

SCMEA Orchestra Division
Business Meeting
Charleston Convention Center
Saturday, February 8, 2014
3:00 PM

Welcome

Meeting called to order 3:00PM

Gail Barnes, All-State Conductor Ballot (New Business)

Philip, Kathy and Gail are coming up with an online ballot for voting using Google Doc. You need your NAFME number to vote. Voting will be open Feb 10-17. Arranged by level, 4 people at each level with conductor's bio. Last page has link to ballot. Kathy will announce the results at All-State. This will save trees!! Place on the ballot for you to list future conductors you would like to see. Send anything for the ballots to Philip Pagal.

Attendance

Please fill out half sheet for attendance. Trying to update the database. Please fill this out for Colleen. E-mails are bouncing back. Need to make sure people can be easily contacted.

Announcements

Andrew Price, President of Double Bass Club of South Carolina

First Annual Double Bass and Electric Bass Conference, USC School of Music, March 28-30. Master classes each day with Mike Frost and Jeff Bradetich and bow technique classes. Deadline for pre-registration has been extended to March 15th. For more information you can e-mail Andrew at andrewpricethebassist@gmail.com

Officer's Report

Approval of minutes, Allison Key

Ginger Greer notices misspelling of the word "wrong" Will make correction. Melissa Martin motions to approve the minutes and Susan Baier 2nds.

Treasurer's Report, Sharon Doyle

We have \$79,583 as of Monday. A report will be passed out at the All-State meeting.

Conference, Margaret Selby

Great conference, good job Margaret Selby! September 1st is deadline for next year. Give Margaret ideas and topics for next year. We appreciate all the travel this far for conference. It will move to Columbia next year to make it more central. The exhibit hall will be bigger. This will allow for small ensembles to play in the hall, in addition to the larger groups coming to play in the bigger spaces. This creates more opportunities for more students to play. We are open to electric strings. We need more orchestra and alternative styles. The exhibitors are excited about this. Some discussion has been going on about conference starting at 9am on Thursday or committee meetings starting Thursday evening. Just in discussion. Let us know your thoughts and concerns about your school district and professional development.

Ann Buttmer: Bernhardt provides a lovely service and not a lot of people show up. It seems like a waste.

Margaret Selby: We need to promote more and committee members need to show up.

Colleen Marcou: Friday morning at 8AM is tough. Thursday evening may be better. Conference moving to Columbia will help more people get here earlier.

Susan Baier: We don't have specific people on the committees. Maybe we don't need to say 'committee' because people think they aren't on the committee and won't show up. We need to make it more inclusive.

All-State, Kathy Perry

All-State is at Furman, two weekends from now! Concerns of weather create a need for a plan B in case of flight cancellations. We need volunteers to run rehearsals just in case. Ginger and Kathy have been working together. Tom Joiner has been helping. Everything is set to go!

All-State Winds, Chris Corde

We got 'em!

Concert Festival, Ginger Greer

Event is growing. We now have 190 groups registered. We added a new region to Myrtle Beach. Region 3 has grown so much we looking at splitting into middle school festival and high school festival at two locations for next year. Proposal – Anyone registered now in the midlands that would consider going to Myrtle Beach or Cane Bay that would be helpful for scheduling of Region 3. Please let me know by Friday if interested. Will be sending out CF schedule soon. Please submit CF teacher form with name pieces, number of students, special needs, etc to your region person. Please order two extra scores for judges. No photocopies. You will three recordings this year, one from each judge and one recording of your performance with no voice over. The 3rd recording won't be highest quality recording. We can't hire a professional to stage mics and deal with recording without raising the registration fee. If you need a CD please speak to Ken Pruitt or Chris Corde. Each region person will receive e-mail from Ginger about recorders you will need for your region. It's been approved to order more recorders.

Bonnie Pruitt: There is state testing during CF dates. We need possibilities for other dates.

Ginger Greer: You can determine your date for your region. Just voice your concerns. There's no rule that says you have to stay in your region either. You can go to another region.

Colleen Marcou: Dates aren't set in bylaws and we can change these dates.

Greer: That helps with ordering sight-reading music to circulate it through the regions.

