

## **MTVA October 1, 2002**

### **Executive Board Meeting**

President Robert King called the meeting of the executive board to order at 5:40. The meeting was held at David Lipscomb Campus School. The following board members were in attendance: Robert King, Angela Tipps, Katie Oldham, Lia Holland, Tim Pate, Valerie Dehoff, Jj Ebelhar, Tiffany DePriest, Jerald Pierce, Lewis Walling, and David Spencer. Bobbie Jean Frost and Jeremy Jones were not in attendance.

The first item of business was to discuss the 2<sup>nd</sup> voting which would take place in the general meeting regarding the handbook changes. Katie briefly reported on it. Next, Angela Tipps reported on speakers for future meetings. The speakers will be: November- Laura Diddle from Cumberland University (selecting repertoire for all ages), January- Ed Scruggs from Belmont, February- Nancy Boone-Allsbrook from MTSU, March- Gloria Frank from Austin Peay, April- Susan Smith from Tech (how to find good recordings). Jerald Pierce then reported on Middle School Honors; there will be cd's available in the general meeting. Following this, there was a discussion about having uniform procedures for audition events, particularly Elementary and Middle School Honors. MTVA has detailed audition procedures for Freshman Honors and Mid-State, but very few for the others. President King appointed Jerald Pierce chairman of a committee which will look into this matter; Valerie Dehoff, Connie Fuller, Carol Poston, and possibly 2 others will also serve. The issue that was mentioned to President King by Connie Fuller, who would probably make a motion from the floor to the board at the general meeting, was that some Middle School directors are allowing their students to submit 2 audition tapes on different parts; we need some procedures to help alleviate this. After some discussion, the board agreed that the committee was a good idea, and if the motion is made, the board will be prepared for it. The board may possibly have a response by November.

The next items of business were some things from Lewis Walling. First, he made a flier to pass out at the general meeting about the sale of the outdated tech equipment. Next, he has some new information on the MTVA website regarding repertoire and audition information. Also, he has been able to separate the different parts in the Freshman Honors and All-State audition pieces. The MIDI files of this will be available this week (they're already on the Lipscomb website). The Middle School Honors cd's have this on them. President King mentioned that a member had shown some concern about one of the All-State audition pieces- the "Singet". Their concern was about the tempo at the meter change; it seemed a bit fast. After some discussion, including the fact that several board members approved the recording and the tempo, it was decided that it is okay. Lewis then passed out All-State and Freshman Honors adjudication forms. These will also be given out at the general meeting (the handbook states that these must be given out at this meeting).

President King then discussed budgets for each event. He again urged everyone in charge of an event to prepare a budget and submit it for approval so that no one person is taking on all of the responsibility. Tim Pate had his ready for the Middle School Mass Choral Festival. He gave one to each member. It appears that the event will lose some money due to higher rental fees for venues and equipment. President King asked the board to look and see if anyone saw an area in which some money could be saved. Tim did add that this budget is without having printed programs; President King said that maybe something could be done about that without having to have them professionally printed. He did advise chairs to look into the venue rental fees - are they by the hour or by the day? His main concern, overall, is to keep fees down, but without compromising the quality of our events. David Spencer will be getting with other event chairs and going over some past expenditures to set some basis for budgets; any variations from these must be approved. One suggestion from David is to think about having only one clinician from out of this area per event instead of several.

President King mentioned that he serves as the High School R&S chair in ACDA and will be meeting later this month with David Spencer (treasurer for TN ACDA) and another officer to discuss setting forth some guidelines for the State Choral Festival. The concern is that if the event chair changes, the event might also change. President King said that he would be soliciting suggestions for changes from the members at the general meeting and their likes about the festival. He then discussed the email discussion from September regarding the clarification of late fees due to a post office postmarking an item slowly, causing it to be a day late. He was proposing that directors be notified when an item is late, and if they respond that they mailed it on time, but it still got to David one day late, we waive the late fee. After much discussion, he withdrew his motion.

