

Middle Tennessee Vocal Association
Minutes from the August 12, 2014 Meeting
Beth Delk, Secretary

Alexis Yatuzis-Derryberry, president, called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. Those present were Adam Womack, Anna Caldwell, Ashley Copeland, Beth Delk, Beth Kolwyck, Brenda Jewell, Brenda Williams, Brian Russell, Charlie Mason, Chelsey Preiser, Chris Gregory, Cindy Fehrman, David A. Collins, Dawn Seidenschwarz, Debbie Wilson, Dr. Craig Zamer, Dr. Jamila McWhirter, Dr. Raphael Bundage, Erin Whitford, Gerald Patton, Grace Guill, Grant Farmer, Greg Gunther, Greg Ray, Jenny Bastoky, Jessica Scruggs, John Hylton, Laura Coppage, Liz Evans, Lorna Pyka, Michael Choate, Michael Petrone, Mike O'Neill, Sandy Elliott, Stella McKnight, Stephanie Nolan, Susan Wilson, T.J. McLaughlin, Taylor Barnett, and Valerie DeHoff.

Alexis began by introducing the members of the board, President-Elect Shawn Frazier and secretary Beth Delk. She then asked each member present to introduce themselves by stating their name and what grade level and ensemble they currently teach.

Dr. Raphael Bundage, Director of Choral Activities at MTSU, made an announcement about the Tennessee Southeastern Choral Festival. It will be September 5th and 6th with guest clinician Dr. Andrew Crane from East Carolina University. A flyer was made available. He also announced that the Nashville Singers will be hosting a Master Class with Kirby Shaw in the Collins Auditorium at Lipscomb University. The event is on Saturday, September 20th and is free for middle school and high school students. Educators pay \$20. For more information go to www.nashvillesinger.org/Events.html.

Dr. Jamila McWhirter made an announcement about the MTSU Winter Music Education Conference in January as an in-service opportunity. The conference will feature clinician and current ACDA president, Karen Fulmer. If there is anyone interested in joining the Murfreesboro Men's Chorus they rehearse on Thursdays at 6pm. They will be traveling to NYC this year to perform at Carnegie Hall.

Alexis reminded the membership of upcoming deadlines. Sept. 5th will be the deadline for Middle School Mass, Freshman Honors, and Mid-state auditions. The new deadline for membership dues is September 7th and is \$25.

Alexis advised new members, new teachers, or those teaching at a new position this year to register on the MTVA website for a mentor. MTVA was recently polled about our mentoring program and will appear in the Music Educators Journal.

If you are not receiving the mass emails (info@mtva.org) please contact Alexis.

Lorna Pyka gave the report on Middle School Mass Choir. The clinicians for this year will be Ms. Anne Snider (SSA Ensemble), Mrs. Laura Coppage (SAB Ensemble), and Dr. Patrick Freer (SAB Ensemble). The event will be Thursday, Sept. 25th at Christ Church. The deadline to register is Sept. 5th. She encouraged middle school directors to bring their choirs because it is a good first experience for the school year.

Alexis gave the report for Missy Cook (MS Honors) and Candace Adams (Elem. Honors). The deadline to register is Friday, Oct. 3rd and the auditions will be Saturday, Oct. 25th at Eagleville School (Rutherford Co.) Check the website for more information.

Jessica Suggs gave the report on Elementary Mass. The event will be Feb. 19th at Christ Church with the snow date being Feb. 24th.

Grant Farmer gave the Choral Festival report. The event will be scheduled for late February and early March. He is still working to finalize the judges. First United Methodist church of Murfreesboro will be the event location again this year. He encouraged the membership to bring their choirs because it offers helpful comments and is a good experience.

Michael Choate gave a report on solo and ensemble. He began by saying that Shawn has done a great job as past chair of this event because it has shown growth in participation. The goal for this year is to involve more schools. This event is a great opportunity for small ensembles of 20 students or less. Dr. Zamer and Tennessee Tech University will host the event and the event will also feature some master class experiences.

Gerald Patton gave a report on freshman honors. The event is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 31st at Mt. Juliet High School. Repertoire for this event has been approved and is on the website. The clinicians will be Vincent Oakes and Dr. Kevin Ford. Auditions will be Friday Sept. 26th and Saturday, Sept. 27th. Note: Freshman honors and Mid-state are on different dates.

Brian Russell gave the report on Mid-state. There are a lot of changes this year and he will give more details in the high school caucus. The event is scheduled for Nov. 17-18th (Monday & Tuesday) at First Baptist Church in Nashville. Check the website for more information. Brian also added that the ACDA National Convention will be in Salt Lake City this year and will feature performances by many world renowned choirs. It occurs during the last week in February and would be worth looking in to.

