

Board Meeting 2/11/14

Present: Lorna Pyka, Shawn Frazier, Alexis Yatuzis-Derryberry, Beth Kolwyck, Terri Godfrey, Lori Busbey, Missy Cook, Brian Russell, Lia Holland, Sandy Elliott and Ashlee Sexton.

Lia Holland called the meeting to order at 5:05pm and asked for the presentation of reports. The minutes were presented and accepted as submitted. Lori gave the Treasurer's Report. She noted the numbers for each event. There is a large positive balance in our account right now due to the All-State fee income but the check for All-State registration has not been written. There were a few events that did not end in the black due to low numbers as well as some clinicians that were expensive. The Treasurer's report was also accepted.

Beth Kolwyck gave her report on Elementary Mass. Her numbers are lower this year. Her clinicians are local, so her expenses will be low. The music is challenging but the students are enjoying the process.

Brian Russell gave his report on Choral Festival. He has obtained risers for the event. The information has been slow coming due to illness by someone at the event. However, this person has improved and he will be sending further information soon. The numbers look good and he expects it to be a great event. There were a few directors that after submitting their registration, have requested to move their time. It was decided that these schools would have to pay a \$25 fee for this change. He was able to schedule the groups in three days instead of four which will save money. Lori informed Brian that he would have one more choir when she receives the late fee.

Terri Godfrey gave her report for Mid-State/All-State. She let us know that she still has not received some fees from students who are in All-State. Alexis discussed that you cannot find out the hotel information until you register your students through the website. Lia informed us that TMEA was losing money because the block of rooms reserved for All-State were not being used. People were booking more rooms than they needed and then dropping them after 2nd Tier. Terri said there was also an issue with not confirming the amount for student fees for All-State. The amount was not confirmed until 1/23. The deadline for director fee is 2/21 as well on-line registration for students and directors.

Shawn Frazier gave his report for Solo and Ensemble which is Saturday, May 3rd at Middle TN Christian School. This is a great event for students who want to major in music in college. He has one judge, TJ McClaughlin and possibly Laura Coppage.

Lorna Pyka gave her report on Middle School Mass. There were around 500 students and it was a wonderful event. She asked the board if she should continue to pursue Dr. Freer or should she look at someone else. There was some concern because of the date change and that causing our numbers to be lower. Alexis mentioned that we may do a "survey monkey" regarding possible dates for MS Mass to make sure it is scheduled when schools can participate. Lori mentioned that it is cheaper for MTVA for clinicians to fly instead of drive.

Gerald Patton gave his report on Freshmen Honors. He mentioned that he still had the plaques for the clinicians that were given to him by the t-shirt vendor. He will mail those to them.

Ashley and Crystal were not at the meeting. Their event went really well and everyone enjoyed having the event at Hermitage Hills Baptist Church. It was much cheaper than last year's location and they did not require insurance.

Lia mentioned that we did need at least 27 people to have a quorum for our voting tonight.

Brian Russell gave his report from the Mid-State Committee. The committee felt that we needed more time as well as some changes to the sight reading component for auditions. They recommend that Freshmen Honors be separate from Mid-State Choir. In order to make the day and half event work, we would need to change the audition fee to \$8 for this event. Brian distributed a handout detailing the fee amounts for each MTVA event. They also recommend that we explicitly state in our handbook that in order for students to participate that the director must be present. These changes will require a vote tonight. The standing rules change will also require a vote in August. Brian also stated that in August we look at other items in the handbook that would not be in compliance if we split the event. He also stated that in his opinion, the choirs were too large. He is having a hard time finding a location that accommodates a 200 voice choir. He proposes that we would have 144 for mixed, 144 for women and 88 for men's. Sandy asked if this would meet our requirements for All-State placements. Brian proposed that we make the men's choir then bigger, to meet the All-State requirement. Brian expressed that this would be help to give these students an excellent choral experience instead of just trying to accept as many students as possible. Ashley mentioned how this would affect the bottom line if we are cutting kids. Brian ran the numbers and it appears that the event would still be in the black especially with the fee increase.

Lia read the list of officers that will be voted on tonight. The board approved all those listed. Those listed were:

Past-President: Ms. Lia Holland

President: Ms. Alexis Yatuzis-Derryberry

President-Elect: Mr. Shawn Frazier (Middle TN Christian School)

Secretary: Ms. Beth Delk (White County Middle School)

Collegiate Chair: Dr. Craig Zamer (TTU)

Mid-State/All-State: Dr. Brian Russell (Stewarts Creek High School)

Freshman Honors: Mr. Gerald Patton (Blackman High School)

Middle School Honors: Ms. Missy Cook (Donelson Christian Academy)

Middle School Mass: Ms. Lorna Pyka (Rock Springs Middle School)

Elementary School Honors: Ms. Candace Adams (Eagleville School)

Elementary School Mass Choir: Ms. Jessica Morel-Scruggs (Southside Elementary School-Shelbyville)

Solo and Ensemble: Mr. Michael Choate (Cookeville High School)

Choral Festival: Mr. Grant Farmer (Wilson Central High School)

Lia then read 3 appeals from directors who have not paid their student fees by the postmark deadline. Appeal #1 is from a director who checked the fees page in our handbook and it said \$50, so the director sent \$50 per person before 2nd Tier. The director spoke with Lori on 2/3 and asked if they were OK. She let them know that they were short \$5 per kid. One of the student's parents sent a check for the students but it was not postmarked by the deadline.

Appeal #2 is from a director who said their bookkeeper did not mail the check by the postmark deadline.

Appeal #3 is from a director who is on maternity leave and their bookkeeper did not mail the check at all. The director did not know the check had not been mailed until Lori contacted them yesterday.

Several members of the board discussed these appeals. Brian read from the handbook as it pertains to All-State fees. There were several who were concerned how to vote on appeal #1 because the director had paid fees, but just not the right amount.

The motion was made to table this discussion until after the general meeting. Sandy made the motion to adjourn and Shawn seconded the motion.

Lia called the board meeting back to order after our general meeting at 7:45pm. Shawn asked where exactly in our handbook it talks about All-State fees and being postmarked by the deadline. Brian brought up the idea of charging a fee for these directors whose fees were not postmarked by the deadline. Lia read from the handbook that state "failure to pay fees by the deadlines will result in immediate disqualification from All-State". Brian read from the section that describes late registration. Sandy commented that the late registration is for applications. Brian felt that paying a late fee for this is more in line with what we have done. Because there is no wording in our handbook to allow a late fee, we will not entertain that idea.

The board voted on Appeal #2. There were 8 that voted to not accept the late payment, 1 that voted to accept and 2 that abstained.

The board voted on Appeal #3. There were 8 that voted to not accept the late payment, 1 that voted to accept and 2 that abstained.

The board voted on Appeal #1. Lia read the appeal from the director. There was some discussion about how we deal with this appeals since 6 of the students were paid for and not enough for the 7th. The board allowed all 7 students to participate.

After much discussion, the board decided to revote on all three. On appeal #1, the board voted to accept all 7 students and the director is to replace the check because as of now, the complete payment involves a parent check.

The board voted on appeal #2, and voted to not allow the students to participate.

The board voted on appeal #3. Brian proposed that we allow students to participate if the payment was received by 2/21. The board voted to not allow these students to participate.

The board meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.