

VMEA All State Music Festival 2008  
General Meeting – Minutes  
Vergennes UHS, Friday, May 9, 2008

Meeting called to order at 10:05 a.m. with an introduction by Festival Director Steffen Parker.

- 1) **2007 MINUTES** (highlights) – Jim Chlebak
  - Great festival at North Country last year
  - Suggestion to sequence music for chorus
  - Ann Harvey new choral manager
  - Late fees established
  - Jazz decided to trade ballad for unfamiliar changes
  - Robert Zimmerman new instrumental chair
  - Donor support recognized – Lions Club \$2000, District IV \$500, Vermont Oral Surgery, \$3000+
  - MOTION: To approve by Matt Tatro, Sarah Helman; PASSED, unanimous.
- 2) **FINANCIAL REPORT** – Jim Chlebak / Steffen Parker
  - Thanks to cost controls, we now have a little breathing room for scholarships
  - We have completely moved from paper to QuickBooks computerized accounting, are tracking expenses by category and will begin presenting annual financial analysis at next year’s meeting.
  - MOTION: To approve by Matt Tatro, Sarah Helman; PASSED, unanimous.
- 3) **FESTIVAL HOSTS’ REPORT** – Sue O’Daniel and Karen Jordan
  - Steffen Parker shows plaque for hosts, incorporating artwork by Arthur Zorn
  - Sue – thanks to:
    - Middlebury, Bennington, North Country
    - Volunteers, custodial staff
    - Superintendent for granting 2 in-service days
    - Margaret Welch, nutritionist
    - American Legion chicken barbeque on Friday
    - Vergennes Lions Club barbeque on Saturday
    - CVU, Mt. Abe, National Guard for equipment (other?)
    - Bill Bowers, Steve Sawyers for work on the parade
    - Basin Harbor Club – friends of music, especially Tim Lynk
- 4) **2009 FESTIVAL HOST WELCOME** – Glory Douglass, Essex UHS
  - Excited, looking forward to it
  - Past parade host volunteering again
- 5) **MANAGERS’ REPORTS**
  - Brent White – Band Manager
    - Peter could not be happier, getting amazing things from the kids
    - Positive energy, amazing focus
    - Great choice of a conductor this year: Dr. Peter Loel Boonshaft
    - Next year, Tony Maiello from George Mason
    - Brent signing on for another tour
  - Ace Ali – Orchestra
    - Going very well; students are extremely attentive
    - “Global Warming”
    - “Academic Festival Overture”
    - Ace will step down for at least a year to host the festival

- Armand Messier/Ann Harvey
  - Ann Harvey
    - Things going well
    - Extremely attentive
    - Conductor having a good time
    - Ahead of schedule in preparation
    - Could use help in helping to line them up today
    - We'd like to have our conductors for next year and 2010 as soon as possible
  - Armand Messier
    - Thanks to Jim Chlebak for sequencing the music
    - Multiple ways to access these files
    - 800 hits on the website
    - Ann taking over next year and looking for help.
- Jazz ensemble:
  - Steffen Parker:
    - Dr. Jaffe very happy
    - Wonderful program
    - Discover Jazz is on for June
  - Bruce Sklar:
    - Wide variety of music
    - Andy Jaffe gives students a lot of history

## 6) REVIEW MEETING REPORTS

- Jazz - Steve Sawyer, reporting for Tony Pietricola
  - One jazz piece, rotation, technical excerpts – use old ones in a rotation
  - Adjudication system – new computer inputting helping streamline auditions
  - Suggest comments area should be expanded to include all of the comments
  - Adjudication sheet is good – no changes proposed
  - Drum pieces – use piece with measured drum solo piece
  - Need to have two adjudicators in each room
  - Discussion about playing the lead sheet too strictly, possibly change wording to encourage students to embellish melody
  - Move from ballad to unfamiliar changes has been successful
  - Suggest to switch out “I could write a book” in 2010
  - Suggest conductors: Jeff Holmes, Jeff Galinda
  - Tony Pietricola won't be available next year; looking for a jazz chair
- Scholarship – Gary Moreau
  - Recommendation: unless money is available, don't give less than \$100 to scholarship winners, but anyone above 92% should at least get recognition
  - Jazz scholarship auditions worked out much better with change to jazz expert adjudicators
  - Computer adjudication was very helpful; saved time and made comments easier
  - Judges should make at least a positive comments for each
  - Recommendation: district pre-qualification for vocal category
  - “Fairly large percentage” of unqualified students at the auditions
    - Matt Tatro – Should districts provide rubrics, or should this be a state-wide protocol? Gary: Probably state-wide; the problem really is with vocalists who are not at the proper level
    - Jim Chlebak – What level of scores are you talking about? Stef: 60 to 70%
    - Kathy Light – Maybe we should write criteria more carefully, as for college auditions. Gary: Good idea, but not too specific in terms of repertoire. For example, not a list of songs.
    - Anne Hamilton – Would you consider posting audio files of past winners as an example of the level?
    - Glory Douglass – Frank Whitcomb instituted a District III [?] scholarship audition that has worked very well.

