

SCMEA ORCHESTRA DIVISION  
Convention Meeting  
Irmo High School  
Irmo, SC  
Saturday, February 25, 2017

Welcome  
Announcements - none

**Officer's Report:**

**Minutes, Allison Key:**

- Ann Buttimer motions to approve the minutes
- Andrae Raffield seconds the motion. Minutes are approved.

**Treasurer's Report, Sharon Doyle:**

Current balance as of 2/10/17 is \$108,914. CPA has been paid. Conference expenses are not yet finalized. S&E money is still coming in. No student checks are being accepted. Please collect money at school and cut one check from the school to pay for events.

**Conference, Christ Corde:**

Conference was wonderful this year. Sessions were presented from a lot our own state people: Taniesha Hines, Brian Gencarelli, Jennifer Diehn, Kathy Perry, Angela Rex, and Michael Baier. Congratulations to Ryan Silvestri, Wando High School; Andrew Lynn, Chapin High School; and Katy Martin, Sterling School on their fantastic performances. Thank you to Johanna Wilson for handling all the equipment need for the event. Dates for the following years: February 15-18, 2018; February 7-10, 2019; and February 6-9, 2020

**Allstate, Colleen Marcou:**

It is happening! Thanks to everyone being helpful during the event. Please make sure that students are not getting dinner plates that they did not pay for. Everyone should have t-shirts. If you find an extra, please bring it to the office. Future conductors: Jeffery Bishop, 9-10; Dale Clevenger 11-12. Trying to get Andrew Dabczynski for 6-8. **Margaret:** Hosting and organizing Allstate is a huge job. Please thank Colleen and Johanna for their hard work.

**Allstate Winds, Brass, and Percussion, Jeff Kuntz:**

Allstate band students were auditioning and I invited them to pay their registration fee to me by mail. 75% paid early, the rest paid at the door. Dr. Scott Weiss, taking over the USC Symphony next year, ran our sectionals.

**Concert Performance Assessment, Kenneth Pruitt:**

Materials for site hosts are ready. It is a lot of work to host these events. Please be patient with site hosts.. We did some bids this year on trophies and we saved \$1,000. Trophies will be delivered on site next week. We are using a new trophy company so please double check for any problems before the event. Please look for a survey after the event is over.

**Solo & Ensemble, Tammie Burrows:**

Medals and certificates are here and are ready to take. Deadline is March 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Region and Allstate auditions, Paul Buyer:**

A small committee will help me pick excerpts from past auditions. They will post to the website in March.

**Region Orchestra, Rebecca Leonard:**

Region auditions are October 7, 2017  
Region 1 – Dorman High School  
Region 2 – League Academy  
Region 3 – Irmo Middle School  
Region 4 – Dorchester High School

Region event information:

Region	Date	Location
Region 1	Nov. 10-11	Dorman High School
Region 2	Nov. 10-11 or 17-18	Anderson University
Region 3	Nov. 17-18	Irmo High School
Region 4	Nov. 10-11	Wando High School

**Old Business:**

Inclement weather date:

Please make this date clear to parents and students so students can decide if they will audition or not.

Revisions to standing rules:

The board is revising some outdated rules. One of those rules is late fees for registration of events – particularly Region and Allstate auditions. There will no longer be late fees. Students who make region must meet the deadline. If we have no communication from the sponsor and no registration from the student then we will contact the alternate. They will be given 3 days to respond before moving on to the next alternate. Currently, some students wait until the weekend event to pay registration and this leaves us with no way of knowing if they are coming or not. This does not allow enough time to contact the alternate. This will take place next year.

**Norman Neff:** Will the sponsor be contacted prior to dropping the student? What if it's a mail issue?

**Sharon Doyle:** I will handle this issue. I will email the sponsor to double check. Try to beat the deadline

2017-2019 President-Elect

Congratulations to Ginger Greer!

**New Business:**

Proposal No. 1, Chris Corde – read by Chris Selby; this is the first of three readings:

Parliamentarian position to be added to the executive board.

They will hold this position during two presidents' terms. This position will be someone to keep track of changes to bylaws and standing rules. They will be responsible for looking for rules that do not agree.

**Norman Neff:** Will this position have voting rights with the board?

**Chris Selby:** No, they will not be a voting position of the board. This position has to be someone who does not have say in voting

**Jeff Kuntz:** The band division has this role but they need to have the right personality for this position so things work well with this position.

Proposal No. 2, Chris Corde – read by Chris Selby; this is the first of three readings:

Conference Chair Person position to be added to the executive board.

This position will help the president elect groups to play at conference and help organize the conference. We need a conference equipment person, too.

**Melissa Martin:** This will be four years?

**Chris Selby:** I don't think there will be a true time frame, but we do want it to be more of a fixed position. This position will not have voting rights on the board.

Proposal No. 3, Ginger Greer – read by Arlyn Mills; this is the first of three readings:

Senior Allstate Orchestra

In consideration of the low numbers of students that audition at the 11-12 level, and more significantly, the judges' reports for several years of inadequately prepared 11-12 grade violinists to fill the spots, I am proposing that we change the groupings of the 2 Senior All State Orchestras. The higher-level orchestra will be filled with the most accomplished players, resulting in a better quality experience with the most challenging music.

