12 will play level 5.
- Marsha Gross: further explanation of proposal and opens to discussion:
 Chris Selby: orchestras will play music based on the ability level of each region not grade levels as proposed.
 Paul Buyer: we will have the full 3 readings and will not adopt for next year. We will open it up to membership
 Jeff Kuntz: mixed opinions on some of the above and not on others. Region 1 & Region 2 folks in the committee meetings on Friday morning had no problem with 3 orchestras like All-state. Not sure if splitting rock hill out of Region 1 is a good idea. Regions 1 & 2 folks unanimously agreed that level of audition music for region is keeping a large majority of the kids from auditioning. Kids are scared off by the level of the music to audition but could play the music for the actual orchestra event. This is what has most likely caused the numbers in Region 1 and 2 to be lower.
 Marsha Gross: should add 3 levels of audition music – aligned with the level of all-state – will need to be added.
 Ginger Greer: More attendance issues with 11-12 groups.
 John Kvasnicka: b/c kids are not making it for their younger years they aren't trying anymore but this may change if the level of the music is easier.
 Chris Selby: Spartanburg is ok with just Spartanburg and 3 levels next year if we don't combine regions 1 & 2?
 Paul Buyer: committees will be stretched and it will be hard to staff
 Susan Baier: there are folks not working now so if more kids can audition they will come and help with the auditions.
 Susan Mears: very supportive of this and not comparing 6th graders to 9th graders. Region should be accessible to them. Really hoping that the full plan could be implemented with Region 1 & 2 could combine. If we only make this one change this year will the numbers really go up? Then we can look at combining the 2 groups. Also, could we make the size of the 11-12 group smaller to accommodate the lower numbers.
 Ginger Greer: Financially can we afford to add conductors. Will the increase in numbers auditioning pay for that?
 Sharon Doyle: each orchestra, if filled, will pay for the conductors. Region is not that expensive. We can explore this without going broke.
 Paul Buyer: this give more kids a region experience and eligible to audition to audition for allstate.
 Karen Thomas: stated concern over finding venues for 3 orchestras due to space.
 Marsha Gross: feels that there are enough schools in each area to accommodate the 3 groups
 Joyce Parvin: what about scale requirements
 Paul Buyer: there is room to tweak it. Perhaps take 11-12 to only 5 scales.
 Karen Thomas: what keeps up from voting on this now?
 Marsha Gross: nothing – it is a standing rule.
 Paul Buyer: if everyone is positive at All-state about this, then we can go to this next year. He just wanted to bring this to everyone's attention.
 Marsha Gross: most everyone agrees that the 3 orchestra is a positive for the state and each region.
 Angela Rex: we need to have folks meet during all=state to revamp the audition repertoire.

Paul Buyer: we need to make the audition requirements successful for at least 60 % of the kids walking out of the audition. We don't need to have so many scales. General guidelines. It needs to be 1 page and similar format for each instrument.

Marsha Gross: the Region chairs will meet to determine the new excerpts.

Johanna Pollock: can we change the meeting time?

Paul Buyer: just call a special meeting.

Johanna Pollock: just have a little meeting to deal with it – Friday night! Tell each region to bring their suggestions to Region chair and they'll discuss it. Be informal. This would give us an idea of people's opinion.

Ginger Greer: just have folks read this discussion in the minutes as presented here.

Colleen Marcou: We will have an informal meeting on Friday night of All-State to confirm the 3 orchestra idea for this coming year. Folks need to bring excerpt ideas for all 3 orchestras.

John Kvasnicka: wants to adjourn

Marsha Gross: No we have more business

4. Jeff Kuntz proposal for audition parameters.

1. On the date of Region auditions that both the region and all-state music be given to the sponsors. This way the kids who make region will have all of October, November, December & early January to prepare the all-state music. Not the specific excerpts.
2. Take the subjectivity off the table for the case of kids who are not prepared. What if 100 violinists showed up to audition and some were prepared and some not. A minimum score of 40% must be earned to be accepted into region or all-state. The band folks do something similar to this and have a minimum score. The score sheet would be the judge. The best violin in the 9-10 and 11-12 orchestra only scored 88% of a perfect score this year. IF you score a child a 20, then they will make it. If you score them a 19, they have no chance of making this.

Rex Connor: #2 proposal – I will have to change the way I judge. Everything is subjective. He gives example of his judging thoughts and process. He was on the committee that judged the poor violins. These students were not below average, they were actually terrible. He felt that they should not have been there.

Chris Selby: the way we look at the scores, we rank them. It is standardized. All 3 judges equal out. This way one judge does not have more influence over the others. If we go to #2 it would change things to raw numbers.

Paul Buyer: one person's 42 is different than another person's #42.

Jeff Kuntz: this is really to avoid the Executive board from getting phone calls. The band folks were getting phone calls before they started this rules.

Chris Selby: now we're asking our kids to prepare both region and All-state at the same time.

Joyce Parvin: why practice this when you don't know if you're going to make it.

Sharon Doyle: kids won't practice the region music if they have the all-state music.

Marsha Gross: what about sending out the fact that all the regions don't have the event the same time. We can't post the music on line b/c it's illegal.

Jeff Kuntz: Thanksgiving, Christmas music, gigs, exams and Christmas break makes it crazy for kids to practice and prepare the all-state music.

Johanna Pollock: the new calendar gives us more time and our region (3) is later. I can ask to move it.

Colleen Marcou: is it possible to post the all-state excerpts on line 11/1. Tell the kids they'll be available then.

Colleen Marcou: The slate of officers will be presented at All-State for the next 2 years.

Paul Buyer: proposal will be to amend the constitution to the list of executive officers:
president
President elect
Vice president
Secretary
Treasurer
Region Liaisons

John Kvasnicka: Move to adjourn
Colleen Marcou: second.

Respectfully Submitted:
Angela Rex/Cortney Dial for Jennifer Diehn