- Joshua Stumpff – We’ve talked about this at district festival as well. Could we use results from those to help? Gary: If all the districts have something like this
  - Time requirements (5 minutes) not being met; improved communication needed
    - Idea: As students apply, gather e-mail addresses to send them the information and rules
    - Bill Keck – director should print out the requirements beforehand
    - Stef – directors should look the information up and distribute it
  - More and more students doing music theatre; perhaps we should create 2 scholarships
    - This would mean more judges, more money
    - Carol Spradling – Do you have a process in mind for addressing this? Because private teachers are pushing students, we should have information that is clear for them to know what repertoire is required.
    - Bill Keck – Could we limit auditionees by number?
    - Jane Bouffard – Sometimes private teachers are pushing these students. Will these teachers have to be MENC members? Stef: Each student will need a sponsoring teacher who is a MENC member.
    - Anne Severy – Private teachers are pushing this, putting pressure on school teachers.
    - Could we have teachers confirm that private teachers know there is a website?
    - Sarah Helman: Maybe we need to make it clear to everyone that the website is open to all.
  - Anyone interested in adjudicating would be welcome.
- Composition Committee – Anne Hamilton
  - 7 submissions, 1 performance, 3 honorable mentions
  - Made minor rubric change and adjustments to point spread
- Vocal Committee – Karen Casavant presented new chair, Anne Hamilton, who continued:
  - Passed out sign-up for online discussion group to address longstanding issues for vocal committee
    - Sight-reading
    - fine-tuning the rubric
    - review the rotation
      - ◆ Glory Douglass will post recommendations
  - Next year’s piece will be “All Ye Who Music Love,” despite discussion
  - Calibrating adjudication, getting judges, three weekends
  - Suggest a model CD to set the standard
  - Think about sending an mp3 of “Awake Sweet Love” as discussion fodder
  - At VMEA in October, we will have a vocal adjudication workshop with live performers
  - Discussion of audition cancellations (200 of 1300, 90% of them vocal according to Stef)
  - Possibility of one audition date
  - Change 3<sup>rd</sup> column from “virtually all pitches correct” to one point off for each wrong note for both melodic and rhythmic performance in both quartet and solo rubric.
  - Add recommendation for tempo range for each quartet piece.
- Instrumental Committee – Robert Zimmerman
  - 2111-2112 change violin audition piece
  - Next year’s rotation OK
  - 2 adjudicators in each room? YES
  - Accessory adjudication sheet seems a bit vague; wording could be reworked
  - Suggest field for comments be increased
  - Suggest putting bass clarinet back in the clarinet room, rather than double reeds
  - Suggest adjudicator training video tape; District V has one; perhaps show it 45 minutes before auditions
  - Suggest replacing sight-reading with actual excerpts,
    - Frank Whitcomb – assuming program and copyright
    - Robert: sight-reading is very important, but might not be the most important skill to emphasize in auditions; consensus was not to change.
    - Steve Light – excerpts don’t give more information

- Jim Chlebak – Sight-reading is a good skill to teach and having it at All State reinforces what we’re trying to do in class

7) **2008 – 2009 SCHEDULE** (see agenda) – Steffen Parker, Jim Chlebak

- Steffen presents all the date, fees and fines.
- Dan Graves – If we cancel, is that a correction? Stef: no
- Financial aspects of deadlines – Jim Chlebak
  - Please include the following with each check:
    - School
    - Department (Instrumental, Vocal, Jazz, Scholarship, Orchestra)
    - Number of students
    - Alternate or regular
    - Additional fees
  - We will try to put this information on our paperwork in the future
  - Jim Chlebak will be contacting those with a balance due to try to figure out what’s up.

8) Festival Director’s Report – Stef Parker

- Ups and downs, but 70% of the workload could be avoided
- Gary Moreau – Instituting a participation fee as of next year
  - Money for this year is for scholarships
  - Next year, the money funds
    - 66% stipend for director
    - 33% to scholarship
  - Fees are based on school enrollments, grades 9-12 (total K-12, divided by 12, times 4)
  - Starting in September, all school directors whose students participate must be MENC members.
    - Mostly because VMEA is the professional organization sponsoring the event.
    - October conference will be the deadline.
    - If the school has two teachers, then both must be members.
    - Marge Rooen: What about homeschoolers and private teacher students?
      - ◆ Gary Moreau: I’m willing to let the school teacher sponsor home-schoolers?
      - ◆ Karen Casavant: Shall we require a fee from the students?
      - ◆ Can we be billed by June 1<sup>st</sup>? Gary: Please email me directly if you need the invoice early.
      - ◆ Bill Keck: Are the numbers from this year or last? Gary: This year.
      - ◆ Frank Whitcomb: Our fee is too low. We should add a stipend for adjudicators. Gary: This has been discussed, but the question is where will the money come from. The other concern is about participation fees from small schools, who don’t get a lot of students into the festival. Let’s keep both your suggestions in mind.
  - Slate of VMEA officers will be voted on beginning tomorrow, including President-Elect and Treasurer.
    - We’ve been off the cycle for two years.
  - If you want students to apply to Eastern Division music groups, visit [www.bocj.org](http://www.bocj.org). The deadline for groups performing is May 15<sup>th</sup>.

9) Scholarship Funding Status – Stef Parker

- \$1000 from Lions
- \$500 from Winooksi Valley (District IV)
- \$500 from VJE
- money from participation fee
- other donations
- We’ve been building an endowment.
- We should have significant dollars to offer this year.
- Other donors such as Vermont Oral Surgeons

- 10) Dave Ellis – Sponsoring Ellis Scholarship
- 11) Karen Casavant – Wendy Fagerholm will be helping out
- 12) Glory Douglass – Thanks to Steffen
- 13) MOTION to adjourn: James Chapman – Bill Veck: U

14) Speakers:

- 15) Donia Prince (Twinfield)
- 16) Dan Graves
- 17) Sarah Helman
- 18) Kate Bresett