

2023 Summer Board Meeting

The Executive Board met at 3:30pm on June 25th for set-up and to prepare for the board meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Alabama Vocal Association Summer Board Meeting

Hilen Wilson called the meeting to order on June 25th, 2023. In attendance were Frank Andrews, Amanda Slay, Matthew Gardner, Debbie Flynn, Meg Jones, Sally York, Zachary Banks, Marlin Ward, Jody Powell, and Nichole Hill.

Expectations

Hilen Wilson pointed out we are a unified front.

- Confidentiality
- Introductions if needed (mention Christie & Holly)

Minutes

Nichole Hill read the minutes for the board meeting. Corrections were made to fix the year in paragraph nine from 2024 to 2023 and for the 2024 ASSC dates. A correction was also made in paragraph eighteen to correct the spelling of Samford.

Zach made a motion to accept the minutes with corrections.

Matthew Gardner seconded and the board voted and passed.

Financial Report

Meg Jones gave us a breakdown of our finances. It is broken down by event. Meg walked through each section and discussed with the board any question they had. It also shows whether an event lost or gained money from last year.

Discussion was held about cost going up but we still made profit in multiple sections. Meg Jones took the time to explain the numbers on the back page -\$8220. It makes it look like we are in the negative but we are not. The \$8220 covers two different years. This leaves us with only having to pay one deposit in February and one in March to book the next year. With this knowledge we have turned a \$6,145.59 profit and saved \$18,215.50.

Meg Jones has applied for two different grants and we are waiting to hear back. The current account totals are not on the treasurer document. Meg Jones gave the total, as of June 25th, 2023 the total of the Checking account is \$17682.75 and our Savings is close to \$11,000.00.

Meg Jones discussed taxes with the board about taxes. We now have a tax exemption.

However, we have six years to go back and complete taxes. Meg Jones suggested that we have an internal audit and look at putting in the hand book.

She suggested that the accounts be viewed each month and have a hard copy of all expenditures. Having the executive board check through to make sure that all copies and forms are in a "tax" folder.

Hilen Wilson discussed with us about Jim Shaffer giving up his position as webmaster. Mathew Green has stepped up and taken the position. Hilen Wilson discussed his payment for the rest of this school year and we will discuss and re-evaluate payment for the Webmaster.

Dates

The board discussed and shared their dates with Hilen Wilson.

In discussion of Virtual District Meetings Hilen Wilson suggested using group me to send out messages. Matthew Gardner suggested that we encourage them to sign up at the fall workshop. Meg Jones added that we could have a raffle: Sign Up, get one entry and share it and get a second entry. The prize is a JW Pepper Gift Card.

How do we advertise "Follow US" before school starts. Introduce it at beginning district meetings.

- Follow us on social media
- Please read rules for what we do multiple time
- Dates

Bids

Meg Jones spoke with Sweet Spot Live Recordings about recordings for All State. She discussed not using a thumb drive but doing it through technology and using dropbox and downloading it on any device we want.

All State \$7000

ASSC \$700

A motion was made by Zack Banks and seconded by Jody Powell to accept Sweet Spot Live Recordings. The Board voted and it passed unanimously.

Fall Workshop

Hilen Wilson informed the board that our Clinician for Fall Workshop is Matthew Gawronski. She reviewed the topics he would be covering during the workshop. Hilen Wilson suggested that we begin to finalize schedules and finalize sessions. Also, Hilen Wilson will email and ask Dr. Doyle about what rooms we can use while there.

Sally York brought up for discussion about having a "Welcoming Committee". Marlin Ward and Zach Banks agreed to welcome teachers as they come in. Amanda Slay also suggested we walk around and welcome others.

Tentative Schedule: (Hilen email)

It was discussed and agreed upon to continue with the New Teacher Luncheon and still allow teachers that are in their first five years.

Virtual Board Meeting on Tuesday September 5th, 2023 at 4pm.