David Spencer then presented the budget report through September 30. He added that a substantial amount of money will be coming in very soon from other deadlines (All-State, Freshman Honors, etc). Also, the disbursements are far less than last year due to Lewis making our practice/audition cd's instead of having to pay someone to do it for us. He pointed out that a certificate of deposit was redeemed in August which was a \$10,000.00 one. He only put \$8,000.00 back into one after some discussion with President King. This is only a precautionary measure in case some events lose money.

President King then asked for an interpretation which was called for by David Spencer about an application he received that was filled out incorrectly, but time still remained for the director to correct it before the deadline- should late fees be applied or not? After some discussion, the board voted on how to interpret this issue. Four said to fine the director, two said not to, and four abstained. Lewis pointed out that he abstained because he felt the discussion had not been allowed to mature. After some discussion about the intent of the fine, Katie moved that "They have to pay the fee for an incomplete or incorrect application in this instance". Angela Tipps seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and Angela called for the question. Seven were in favor of imposing the fee, and three were opposed with no one abstaining.

A final topic that will be discussed further in the future by President King is the issue of advance scheduling to perhaps save some money on venues and other problems with scheduling. He believes that we should develop a Task Force to work on this. He asked the board members to think of people to serve.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58.

## **Executive Board Email Discussions for the month of September**

#1- A student from a participating high school was home schooled, therefore has the possibility of becoming a sophomore at the end of this semester. The question is which chorus will he/she audition for- Freshman Honors or All-State? The decision was that the student would try out for whatever group fits the grade at the time of audition.

#2- The question is about a senior graduating in December; can he/she still be a part of All-State after graduation if he/she makes it? The decision was that yes, they may audition and make it, however, whenever he/she ceases to be enrolled in his/her school's choral program, he/she may not participate.

#3- The discussion was about holding some of our events at Blair if they charged fees. After some discussion, the board declined the use of Blair's facilities if other venues were available at no cost.

#4- A boy from a participating high school whose voice hasn't yet changed wants to audition for Freshman Honors on a treble voice part. Is he allowed to make the treble group? Yes, he may.

#5- Donna Martin appealed her late fees for a variety of reasons. The board declined the appeal.

## **General Membership Meeting**

The general membership meeting was called to order at 7:05 by President Robert King. Those who signed the official attendance were: Susan Shirel, Matthew Johnson, Tim Pate, Veronica Stinley, Linda Boze, Linda Towe, Katie Oldham, Sam Duggins, Lynn Jung, Jerry Pierce, Lewis Walling, Lia Holland, Valerie Dehoff, Tiffany DePriest, Victor Davis, Gerald Patton, Nancy Jolley, Greg English, Meghan Therrell, Carol Poston, Wayne Wilson, Judy Yeaworth, David Cassel, Jj Ebelhar, David Spencer, Connie McCain, and Connie Fuller. He stated that the new meeting time of 7:00 had allowed the executive board more time for business. His first announcement was that mini-workshops after the meetings will begin in November (see board meeting minutes for a complete list). These will allow members to come away from meetings feeling as if they received something to use in their teaching; there will be a piece of free music at the November mini-workshop.

Lewis Walling reported on outdated tech equipment; he passed out a flier detailing what is available and urging members to contact him with any questions. Later, anything that is left will be put on Ebay. Also, he reported on new audition materials which will be available this week. The MIDI files have been separated into parts for All-State and Freshman Honors, and will be put onto the MTVA website ([www.mtva.org](http://www.mtva.org)). Middle School Honors cd's already have this on them, and it will be on All-State/Freshman Honors next year. President King reported that a complete list of repertoire for all events except one has been posted on the website. He also expressed his appreciation to Lewis for all of his work in getting the cd's together; we have saved quite a bit of money this year because of him. Also, he pointed out that because we are using music from cpdl.org (public domain), we are able to have these different parts available on the website without violating copyright and mechanical license laws.

Jerald Pierce reported that he has the audition cd's available after the meeting for Middle School Honors.

President King informed the members of the board discussion about uniform audition procedures for taped audition events. He also announced the new committee which will look into this: Jerald Pierce- chair, Valerie Dehoff, Connie Fuller, Judy Yeaworth, and Carol Poston.