Marcou: Last year we had 4 recordings sent in for performances at conference. Please consider submitting your group with your 3rd recording.

Ginger: There needs to be an incentive to do it.

Marcou: We are talking about that. It makes it difficult to showcase our wonderful talent in this state if you don't submit recordings and paperwork to go with it. We had deadline issues last year and we extended the date but we still only had 4. We need more. Please consider using your CF recording if it turns out well.

Jennifer Diehn: Will the situation be better next year in the rooms? It's upsetting when you can hear the group from the next room over your room. And scheduling.

Marcou: we won't know until next year. The overlap with sessions was for sessions that the orchestra division did not set up. Performance times were better this year.

Region	Chair	Location	Date
1 Upstate East	Arlyn Mills	Byrnes HS	March 26-28
2 Upstate West	Brian Gencarelli	North Greenville Univ.	March 13-14
3 Midlands	Chris Corde	Keenan HS	March 21-23
4 Lowcountry	Linda Vesprille	Cane Bay HS	March 20-21
4 Lowcountry, MB	Lynn Auman	Myrtle Beach HS	March 20

Solo and Ensemble, Tammie Burrows

Registration form is up on the site. We have 11 sites this year. The Webmaster has the information. Deadline is March 7th. Send paperwork and cover letter to Tammie. Rock Hill has no one hosting a site. Let me know if anyone there is willing to host. We will get you everything you need for that. PO needs to accompany form and cover letter and ID card. Medals and certificates are here and you can get them from me before you leave.

Region Registration, Paul Buyer

Paul read off numbers for past event for each region.

All-State Auditions, Paul Buyer

Thank you Johanna and everyone to make process work and everyone that worked audition event. It's important we do not laugh at anything during auditions. We've had another complaint about a cello student in tears because someone was laughing. Please be careful with that. John Kvasnicka is going to help me come up with a survey for region topics for audition materials, sight-reading, and scales. Any feedback you for audition process please tell me. A lot of mistakes with audition materials, we won't let that happen again next year and I apologize. There are a lot of things that are working better and some things to still work on. Terry, web guy, needs to be paid still. We might do a mock registration just to test the program. Once it's steady then Terry will right the stuff to make it easier on Paul's end. Paul's email is coming up as spam in school districts. Has contacted some IT guys in districts to let them know of problem. We need to be able to communicate. Please see Paul if you have any questions or concerns.

Region Orchestra, Phillip Pagal

Region chairs please send a copy of your program for archival purposes. Even past programs that aren't on site would be great to add.

Maren Reaves: Registration date?

Colleen Marcou: That comes out in May.

	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4
Audition Date	Oct. 4	Oct. 4	Oct. 4	Oct. 4
Audition Site	Dorman HS	Beck Academy	Crossroads MS	Ft. Dorchester HS
Audition Chair	Susan Baier & D6 teachers	Kathy Robinson	Colleen Marcou	Paul Buyer
Event Date	Nov. 7-8	Nov. 14-15	Nov. 21-22	Nov. 14-15
Event Site	Dorman HS	Bob Jones Univ.	Irmo HS	Wando HS
Event Chair	Susan Baier	Heather Raffini	Johann Pollock/Colleen Marcou	Melissa Martin and Ryan Silvestri

Old Business

Region Liaisons

At the fall meeting the last reading for members at large to be changed to region liaisons was passed.

R1 Susan Baier, R2 Angela Rex, R3 Christi Lewis, R4 Chris Selby

New Business

All-State Conductor Balloting for this year

Please see early minutes

2014 Region Excerpts and audition editing leaders

Paul Buyer: At the committee meeting yesterday I asked people to help with excerpts. Should be posted by or finalized by All-State weekend. Talking to Smart Music people to add these to the library to be posted and available for their practice. Genny Nelson, Kathy Perry, John Kvasnicka and Christian Williams will help with the excerpts. Want to distribute these without needed revisions. Want this done ASAP. What is our purpose for this? Not to educate but assess and find students to play for region. Some people will complain but there are people in the state, region 4, where they will be able to play this very well. If you have questions or concerns please contact those mentioned, and Bonnie Pruitt and Paul Buyer.