OCS/ME

Hilen Wilson began the discussion by letting the Board know we will no longer have an OA. We will also have district levels that will be virtual. Hilen Wilson also suggested that if you are having an OCS or ME trying out that you not be the facilitator. There has been discussion in separating the OCS and ME audition/interviews at the district level, but if we do can we afford the judges? Can we talk to the judges and let them know that ME is not a consolation prize. IF they are not prepared we do not have to have a winner or we could have the same kid win both. Matthew Gardner mentioned that we have a rubric for ME. Meg Jones has already made one and will share it with the board. The process with the judges for ME/ OCS should be the same. Judge is to score independently, then submit the score sheets (rubrics) to the district chair to total. Matthew Gardner and Meg Jones reminded the board that she made a google form for State. It was agreed upon to use the form that Meg Jones has already created but adapted to the district level.

- State OCS Virtual Interview: 1/30/24 (all DCs)
- State ME Virtual Interview: 2/1/24 (Pres-Elect & Recording Secretary if no conflicts)
Nichole Hill and Jody Powell

All-State

Hilen Wilson reminded the DC's that there should be no more than 2 DC's working at a time. Meg Jones reminded the DC's that there should not be more than 5 student runners. That there should be one kid per audition room (which is 4 kids). If you have a 5th student runner they can help by checking music and leading schools to the main holding room. She also informed the DC's that they will be making their schedule for All State Tryouts this year, how to make the schedule, and how to be more conservative with schedules/judges. She reminded the DC's to mark off correctly in the book. Be extra careful to make sure you do not miss anyone.

Hilen Wilson asked the DC's if they had any thoughts or issues with All State tryouts. Zach Banks asked if we could make "Alabama" just a sing through. Hilen Wilson stated that she would remind the judges that they can do a sing through of Alabama if they need to for time purposes. It was brought up that if we tell the membership it is one hour, then we need to stick to that one hour. Otherwise we have transportation issues. Discussion was had among the board members about auditions.

It was asked to remind directors:

- to have better supervision of their students
- to make sure they have completed the entire audition form

The idea to have the DC's make a social media page labeled "Frequently asked questions of All State tryouts".

Hilen Wilson asked the board should we offer a make up option? Discussion was had among the board about what we currently do and what other ideas have been brought to the board.

Hilen Wilson

If a student is sick on their original audition day, they can audition at a different site with correct documentation and have a director accompanying them. (case by case)

Hilen Wilson asked about our teacher panel. We have 15-16 people on the panel and each district is well represented. Here are our thoughts. (The order should be adjusted to make a more fluid thought/decision process.

- What is our mission, what is our purpose and intention of the All State Festival?
- How can we conduct auditions in a timely fashion?
- How does adding sight reading enhance the all state experience?
- Will sight reading being added cause our tryout numbers to drop?
- How do we avoid alienating programs who do not have feeder programs?
- How do we determine sight reading levels?
- Should we audition fewer songs?
- Would we be willing to have a virtual option? If so, how would this be determined?
- Should we have alternates for all state?"

Hilen Wilson discussed our executive board meeting with HeartOut. What the company can offer and the price they would be willing to give us. This is a company that the ABA uses. Sight Reading Factory has agreed for us to use them for sight reading for almost free. Discussion was held among the board regarding cost cancellation from travel vs using HeartOut.

Zach Banks suggested that maybe having a different panel to discuss this and Amanda Slay suggested that the executive board should take more time researching HeartOut.

The board read through and discussed the membership's thoughts about All State.

- Organized welcoming for the directors/ clinicians
- Discussion of cost
- Transportation and timely manner of auditions
- Changing ASSC back to AMEA
 - Issue is ASSC & Honor Choir

Our collegiate performances will be University of Alabama and waiting on confirmation from Miles.

Page 31- Amanda Slay discussed with the board restructuring our mission statement.

Frank Andrews suggested we ask "Will our mission statement and our discipline of the festival line up with our NafME goals?

Sally York suggested asking "How does the addition of sight reading support the mission of all state?"

No Show

No Show List was reviewed and accepted. Three were approved to be eligible to audition this year: Quinn Lynch, Joshua Jones, and Bonnie Thompson.

Discussion was had on how to prevent this many no shows. 2022 there were 61 no shows and in 2023 there were 51. The idea of having alternates. There has to be a timeline.

Zach Banks motioned this question "Should we have alternates for all state?" should be moved to the teacher panel. Jody Powell seconded it and it was unanimously approved.

Schedule

Discussion was held on how it went this past year and if we need to adjust it.

ABA Conflicts

Hilen Wilson reminded the DC's to communicate with the membership to communicate with their band directors about All State dates and any conflicts.