Following this proposal, there will be 2 Senior level All State Orchestras. One will be the more advanced level and will be called Senior Honors All State Orchestra. The second group will also

be a full symphony complete with wind, brass, and percussion, and play at a slightly easier level music and called Senior All State Orchestra.

All 9-12th graders will audition on the same material made up of excerpts from the lower level orchestra repertoire. From those that auditioned, the top 36 violins, 14 violas, 12 cellos, and 10 basses will be given access to the full set of Senior Honors level music immediately when results are posted. 2 weeks later, the actual excerpts will be released, and one week prior to All State, taped auditions from these 72 players will be submitted for judging. They will be judged the same way as the live auditions were- 3 judges and 1 monitor. Seats will be announced several days prior to the event.

The sponsors that will judge and monitor the recordings will not be required to come to the live auditions in Columbia. 2 committees of sponsors will listen to 36 recording each. (One listens to violins, the other listens to viola, cello, bass)

**Paul Buyer:** The largest voting party is this meeting here. Final reading would be at convention where we don't have as many in participation. Is this a bylaw change? Should we do a google doc vote or vote at the meeting?

**Susan Wines:** Region 2 always run this way and it is very successful. We have 9th grade in the top level orchestra

**Sharon Doyle:** When 11-12<sup>th</sup> graders find out they're not in the top group how many students will you lose? They are not going to play in the second group. If we lose children then we move back to having 2 orchestras again.

**Susan Baier:** We had fewer students audition this year. But you're getting kids that haven't been in Allstate before. They may not be Julliard bound but they can play at this level because they've been working in your orchestras. Our students do not want to feel leveled by groups and not grade level.

**Meredith Miller:** Is this just a difficulty of music question instead of a leveling question?

**Ann Buttimer:** Blue Cathedral is really hard. We struggle with 11-12 kids in our region and we have a set a limit for scores. If they do not make it past a certain score then we do not take them. I would rather see this happen more than a mixed grade level group.

**Chris Selby:** I have seniors that are good and they finally made Allstate. This proposal would give a 9th grader whose been playing since they were 3 that could out seat that 12th grader that may not be a shoo-in. This isn't fair to them.

**Colleen Marcou:** Brian Balmages says he's impressed with our students' progress in such a short time.

**Susan Baier:** When we had two orchestras I remember smaller, younger players sitting on principal stands and they didn't understand the dynamics of orchestra or how to lead a section. These kids had to learn in that moment. The system we have now allows development of those skills and I feel works better than what we did in the past.

**Margaret Selby:** We will continue this in the fall with our next reading.

#### Proposal No. 4, Chris Selby: this is the first of three readings:

Compensate the Executive Director

We have had a treasurer since 2001, Sharon Doyle. Our division has grown since then and Sharon has done this same job for the same pay, which is nothing. Recently, we voted to assign her the title of Executive Director, which is in line with the state level executive board. The executive board has this same kind of position and is a paid position. Eventually, Sharon Doyle will step down and this cannot become a volunteer position because of the amount of money that is dealt with. I propose to change the bylaws under article 4 section 5 to include the following:

???

**Sharon Doyle:** We spend \$78-85k a year to run our organization. We currently have \$108,000. We could add this paid position and it would not affect our ability to run our group in the years to come without raising fees to our group.

**Chris Selby:** This should be a salary job and should not be a rotating position. The executive board will appoint this position when Sharon does decide to leave.

#### Proposal No. 5, Jennifer Diehn: this is the first of three readings:

Outstanding Performance Award

I propose we align ourselves with the band division and adapt the Outstanding Performance Award criterion used to award our orchestra programs. Brian Gencarelli made this proposal years ago and I think it's time we revisit this. The band uses this to award the programs that participate in all SCMEA sponsored events. This should strive our teachers and students to be better and work towards excellence. This is something we will have to find funding for but should definitely be done.

**Angela Rex:** I agree with this. We should do the same thing band does.

**Norman Neff:** If we accept this, could there be a second tier for schools that are not on top of their game yet?

**Jennifer Diehn:** This should be about excellence and be aligned with band.

**Ken Pruitt:** A bonus is that this will improve the event because it adds more to the event. It puts it on the students to succeed and will promote teamwork.

**Tammie Burrows:** At Concert Festival grade 5 or higher. A band has received this award but has performed grade 3. Could we adjust this for smaller schools?

**Sharon Doyle:** What are the grade levels? On average grade level in the state.

**Ken Pruitt:** 4 would be the average.

**Sharon Doyle:** We should start with 4 then instead of 5.

**Jeff Kuntz:** Marshall Kirby created this for the band. He says that the OPA is because no one was doing concert band. This was to inspire indoor work because the focus was always with marching band. I agree with this proposal. If we put the right things in place, so bar is high enough but still achievable, then this will work well.

John John Kvasnicka motions for meeting to adjourn.

Pam Speas seconds the motion.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
***Allison Key***