Tim Pate reported on Middle School Mass, which is scheduled for the end of October. There are 927 students registered for the 2-day event (SSA is Tuesday only). The concert will be held at War Memorial at 7:00.

President King discussed that he (as TN ACDA R&S Chair for High School choirs), David Spencer, as treasurer, and Linda Ferrer, will be meeting on October 22 to discuss guidelines to insure the future success of the ACDA-sponsored state choral festival. He solicited suggestions or likes from the membership. He asked that members email him and/or David with their comments.

David Spencer then gave the Treasurer's report. The main item was that instead of putting \$10,000.00 back into a certificate of deposit from a matured cd for that amount, he only put \$8,000.00 into the new one. The other \$2,000.00 will go into the checking account for unforeseen issues; also, the interest rates are not very good right now. He mentioned that several directors have had to pay significant late fees. He urged everyone to get applications in ahead of time. President King asked that we vote on accepting the treasurer's report and the minutes. Lewis Walling moved that they be accepted together (2<sup>nd</sup> - DePriest). It passed without dissent.

President King moved on to the 2<sup>nd</sup> vote of the proposed changes to the standing rules portion of the handbook. The other portion was passed at the last meeting. This portion requires a simple majority vote at two consecutive meetings. Katie Oldham reiterated that the proposed changes simply update wording to correspond with procedures which are already done. President King asked for any discussion in the matter. Judy Yeaworth stated that she has some reservations about the 2<sup>nd</sup> tier All-State auditions. She feels that since it is a process which was only begun last year, it still needs some work and feels hesitant about it being added to the handbook. She

has already voiced these concerns to both Robert King and the state All-State chairperson. David Cassel asked if there was a meeting and discussion after last year to evaluate it; President King responded that there was, and it was agreed upon unanimously in that meeting to continue it because it made such a big difference in the event. Regarding Judy's point, he reported that we are bound to the 2<sup>nd</sup>-tier auditions by TMEA. After much discussion regarding procedures and judging, President King stated that judges must take an active part; it is his/her duty and responsibility. If one is seen not doing this, please let the board know so they can deal with it accordingly. It's not a perfect system; the 2<sup>nd</sup>-tier auditions are simply to check notes and rhythms, not diction or voice quality. Katie Oldham suggested that perhaps the discussion could take place later, maybe with Judy and some others voicing their concerns to TMEA. Lewis Walling called for the question. President King restated that this vote was whether or not to approve these clarifications and expansions with a 2<sup>nd</sup> simple majority vote. Twenty-one were in favor, two were opposed, and three abstained. The motion passed. President King expressed his appreciation for the discussion and expects continued dialog on the subject.

President King asked for any new business. It was announced that Katie Oldham is engaged to be married on April 12, 2003. Connie Fuller made a motion that a student be allowed to audition for only one part in a Middle School Honors taped audition (2<sup>nd</sup>- Tim Pate). This would not apply to Elementary honors since they do not audition for parts. There was quite a bit of discussion. Greg English thinks this should be allowed since instrumentalists audition on more than one instrument. Others pointed out that this is using only one instrument, and the students would be making the same group in potentially two parts. Jerald Pierce stated that this did happen last year (one student made the chorus in two different parts), and it messed up the results when they had to be changed. There are no alternates for MS Honors, but he decided to allow the next student to join as a one-time thing. Also, the fact was brought up that the director of the student chooses which voice part he/she makes it as, thus potentially allowing his/her next student in the part to make it. At this point, Tim Pate called for the question. Lewis Walling called point-of-order since it hasn't been to the executive board yet. After the executive board discusses it, they can present it to the one who made the motion as it was or with an amendment at which point the one who made the motion can accept or reject the advisement of the board. Once that's decided, it can be voted on by the membership. Since this deals with part of the standing rules, it must be voted on by the membership for two consecutive months and pass both times with a simple majority vote. In this case, it should be decided on by the deadline date for MS Honors audition tapes in January. President King stated that feels strongly that the environment in MTVA be such that a member feels comfortable making a motion from the floor. He doesn't want the board making all of the motions and decisions. Another item of new business is that the elementary people will have a brief caucus following the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by president King at 8:15.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lia D. Holland