- District 1 MPA at Hartselle HS (2/27-2/29)
- District 2 MPA at Gadsden City HS
- District 6 MPA at Auburn HS (2/27-2/29)

Approve All State Packets

■ HS SATB:

High School SATB: Eric Barnum from Drake University

- Come to Me, My Love-Norman Dello Joio
 - Sing as written
- Kyrie- Knut Nystedt
 - Pg 6 letter F to the end: B1 sings the T2 line and all tenors on the T1 line
- Jesus Christ the Apple Tree- Elizabeth Poston
 - Sing as written
- Wanting Memories- Ysaye M. Barnwell
 - S2 sing the melody line
 - S1 sing soprano line
 - All altos sing alto line
- The Rainbow- Eric William Barnum
 - Sing as written

*Hilen Wilson will contact the director and asked him to take out Jesus Christ the Apple Tree and replace with another female composer piece and add another Eric Barnum uptempo song

■ HS SSA:

High School SSA: Julie Yu Oppenheim from Oklahoma State University

- Huron Carol- arr. Ed Henderson
 - Sing as written
- Miserere mei Deus- Raffaella Aleotti
 - Sing as written
- Vocalise- arr. Tanner Wilemon
 - Any divides go by the district lines (District 1-4- top; District 4-7- bottom)
- Dayung Sampan- arr. Darius Lim
 - Pg 9, ms56-ms71, Altos divide (District 1-4- top; District 4-7- bottom)
- The Birds' Lullaby- Sarah Quartel
 - Altos normal part split A1 and A2
 - Sopranos normal split S1 and S2
- Walk Together Children- arr. Stacey Gibbs

- ms.2-3-A2 split by district lines (District 1-4- top; District 4-7- bottom)
- Ms.8-9- A2 split by district lines (District 1-4- top; District 4-7- bottom)
- ms.11-S2 split by district lines (District 1-4- top; District 4-7- bottom)
- Ms. 14-19- S1 split by district lines (District 1-4- top; District 4-7- bottom)
- Ms. 15-17- A2 split by district lines (District 1-4- top; District 4-7- bottom)
- Ms.20- A1 split by district lines (District 1-4- top; District 4-7- bottom)
- Ms. 32-33-A2 split by district lines (District 1-4- top; District 4-7- bottom)
- Ms 35- S2 split by district lines (District 1-4- top; District 4-7- bottom)
- Ms 36- A3 is all Alto 2's , District Alto 1's will be district 1-4, alto 2 will sing alto 1 bottom divisi
- Ms. 41- S1 split by district lines (District 1-4- top; District 4-7- bottom)
- Ms 42-43 alto 1's sing the G
- Ms 54-A2 split by district lines (District 1-4- top; District 4-7- bottom)
- Ms 57- S2 split by district lines (District 1-4- top; District 4-7- bottom)
- Ms 60-63-A2 split by district lines (District 1-4- top; District 4-7- bottom)
- Ms 71-A2 split by district lines (District 1-4- top; District 4-7- bottom)
- Ms 75-end- ALL split by district lines (District 1-4- top; District 4-7- bottom)

■ HS TTBB:

High School TTBB: Jeffrey Benson from San Jose State University

- Sorida- arr. William Powell
 - Hilen Wilson is going to contact the conductor in regards to the tiny notes.
- Imitatione Del Venetiano- ed. Jameson Martin
 - Sing as TBB: All Tenors on T1 line, Baritone on T2 line
- Hard Times Come Again No More- arr. Alice Parker
 - B2 if you have the low E sing it

*Hilen Wilson ask about if he wants a solo or not, where the choir comes back if solo is chosen, and during the 3 part mixed- how does he want to split.

