

**Alabama Vocal Association
Fall Workshop General Membership Meeting
Friday, September 9 at 3:30 pm
University of Montevallo**

The afternoon general membership meeting was called to order by Hilen Wilson at 3:39 pm. Frank Andrews, Christie Breland, Amanda Slay, Matthew Gardner, Debbie Flynn, Carry Payne, Meg Jones, Sally York, Zach Banks, Marlin Ward, Jody Powell, and Nichole Hill were in attendance.

Thank you's were given to the District Chairs and Executive Board for planning and running the 2022 Fall Workshop. A thank you was given to Dr. Palkki for sharing with us as our main speaker. She also gave thank you's to Montevallo and to Dr. Doyle for not only hosting us but for the choral performance.

Minutes

Motion was made by Christie Breland to skip the reading of the minutes.

It was seconded by Alice Lagrone. The membership voted and passed with no nays.

Financial Report

Meg Jones explained the Financial report that each member has in their folder. This report covers account balance, expenditures, income, and medal purchases.

(Please see print out for report)

Meg Jones discussed how the budget has improved in the past year and what the increase in different fees are for this year.

■ Fee Changes (Meg)

- Fall Workshop, \$85 pre-registration, \$105 on-site (was 75, 95)
- All-State Auditions, \$11 (was 10)
- All-State Festival. \$50/student (was 35)
- SCPA, \$3 (was 2)
- SE Soloist, \$15 (was 10)
- SE Ensemble, \$25 (was 10)

The point was made that there were a lot of schools that had not paid before they came, please be on top of paying on time. Your check must be posted marked by the date due.

There was discussion of what classifies as a post mark, meaning it has been stamped by the post office not the school office. The AVA account balance was also discussed.

Hilen Jones called for the financial report to be filled for audit.

Handbook Revision

Hilen Powell continued the meeting with the discussion of the handbook revision. It was asked that all members make sure to read the standing rules for every event you attend.

Changes to be voted on: [2022 AVA Article Change Proposals](#)

These were presented at the morning meeting and voted in the afternoon meeting. Motion made by Zach Banks to accept edits in the handbook in its entirety. Christie Breland seconded it.

The membership voted all in favor. The handbook revision passed.

All-State Auditions/Judging

Hilen Wilson reviewed and introduced the qualifications to judge for All State. To judge for All State the candidate must be in good standing with the AVA, be an active or retired member of AVA, have at least 5 years of successful teaching experience, have a strong record of success in their choral programs, be willing to be of service to the organization, have prepared and had students participate in Alabama All-State or equivalent event, have the ability to work well with others, follow instructions, and maintain accurate records, have excellent time management and ability to adhere to the All-State schedule, have the ability to establish and maintain a professional and respectful atmosphere in the audition room, and will maintain the integrity and confidentiality of the audition process.

The floor was opened up for discussion. Here are the questions asked:

- Does it have to be a current board member?
 - No
- Would it be better to get a fifth judge for MS Mixed
 - Response was from Meg Jones in that it is a financial issue.
- Will it, the MS Mixed, be the same judge for the entire choir's auditions?
 - Response: Yes, they will have two choirs that they judge unless its the judges kids
 - Members asked to explain judging to understand how people judge.
 - Jody Powell explained: two judges will be judging the middle school mixed.
 - It was brought to the board's attention that some members have an issue with there being two judges swapping for MS Mixed.
 - Meg Jones responded: We are not opposed to having the 5th judge to do that one choir but it is a financial issue.

Reminders for All State Auditions

Please have your Acknowledgement Form, this is the new form for directors. You must also have the parent signed adjudicator form, all songs measures numbered, original copies of each song, and the sheet music to Alabama. Music must be purchased for each student that auditions. There

is to be no sharing of music. Students who are registered are the ones who may audition. You may not substitute another student's name for one who did not attend. The new student must be registered and have the fee paid as well. Meg Jones reiterated you cannot sub in a student for paid students that do not show up.

Students who are sick are welcome to choose another site to be worked into, but virtual auditions will not be accepted. We will not do any makeup auditions or virtual auditions.

Expectations

Thank you to those who filled out the surveys. We read all of them at summer boards.

The AVA expectations for All State are not to have the most students in your class make All State, but to have your best students there. This would validate their experience and all concerned. You should not be teaching your choirs the all state music in class. This point was reiterated to not spend class time teaching the entire class the music, etc.

There were a few behavior issues this year. The membership was reminded of the expectations for student behavior.

The AVA would like to reiterate that the eligibility for someone to audition is not gender construct but by vocal range.

Conrad Weber Proposal

Hilen Powell discussed that Conrad Weber wants to allow students who are in a community choir or who do not have a school choral program to be allowed to audition for All State and AVA functions if their private teacher/conductor is a member of AVA.