Dr. Zamer gave the collegiate chair report. There will be a Middle Tennessee All-State Choir clinic at TTU on the 30th of August from 9:30am-2:30pm. Sectionals will be during the morning and then after lunch they will work on the men's and women's piece and bring it together to finish the day. Check the flyer. One concert of note is The American Spiritual Ensemble concert February 17th at TTU. (This is a free event, but is ticketed due to the limited seating.) If you are interested in bringing your choir please contact Dr. Zamer. (czamer@tntech.edu)

Alexis then gave the TMEA report. The schedule for All-state will be different this year. It will be held in Memphis. There were hotel problems last year and they are hoping all of those will be fixed this year. Also, if you are interested in working the NAFME convention you can receive perks. (ex. free cowboy hat). If you are interested please contact Alexis. A question was asked about the deadline for TN Treble. It should be the 2nd weekend in November.

Alexis then presented Item A of Old Business. The minutes from the February 2014 meeting were presented and accepted without discussion or corrections. Alexis then presented the treasurer report and it was accepted with no discussion.

Alexis then presented Item B of Old Business.

There are two items that we need a second vote by the membership tonight:

1. Constitution Changes – Article XII Fees

\$8 audition fee for Freshmen and Mid-State

\$6 audition fee for all other audition events

\$5 student fee for all mass choir events

\$5 student fee for all solo & ensemble events

\$3 student fee for Choral Festival

\$12 student participation fee for Freshman Honor Choir and Mid-State Choirs

\$55 student fee for All-State Choir
\$75 director fee for TMEA registration
\$113 NAFME/TMEA individual membership fee
\$36 NAFME retired individual membership fee
All-State Choir and TMEA registration fees are subject to change per TMEA.
Article XIII Honorariums
Solo and Ensemble Judges \$125 for the first 3 hours/\$25 after that
Choral Festival Judges \$300 per day
Clinicians for Mid-State Choir \$750 per event
Clinicians for (with the exception of Elem. Mass) \$500 per day
Clinicians for Elementary Mass \$300 per day
Accompanists for Mid-State Choir \$450 per event
Accompanists (with the exception of Elem. Mass) \$300 per day
Accompanists for Elementary Mass \$200 for 1 choir/\$300 for 2

Alexis noted that the main changes are the \$8 audition fee for Freshman and Mid-state, \$12 student participation fee for Freshman and Mid-state, and \$6 audition fee for all other audition events. Shawn Frazier also highlighted the clinicians cost for all events except Elem. Mass as \$500 per day. Alexis also mentioned the NAFME membership as gone up to \$121 this year.

Brian called for a motion to vote on item one of the constitution change and Matt Clark seconded the motion. Members voted and the motion passed.

Alexis then presented the second item of old business to vote on which is a standing rules change. We are putting in writing a practice that is already in existence. The new addition would be:

I. General Rules and Reminders for Directors

C. Director's Responsibility

2. Events

****Take out**** b. If rules are not followed, a letter will be sent from the chairman of the event to the principal of the director involved.******

It would read:

b. If at all possible, the director should notify the event chairman of any cancellations before the scheduled appearance time. Event/Audition fee are not refundable.

3. If a director fails to satisfactorily perform duties required at an event or audition, the chairman of the event and/or member of the Executive Board reserve the right to inform the principal of the director involved. The director's participating students may also be disqualified.

II. Student Eligibility for Auditioned Events

1. Student must be enrolled and in good standing in his/her school's choral program.

2. Student's director must satisfactorily perform duties associated with audition and/or event.

3. In the case of home schooled students, the student will be deemed eligible if all of the following conditions are met.

Brian called for a motion to vote on a change to the standing rules and also made the motion. Matt Clark seconded the motion. Members voted and the motion passed unanimously.

Alexis then presented new business. Two chairs have been added. Those include Ms. Brenda Gregory as the TMEA/MTVA Advocacy Chair, and also a TMEA/MTVA Membership Chair which has not been filled. Volunteers for this chair would be appreciated.

Alexis then announced that as of Friday, August 8th Lori Busbey resigned as treasurer of MTVA. She then presented the application of Michael Morrow. He is a High School Finance teacher and is familiar with

the program we use for book keeping (Quickbooks). Sandy Elliot made a motion to vote on the new applicant for MTVA Treasurer. Michael Choate seconds the motion. Members voted and the motion passes unanimously for Michael Morrow to be the new MTVA treasurer. Dues may still be mailed to Lori during the transition time.

Alexis then reported that the past/vice-president Lia Holland has asked to resign. The board has voted Valerie DeHoff as a candidate for the vice-president position. Alexis called for a motion for the membership to vote on the new board member. Chris Gregory made the motion to vote and Grant Farmer seconded the motion. Members voted and the motion to appoint Valerie DeHoff as vice-president passed.

Sandy Elliot then mentioned an A cappella Sing Off competition featuring the guest group Vocal Authority on Oct. 25th in the Mt. Juliet area. There are only 12 spots left. Check the website for more information.

Megan Hester (Station Camp Middle School) is requesting suggestions of a qualified substitute to fill her maternity leave (Oct.-March).

Alexis announced that the next meeting will be Sept. 9th. The membership broke into caucuses at 7:33pm and adjourned after the caucuses were finished.