- The Last Words of David– Randall Thompson
 - Last two measures T2 split along district lines (1-4 up and 5-7 down)
- Wheels of a Dream– arr. John Leavitt
 - Split TBB instead of TTB for the entire song
- Come Fly With Me– arr. Kevin Keller
 - Sing as written

■ MS Mixed:

Middle School Mixed: Alex Gartner from Pensacola Children's Choir

- Nda Wana- arr. Michael Barrett
 - Sing as written
- Ad Astra- Jacob Narverud
 - Ms 73- Soprano split by district (district 1-4 up/ 5-7 down)
- Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around–arr. Rollo Dilworth
 - Ms 66- Soprano split by district (district 1-4 up/ 5-7 down)
 - Ms77-78- Soprano and Bass split by district (district 1-4 up/ 5-7 down)
- For the Beauty of the Earth- arr. Michael Bussewitz-Quarm

- Sing as written
- Hands Are KNOCKIN'---Kyle Pederson
 - Ms 73-76- Soprano split by district (district 1-4 up/ 5-7 down)
- I Believe-- Mark Miller
 - descant on ms 67 to ms 100-- audition at All State

■ MS Treble:

Middle School Treble: D'Walla Simmons-Burke from Winston-Salem State University

- Agnus Dei - John Leavitt (SSA arrangement)
 - Sing as written
- Does the World Say- Kyle Pederson (SSAA)
 - The low "F" is too low
 - Change to the optional note or make the note different
 - Page 14 follow the directions at the bottom of the page.
 - "If SA only, please have all sopranos on the S2 line and all altos on the A2 line; if SSA, consider having a few more sopranos on the S1 line while soprano 1's sing the S2 line and soprano 2's sing the A1 line."
 - Hilien Wilson is going to contact the conductor and ask her how she would like it sung.
 - Page 16- follow the directions at the bottom of the page.
 - "The two most important lines are the S2 and A; if only doing two parts, have all sopranos sing the S12 line and all altos sing the A line. If adding a few soprano 1's on descant, please have them sing the highest descant line provided."
 - Hilien Wilson is going to contact the conductor and ask her how she would like it sung
- Down to the River to Pray- arr. Debra Morton
 - Page 1 sing SA on ms 8-16
- I Sing Because I'm Happy- arr. Rollo Dilworth
 - Altos split by districts (District 1-4 top and District 5-7 bottom)
- Sisi Ni Moja- Jacob Naverud
 - Hilien Wilson will ask the conductor if she would like to audition students for the descant
 - Or we can put the soprano 1's on the descant
- Stardust- B.E. Boykin
 - Sing as written

SCPA/SE

The board read through and discussed the membership feedback for SE. Using recorded/ digital feedback and adjusting what genre literature of music is acceptable.

The discussion included needing to have an added section for Solo and Ensemble to allow for different genres or eventually change this for all assessments. We will have to make the judges aware of what is ok. Frank Andrews had the idea to try this genre requirement change with SE would be a great way to explore this venue.(with ensembles and solos) It was also discussed that if we made this change there needs to be very clear guidelines and judges that understand how to judge these genres. Amanda Slay suggested we keep SE as it is and to create a new event that focuses on these different genres.

Zach Banks made a motion to table this discussion to the Pre-Fall workshop meeting. Matthew Gardener seconded and it passed unanimously.

Amanda Slay and Matthew Gardner will work together on getting a proposal together.

The discussion of having use to an individual judge recording and/or digital usage. In the discussion it was brought up that when they use a recording for judges that you will hear the murmuring on the stage and that there would be a delay in getting scores to the judges.

Hilen Wilson asked for a board member that would be interested in researching this idea: How do we do this financially successfully?, How do we even try this?, How do we do this in a timely manner?, How would we handle this with school recordings?, Could we have judges do a short hand paper scoresheet and then have judges complete a recording of the comments between the choirs?.

How can we clarify what a choir is supposed to read if their choir sings in 2 different voices on stage? Hilen Wilson said the rules now state that a choir that sings in two different voices on stage can choose either voicings for sight reading. If you are a beginning teacher and can have your sight reading example drop a voicing you must choose the higher voicing from the stage performance. Please see page 53 in your handbook. DC's should also put it in their reminder letters/emails.

The next discussion is whether we should allow groups with small numbers of tenors/basses to sing SATB on-stage, but sight-read SAB? If we were to change this rule what would our number be for the limit of tenor/basses. Should we open the "beginner rule" for sight reading to all choirs?

It was decided that we would change the standing rule (E.1.a.ii) from beginning directors to any director of any level choir

New wording for standing rule E.1.a.ii:

- Any director of any level choir may choose to read an example with one voice part less than their highest performance voicing but must provide a rationale for this adjustment on the auxiliary information form. For example, a choir performing SSA & SA on stage may sight-read SSA or SA

Hilen Wilson opened a discussion in regards to how we choose judges, how they score schools, representation, and experience in K-12.

