

Lia Holland called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. Those present were Alexis Derryberry, Will Lambert, Brenda Gregory, Wendy Payne, Brian Russell, Alan Clark, Shawn Frazier, David Cassel, Michael Choate, Lorna Pyka, Greg Gunther, Craig Zamer, Greg Herring, Candance Adams, John Hulton, Laurel Sims, Seth Jones, Grace Guill, Brenda Williams, T.J. McLaughlin, Beth Kolwyck, Grant Farmer, Valerie DeHoff, Elizabeth Evans, Jessica Scruggs, Charlie Mason, Matt Smyth, Brenda Jewell, Renee Chapman, Beth Delk, Melissa Hinds, Lisa Benton, Crystal Juechter and Missy Cook.

She thanked Alexis who helped to arrange for our meeting location at Belmont. If anyone gets a parking ticket from Belmont security, please see Alexis. Those that need a certificate from tonight's professional development can see Alexis for that documentation as well.

Lia introduced the new treasurer, Lori Busbey. . Lori discussed that our profit is high right now due to the income of registration and no expenses. MTVA purchased a new simplified accounting system for our records. Jeanette had been using one through her husband's job. The new system only has records beginning with this membership year. If there is anyone that needs historical data about our financial statements, they can see Jeanette.

Missy Cook distributed the minutes from last month's meeting. There was one correction to last month's minutes. There should be a notation about the voicing for men's piece for Mid-State auditions. The minutes should state that all the tenors should sing the tenor line and the all the basses should sing the bass line. It will not be in 4 part and no men should be singing the soprano or alto lines. The minutes were approved with this correction.

Lorna Pyka discussed the Middle School Mass. 20 schools have registered. There was some discussion that the Middle School Mass event this year occurred during Wilson County's testing for 8<sup>th</sup> grade and many of those schools were not allowed to participate.

Gerald Patton gave his report on Freshman Honors. Auditions are at Stewarts Creek High School on 9/26 and 9/27. Information is on the website for this event.

Terry Godfrey gave her report on Mid-State Choir. Everyone that has registered should have received an email from Terri. If you did not, please email her at [midstate@mtva.org](mailto:midstate@mtva.org). The tempo for Crucifixus is much slower this time but this is the performance tempo the clinician will be directing. Have students to try and breathe as musically possible in their phrases. Special requests have been in abundance. The computer enters the students and their requests in the order they registered. It is not based on the reason. We must take into consideration, for example, that if there were an abundance of students who requested an early time, not everyone can have the 5:00 slot. The first person that registered gets the 5:00pm and then the following people who requested early and scheduled thereafter. It is entirely possible that one of those is at 7:00pm. Of the 1105 that registered, there are 600-700 special requests. There are several directors who have requested to be excused from the audition. There has to be at least 40 teachers to be judges, not to mention door monitors, etc. We need everyone to make this audition run as smoothly as possible. Any changes for student registration after the deadline, is \$25 per change. For directors, there is a \$50 a day fee assessed if you have an excused special request to not be in attendance for auditions. We have to hire someone to come in and work in the teacher's place that cannot be at the audition. **Every student must come on their assigned audition day.** You cannot come on a different day unless there is a traumatic event that prohibits a student from making their audition day. The board members present would have to vote to allow any student to audition on a different day. It will be up to the board member's discretion whether there was truly a traumatic event. Please check your registration information as there will be no changes after 3:00pm this Friday (9/13). Brenda Gregory asked if this was going to be across the board and it was reiterated that this would be universal. This will be sent in an email as well as on-line. It was discussed that someone could come early if needed. They could be worked in if someone didn't show up. **However, they must still come on their audition day.** It was discussed that we as directors should let the students know that the door monitors are in charge of that room. Parents should not be in the audition area at all. As directors we should communicate to our students and parents all of these expectations to help avoid conflicts the day of the audition. We, as directors and organization, are

trying to be fair and efficient. **Scores will only be made available after they are verified. It will probably be on Monday, but not on Saturday.** A member asked if there would be someone available to help with parents who are upset on the audition day instead of leaving it up to the registration people. Terri said they are going to try and have someone at the registration to help with these parents. Brenda asked if we could use student volunteers. Terri said really need directors for the items we have been discussing, so this is another reason why we need as many directors available that day as possible. Again, it was reiterated that we need to communicate to our students and parents what the expectations are for this event. Terri mentioned that directors need to be sure they prepare their students if they are selected for Freshman Honors and Mid-State. If you have a student in the Women's Choir, one of the pieces will need to be memorized. The better prepared your students are, the more enjoyable the day will be for them. There will be rehearsal tracks for this event. There is a \$10 participation fee for all students who make the choirs. This does cover the cost of the music. Pepper will drop ship the music to the directors once the scores have been verified and the list of students have been assigned to the choirs. Brian mentioned about traffic for the audition on Friday night. He will post a "back way" to get into the school to try and help as this will be Homecoming for Stewarts Creek. Directors should inform their students to allow for additional time due to football/homecoming traffic at Stewarts Creek High School.

Crystal Juechter gave the report on Middle School and Elementary Honors. She distributed a handout with general information. This handout is on the website. She encouraged all members to print off their registration so that you can make a recording based on the order of their registration. Once the deadline is passed, there is a \$25 fee assessed per change that must be made to any registration. Two weeks before the audition, there will be no changes made to the registration. Directors that have a conflict with the audition day should email Lia. If it is school related, it will be excused but the \$50 fee will still be assessed. There will be a sample of a good audition so new directors will know what type of audition is selected for the choir. Make sure you know the starting pitch for "My Country". This information is detailed on the MTVA website. If students do not start on the

correct pitch, they are automatically disqualified. Please do not order your music separately for your students who make the choir. Crystal will be sending a Pepper number that will be for a packet of all the music that will include an engraved folder for your student. If you order your music separately, it will not include a folder.

Beth Kolwyck gave her report on Elementary Mass. She is still working on clinicians. The event deadline is not until January. The event will be on Feb 20<sup>th</sup> at the Christ Church.

Brian Russell announced there was no new information for Choral Festival since last month.

Craig Zamer gave information on the Southern Division ACDA convention. The auditions for these honor choirs are now all live. You can go to their website, which has been completely revamped, and see all the different honor choirs available for your students. Please visit the website to find out the audition criteria. That website is <http://acdasouthern.org/>

Shawn Frazier talked about the Solo and Ensemble Festival that will be at MTCS again. The deadline is in April and the event is in May.

Lia called for new Business. She informed the membership that mentoring will be started after the registration information has been sorted. An updated handbook is on the website. The Carol Krueger workshop will be on 11/8 & 9 at The Christ Church. Email Brian Russell at [festival@mtva.org](mailto:festival@mtva.org) to register for this workshop. The event is free for MTVA members and a small fee for those not involved in a vocal association.

Charlie asked about the Middle School Mass and if anyone else had a conflict with this event and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Explore Test. It appears that it is just Wilson County. MS Mass had to be moved to a Thursday due to the event venue.

There will be a Mid-State audition workshop at Lipscomb University on 9/14. Email Gary Wilson to register. His email is [gary.wilson@lipscomb.edu](mailto:gary.wilson@lipscomb.edu)

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 and was followed by a professional development session with Dr. Zamer.

Submitted by Missy Cook