Thoughts and Concerns from the Membership (responses to questions were given by Paul Buyer):

Chris Corde: Are we doing rotation of music? Will there be recordings available?

Ginger Greer: Same piece but different keys, which helped to teach in classroom setting.

Greer: Cello 6/8 is too hard and some students won't even try to do it.

Jennifer Diehn: And bass, and the length of time to teach this. It's a lot to do in the school.

Bonnie Pruitt: Violin/viola level is right but excerpt seems long

Colleen Marcou: Those that edit, can they make suggestions for 6/8? You look and figure it out.

Genny Nelson: Cello could be printed in bass clef.

Pruitt: The Handel is long.

Revisions were made to the region excerpts during this discussion.

Dates for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016

We need dates for next year and the following year for the SCMEA calendar. Please check and let me know. I can send a digital copy of what's on the books now if you need it. The region liaisons should be getting that information together. Region orchestra dates, CF dates, S&E dates. If anyone has an issue with middle school dates please let the liaison know that.

Alignment

We brought this up at the fall meeting. Some people have concerns and some things they would like to express before we actually align with band and chorus. Please remember, SCMEA is for us. It is for us to support our programs. We have some people that are undermining that and it's not fair to our teachers that do what you do all the time. It's not fair to your students when people use loopholes. Our purpose is to support orchestra programs. It's not about studios. Not to sound cruel or mean but the concern is that they don't support the orchestra program within their districts. This alignment will be very tough on a lot of people. We need to make sure the transition is as smooth as possible and we don't hurt anything. Between now and All-State please e-mail Colleen with concerns. If you can't e-mail right it down and bring it to Colleen at All-State. Remember, it is of the viewpoint for supporting the orchestra program. The organization is about the orchestra teachers and not about the students. Think about concerns from the point of your program. How does that affect your program and district?

Thoughts and Concerns from the Membership (responses were given by Colleen Marcou):

Susan Baier: This organization is for teachers and we as teachers have more of an impact on more students than in a single studio. By it being for the teacher, we have more of an impact and are more helpful for more students.

Ramonta Lee: More clarification on what we are aligning with?

Jennifer Diehn: Is there going to be an issue with those that aren't here and other members that can't hear this discussion? It needs to be a level playing field.

Greer: I would like to see the data of the high schools that have band and chorus programs and string programs. The numbers will triple those of those other division. At All-State auditions we use every teacher and if we cut out those people that are following the rules, private teachers, cutting them out might create problems. Maybe only those misbehaving need to be dealt with. Can we make certain criteria?

Baier: Sometimes we need to know it's not one studio teacher that does something. It's the student that studies full time with a teacher that isn't in our organization and gets sponsored by a private teacher that is. That's the problem.

Paul Buyer: When do we want this decision on the books? If we do limit the talent pool to only those in orchestra programs then we have to prepare to not throw out the criticism that this child shouldn't be in All-State because they aren't at the level. We need the students. Then there are the students that can't play well but they try hard and will play with gusto in the back sections.

Bonnie Pruitt: And some students miss it by one person.

Greer: We need to find members in good standing.

Marcou: Do we have issues with insurance because of the alignment? Is there a deadline?

Sharon Doyle: No deadline yet

Buyer: This is a hot button issues that needs more meetings.

Doyle: Something else to think about is the different issue. If you are aware of our cheaters, how are they cheating? Then we know how to close the loopholes without hurting ourselves. Every law we have is because someone broke it.

Kuntz: This alignment is just redefining who we are. Maybe we need SC School Teacher Association.

Doyle: We are having superintendents that are adding school codes that say orchestra but they don't actually have an orchestra, it's a ghost class.

Kuntz: Would you announce or re-announce official business meeting at All-State

Kuntz: Last year on Friday there was an unofficial meeting and it ended being an information-sharing meeting. It may have been a great progressive meeting. Will that happen again this year?

Christi Lewis: I know it will be in the minutes but can it be the time, location and date on the website.

John Kvasnicka motioned to close the meeting and Chris Corde seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Allison Key