When choosing judges we need to make sure they are qualified. Look at what the judges' choirs have sung to know if they are qualified. During the discussion Amanda Slay and Hilen Wilson

spoke about the training of the judges. Also asking the Florida Vocal Association for a copy of their list of judges that have gone through their training. Frank Andrews also suggested having a no judge list. Hilan Wilson said she would put together a list of judges from this year to share with all DC's. She also stated that she would ask those judges to go through training. The training would consist of:

- watching three different level choirs
- to fill out our performance rubric
- then turn the scores in to Hilan Wilson for approval
- Any judges that do not qualify Hilan Wilson will be removed from the list.

Hilan Wilson has asked the DC's to get all judges for SCPA from out of state. SE judges can be in state but should be retired. She needs a list of SCPA judges and other judges for all events by October 1st- No Exceptions.

Meg Jones has asked the DC's to have ALL of their judges contracts turned in ASAP.

- District 1 MPA at James Clemens HS (3/5-3/7)
- District 3 MPA at UNA (3/5-3/7)
- District 4 MPA at Oak Mountain HS (3/4-3/7)
- District 5 MPA at UA (3/5 and 3/7-3/8)

Hilan Wilson opened the floor for discussion for any questions about SCPA and SE. The board took the time to ask questions in regards to running SCPA and discuss.

DC's need to make a google form/QR for literature that all choirs participating in their district are to complete.

Sight Reading

Discussion was held in regards to how sight reading is judged. Is it just on just the first one, just the second one, or combined. We need to discuss with the judges that the sight reading score is to be from both the 1st and 2nd times. Also the judges need to be reminded or instructed that if a director stops in sight reading in the middle of their first attempt then that counts as the first attempt and the same applies for the second attempt. At that point the sight reading portion is now over.

Review Sight Reading Examples

We received sight reading examples from Dr. Ben Cook for the board to review and check against our AVA sight reading rubric.

We will need more than one example for HS Intermediate SATB, HS Beginning SATB, HS Intermediate SAB

The sight reading examples are approved for the 2023-2024 school year.

AMEA

The board read through and discussed all survey results.

Francis Catalina from the University of Memphis. He would like to do the following sessions:

- Intentional Voice Building through an 8-step Warm-up is a session he would like to offer. He would need a demonstration choir. Hilan Wilson volunteered to make a list and ask people.
- Conducting Masterclass. He would like a demonstration choir & invited conductors. Hilan Wilson suggested it be the same choir for both. Meg Jones suggested that we ask if anyone would like to volunteer. We will need a keyboard for these sessions. Rusty asked that AVA supply their own keyboard.

This year at AMEA Grissom HS Band will be providing shell and will be providing risers. (check with Tucker)

This year we had 15 choirs apply to perform. All performances will be in a ballroom.

It was discussed to bring in different ensembles to perform in the exhibition hall. We also would like to invite and encourage different music companies to participate in the exhibition hall.

Amanda Slay also had the idea to have listening booths inside the exhibition.

There will also be an Elementary All-State Choir there during the conference with a performance. Hilan Wilson is working with AMEA on performance times for the Elementary All State Choir and Honor Choir.

Honor Choir

Discussion was had in regards to the board reading the memberships survey results.

Amanda Slay explained how the honor choir will work this year. Our clinician is Valerie Harris from Miles College. The clinician has given 3 songs for the students to learn ahead of time and then she will teach them two at the Honor Choir. Hilan Wilson suggested that learning tracks be available. In the past we have had a screening where the kids would sing in groups while directors walked around just making sure they knew their music. It was decided that if we have learning tracks available for the students that we will not have to have a screening. A school can bring a balanced quartet minimum or a balanced octet to the Honor Choir. Only 9th-12th graders are allowed to participate. Schools can share and balance within their districts.

Honor Choir will be held in Huntsville, AL during the AMEA Conference.

The performance venue can hold up to 80-90 max.

Music Selections:

- Hallelujah Is The Highest Praise- arr and scored by: Minister Daniel M Cason II
- I Shall Wear A Crown— arr by Brandon Whitfield
- Put Your Trust in God— arr by Daniel Mario Cason, II

In regards to location of the practice and performance is still in discussion between AMEA and Hilan Wilson. She is also asking for how large can the Honor Choir be?