- Point of clarification was made by John Kincade: Does there need to be a motion made to vote or table this proposal to next meeting
 - Response: There would need to be a motion to vote or a motion to discuss so as to table the AMEA Membership Meeting discussion.
- Motion was made to discuss this proposal at the AMEA Membership Meeting by John Kincade.
- It was seconded by Zach Banks

All-State Festival

All State Festival will be held at the BJCC March 9-11, 2023.

Please discuss with your students that they are not to get up to get concessions during the concert.

Students who are accepted to All-State have to pay the registration fee whether they decide to attend the festival or not (even if they drop out before the registration deadline).

This year we had 60 no-shows. Meg Jones stated that not all of them paid and restated even if your kids drop out after making All State you still have to pay.

The only conflicts that will excuse you from All State are illness with a doctor's excuse and death with documentation. Band conflicts are not excused. It is the child's responsibility to communicate with both the band and choir teachers about conflicts with MPA as early as possible,

Behavior in rehearsals at All State needs to be reviewed with your students and chaperones. As well as the proper behavior in a performance.

Our convocation performances will be JSU and ASU. We are very excited to hear them.

Discussion:

John Kencade made a motion that we should add a sight reading component to the all state audition process. Dr. Ben Cook seconded this motion. John moved that we table the discussion of this addition to the AMEA Membership Meeting. Zach Banks seconded this motion.

Dr. Ben Cook encouraged everyone to look at what other states are doing for their All State Chorus' before the discussion at AMEA.

ALL State Show Choir

We had 200 students registered and only 50 followed through with videos.

Auditions will be held virtual January 10-11. This will be a "Live" audition via zoom. Music audition cuts will be released to teachers the day before the audition. Directors will need to play music on their end for the auditions. A dance video will be released January 3 (A week before). Each student will receive an individual five minute time slot for singing and ten minute time slot for dancing per five students. All auditions will be recorded (while live) and then a panel of judges will use rubric to adjudicate

Discussion:

Membership asked if we, the board, are recording the zoom meetings and the response was yes, the board will record the zoom auditions and will send them to the judges. Membership asked if the audition cuts would be sent out. It was reiterated that the music cuts would be released to the teachers the day before the audition. The discussion was then to ask if music cuts could be sent out the morning of not the day before.

AMEA

AMEA will be held in Birmingham this January the 19th-21st. However it will be moving to Huntsville for next year. The clinician this year will be Maria Ellis, Girl Conductor. Thank you to all the choirs who submitted to perform at AMEA. This year all performances will be in the theatre, no one will be in a ballroom for performances.

It was asked, does anyone in the Birmingham area have a shell or risers available to use for AMEA and All State? If you do know someone who can help us with this please let the AVA Board know. We are not in charge of the schedule for AMEA so please refer complaints to the AMEA Board.

Honor Choir

Hilen Wilson spoke with the membership that only \$17 profit was made last year with the Honor Choir. We are ready to make a discussion on keeping or suspending the honor choir. Please send in any ideas you have for the board to review and vote on. We will vote at AMEA whether to continue the honor choir or not.

SCPA

Dr. Ben Cook will be writing samples again this year for the AVA SCPA. We will upload last year's examples to the website for you to use as a resource. We will also upload minor examples to the website for a resource. No minor examples will be used in adjudication this year. Please remember the auxiliary form. It is there to help you. Put as much information on there as you want.

Judges for SCPA will complete a training before they are added to the approved list. This way they will know how to adjudicate appropriately. Training will include:

- Video with instructions on rubric and auxiliary form
- Practice assessment

The repertoire category revisions to the rubric was led in discussion by Amanda Slay. This section this year will be inline with the handbook. She referred to the handbook and adjusted the rubric to objective goals and standards. No pop music/show music, Broadway pieces (what repertoire genre is or is not appropriate genre choices) and that it should show variety. She encouraged the membership to please see the new rubric to see all changes and restated that we are still open to any ideas given.

OCS/OA/ME

OCS/OA/ME will be virtual again this year. Hilen Powell presented the proposal to remove OA competition entirely. The board spoke at length at summer boards in regards to the future of the OA award. She asked that the membership please think about this and be prepared to discuss and vote at AMEA. Discussion was held in asking about what grade that OA is open to. The answer is 7th through 12th grade.

Miscellaneous

Refund policy: we do **not** refund for any reason other than AVA cancellation

New Business:

Meg Jones discussed with the membership that we do not have to vote on rule changes so make sure you read through your handbook because some changes have been made.

Everyone was reminded that Suzzane from JWPepper is still in the lobby if you would like to go and speak with her.

Zach Banks motioned to adjourn.
Matthew Gardner seconded.
Meeting was adjourned at 4:22pm.