

Middle Tennessee Vocal Association  
Membership Meeting  
Tuesday, August 11th, 2015  
Beth Delk, Secretary

Alexis called the meeting to order at 6:45pm. Those present were Brenda Jewell, Lisa Zimdars, Cindy, Freeman, Gerald Patton, Michael Meise, Jenna Elsberry, Michael Choate, Jessica Scruggs, Greg Gunther, Debbie Wilson, Matt Smyth, Valerie Trantum, Renee Chapman, Trey Jacobs, Beth Kolwyck, Elizabeth Evans, T.J. McLaughlin, Linda Lee Friend, Lauren Wallick, Adam Womack, Danielle Taylor, J.J. Norman, Carlie Brantley, Matthew Clark, Craig Zamer, Candace Adams, Valerie DeHoff, Brenda Williams, Talor Barnett, Michael Petrone, Melissa Hinds, Laura Coppage, Foster Hudson, Greg Herring, Dr. Jamila McWhirter, Mike O'Neill, Matthew Johnson, Madalynne Skelton, Sydney Shadrix, Seth Gregory, Kimberly Mclemore, Chuck Brown, Jennifer Ledbetter, Jason Witt, Jessica Harbert, Erin Whitford, Chelsey Preiser, Allie Senyard, Franklin Willis, Caleb Hawkins, Emily Dickens Charlie Mason, Alexis Yatusiz-Derryberry, Lorna Pyka, Brenda Gregory, and Beth Delk.

Alexis then briefly introduced the MTVA board:

Valerie DeHoff is currently serving as Past-President. Michael Choate will now be serving as President-Elect after the resignation of Shawn Frazier at the end of the last school year. New to the board this year is Mrs. Jenna Elsberry who will be chairing the solo an ensemble event. Brenda Williams and Wendy Payne will be teaming up to chair Middle School and High School Choral Festival.

Mid-State/All-State: Mrs. Brenda Gregory with assistance from Michael Choate  
Ms. Beth Delk, secretary

Middle School Mass Chair: Ms. Lorna Pyka

Middle School Honors Chair: Ms. Missy Cook

Elementary Honor Choir Chair: Ms. Candace Adams (After 15 years, she finally has a classroom).

Elementary Mass Chair: Ms. Jessica Scruggs

Freshman Honors Chair: Mr. Gerald Patton

Collegiate Chair: Dr. Craig Zamer

Technologist: Mr. Lewis Walling. He is a former choral director and past MTVA president.

Treasurer: Mr. Michael Morrow

Treasurer Report: Please check with your bookkeeper to make sure they have Michael's address and not a previous treasure's address. There will be a form on the website soon that you will need to mail in with all checks to help identify the purpose of the check. Until then, please leave a note on the check specifying what the check is for (i.e. membership dues, MS Mass, etc.).

Question from membership: Will we be able to pay using a credit card? (Paypal, etc) Alexis will check on this.

Alexis then had each member introduce themselves by stating their school and the grades/subjects they currently teach.

Alexis focused on new business.

She discussed what was covered in the TMEA Report. She introduced the TMEA leadership which included: Dr. Jeffery Phillips, President, Dr. Jonathan Vest, President-Elect, Mr. Ron Meers, Executive Director, Mrs. Dian Eddleman, Past President, Mrs. Amanda Ragan, NEW State Choral Chair Mr. Joel Denton, TMEA Advocacy Chair, and Mrs. Brenda Gregory, MTVA Advocacy Chair ([GregoryB@rcschools.net](mailto:GregoryB@rcschools.net)). If you have an issues regarding your music class time or any advocacy activities that promote music in your area please email Brenda so she can share it with the membership. We must advocate TODAY!

Another item discussed in the TMEA report involved the National CORE arts standards and how they have not been adopted by the state of Tennessee. There has been a task force to assemble updated standards for the state.

A TMEA membership chair is needed. Let Alexis know if you are interested.

TMEA started the process in 2012 of providing a unified membership, and 2015 is the year this will be implemented. If you have already renewed with NAFME you will need to renew again. The extra months will tack on at the end of your career. TMEA receives a percentage of the money from NAFME. If you are a member of MTSBOA as well as MTVA you will pay your NAFME fee to MTSBOA and let our treasurer know that you are a member of both. TMEA Executive Director, Ron Meers will then confirm. If you are a member of NAFME through another state organization please let Alexis know and we will contact TMEA to figure out the procedure. You will send all your membership fees (NAFME/TMEA \$125 and MTVA \$25) to MTVA by Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> (postmarked). The \$50 school fee will be due at the deadline of your first event or you can go ahead and include it with your membership dues. Please specify what the fees are for when you mail them to our treasurer. New teachers/members of MTVA will have their late fee waved if they are incurred.