We know the performance will be in a ballroom. Amanda Slay suggested two octets up to 16.

Hilan Wilson said to wait, she is asking AMEA.

All-State Show Choir

All State Show Choir will be held at Spain Park HS again.

There has been a slight change in dates. ASSC will now be held April 24-26, 2024.

Conductor: Eric Van Cleave Choreographer:

- Dance With Me Tonight- arr. Roger Emerson
 - Sing as written
- Get Up, Get Down, Get Funky, Get Loose- arr. Eric Van Cleave
 - Sing as written
- Morning Glow- arr. Eric Van Cleave
 - Split treble voices S1, S2, A1-2
 - Split S1-S2-A1-A2 at the end
- Think- arr. Mark Byrmer
 - Split treble voices S1, S2, A1-2
 - Split bass clef voices T1, B1, B2

Hilen Wilson asked the board if we wanted to do ASSC and Honor Choir (every other year) at AMEA, but ASSC held in April (like now) on e off years. Hilen Wilson decided she would pole the students that participated this past school year.

Cameron Weiler will be in charge of running All State.

Website

The board was reminded to make sure bookkeeper email is on all registration forms. Hilen Wilson suggested that the board go through all forms and make sure they work.

The SCPA registration is in the process of being updated by Matthew Gardner. There is a link on the registration page to the standing rules and the adjudication sheets. Amanda Slay suggested that the webmaster name should be changed to digital director. It was agreed that it would be changed.

Please click on this link for the full Digital Director duties:

 [AVA Digital Director Duties.docx](#)

Amanda Slay suggested we look at “Marco Polo”. Marco Polo is an app that can be used as a more casual way of communication. A way for others to message and answer more effectively. Marco Polo also allows you to share videos. (for new teachers only, or just add the ones who are interested as her friends) Hilen Wilson suggested Group Me and using Remind.

In regards to making the registration sheet more clear, it was agreed upon that the form is as clear as we can make it.

Using social media to remind directors of fee and due dates. They stated that a message should be sent once a week until two weeks prior to the event where we send out twice a week and the week before send a reminder everyday.

Hilen Wilson suggested using group me to send out messages. Matthew Gardner suggested that we encourage them to sign up at the fall workshop. Meg Jones added that we could have a raffle: Sign Up, get one entry and share it and get a second entry. The prize is a JW Pepper Gift Card.

How do we advertise “Follow US” before school starts. Introduce it at beginning district meetings.

Board Use Only Webpage

Meg Jones went through each form teaching/instructing the DC’s how to fill out the forms correctly. She went over how to fill out the form and how to handle stipends for food, travel, and hotel stay.

Misc

Meg Jones brought up our award medals for discussion. She is having to deal with the medal supply company. Suggestion was made to email the company back and ask for clarification. The prices for medals have gone up again (just something to think about).

DCs were reminded to update their districts mailing lists. There is a link on the main page of the AVA website.

Community Choir student participation was discussed among the board. What the executive board suggested “If the student does not offer choir at their school but they are members in a community choir (like Birmingham Boys Choir) and the instructor is an AVA member then they would be allowed to participate.”

In the registration the students will have to list their home school.

Questions regarding allowing this:

- Who will check all submissions
- Who covers the kids? (for insurance)
- If a parent signs a form stating they will not hold us accountable would that cover the AVA and others
 - Hilan Wilson is asking Rob about parent waiver or any liability for students attending that are not affiliated with a school.
- Homeschool cover does have insurance
- Maybe have homeschools and community choirs submit proof of coverage.
- Maybe mandate they have their parent attend with them

Hilan Wilson brought the question “How do we verify if they are a homeschool?” Amanda Slay suggested that they submit information in regards to their homeschool students.

No rules are being changed, we just need to have documentation on file filled out by the school teacher, to verify a homeschool.

****Need to create a form for this.****

Hilen Wilson reminded the board to take the time to renew their NafME memberships.

Hilen Wilson let everyone know that she would be transitioning off the board at All State.
Amanda Slay, who will be president, will be asking members to be on her board.

Motion was made by Zach Banks to end Summer Boards Meeting at 7:17pm on June 26, 2023.
Marlin Ward seconded and it unanimously passed.