Question from membership: Can you send us an email when the form is available to accompany fees/dues?

Please be aware: September 8<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for MS Mass. The deadline for Freshman Honors and Mid-state will be Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>. Please note the difference in dates.

Alexis then discussed the 2016 TMEA Conference/All-state. The event will be held at Gaylord Opryland April 13-16<sup>th</sup>, 2016. We will be performing in the event center (not the Opry). The schedule is not posted. There will colored programs for the students. They magazines look fantastic. There will be the event mobi as well as the pocket printed schedule. TN Treble is a fantastic way to have your elementary students perform on the state level. There is a commissioned piece. She encouraged directors of elementary to attend.

TMEA Presidential Nominations. Please email Alexis whom you would like to nominated from MTVA.

If you would like to mentor or be a mentee this school year. Michael Choate will make sure you are teamed up.

Alexis then asked for a brief report from each of the event chair.

Lorna gave the report for the Middle School Mass event. The ensembles include the SSA directed by Brenda Gregory, SAB directed by Dr. Jamila McWhirter, and the other SAB directed by Vic Oakes. All the repertoire is online and the registration opens tomorrow, August 12<sup>th</sup>. The registration fee will be raised to \$6.

Candace gave the report for MS/Elementary Honors choir. The deadline to register is Friday, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>. The auditions will be Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> at Eagleville School. The clinician for the Elementary Honors choir will be Trey Jacobs from Head Middle Magnet School in Nashville. We are still looking at a venue options.

Jessica gave the report for Elementary Mass. The date for this event is Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> with a snow date scheduled for Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>. The deadline to register is Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> which is a lot earlier than previous years. The event will be held at Christ Church and have the same clinicians from last year since the event was snowed out.

Brenda Williams gave the report for MS/HS Choral Festival. The date for choral festival was set in May of last year before the TNReady test schedule came out Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>. We will be keeping the same dates, but are looking at different time/weekend options to help with the test schedule. We will be sending

a poll to directors to see if they would be able to go during after school hours or on a Saturday. Check your email.

Question from membership: Could Festival be moved to a later date? Answer: The date for State Festival is in late April and many schools have their Spring breaks at different times making it impossible to schedule later in March/April. We will include a question on when spring break is in the survey.

Jenna Elsberry gave the report on solo and ensemble. She stated that the more accompanist the merrier. Please let her know if you are available.

Gerald gave the report on Freshman Honors. The event will be held Saturday, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> at First United Methodist church in Murfreesboro. All the repertoire has been approved and clinician selected.

Brenda Gregory gave the Mid-state report. Auditions will be October 22-24<sup>th</sup> and will take place at Siegel High School. The audition fee is \$8 per student. There is a hard copy of the repertoire on the table and all of the audition material is on the website. The clinicians for the choirs have been selected.

Craig Zamer, our collegiate chair, will provide possible professional development opportunities later in the school year.

Alexis then brought attention to the minutes from the February 2015 meeting minutes and asked for any changes or discussion. Matt Clark made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Charlie Mason seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Alexis then suggested the membership approve the board's decision to increase the Middle School Mass student participation fee from \$5.00 per student to \$6.00 per student. This will help the event be fully funded. All those present were in favor of the change and the motion passed.

JJ Norman, student teacher of Sandy Elliott and NAFME intern, announced that volunteers are needed for the National Convention in Nashville, TN. Positions include choir managers and chaperones. Please email him if you are interested. [johnn@nafme.org](mailto:johnn@nafme.org) or [JJNorman92@yahoo.com](mailto:JJNorman92@yahoo.com)

Dr. Jamila McWhirter announced the MTSU Winter Conference which will be Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup> with clinician Greg Gilpin.

Question from membership: I've been told I can't use Title 1 funds in my music classroom, is this true? Dr. Phillips says that should change, because music is now is a core subject.

Alexis started a Co-Chair Discussion for Mid-state/All-state. The board is coming up with a proposal for a co-chair position for Mid-state/All-state. That will be coming next meeting.

The next meeting will be September 8<sup>th</sup> at Siegel High School.

Alexis dismissed the meeting at 7:55pm and directors met in separate caucuses.