

AVA Governing Board Meeting
Moody Music Building
University of Alabama
June 6, 2017

Members present: Ginny Coleman, Meg Jones, Carl Davis, Cathy Spence, Rebekah Stevens, Stacy Owens, Hilen Powell, Ben Cook, Nichole Hill, Cara Thomas, Randall Fields, Jerry Cunningham, Christie Breland, and Jane Powell. Ginny called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. and reviewed the Summer Board schedule.

Rebekah presented the **financial report**: Checking Account Balance: \$75,963.05
 Savings Account Balance: \$11,638.85
 Total Assets: \$87,601.90

She reported that we had lost some money, due to a few added expenses that were accrued this past year.

Ginny stated that we were missing checks from AMEA that were still needing to be credited.

Rebekah said that there are a couple of scholarships that still needed to be paid out.

Ginny asked Rebekah to look up last year's report to see how this year compares. Rebekah reported that at the end of last year we had a gain of \$11,000. **This year we ended with a \$3,000 loss.** She attributed this loss to the medal cost increase. She also ordered twice as many medals as last year.

Carl noted that the added SCPA event resulted in a loss of \$1216.03

Ginny asked Rebekah what we needed to remedy this.

Rebekah said that some things will "fix themselves". Items that were purchased last year will not have to be purchased this year.

Ginny asked if the All-State fee should be raised because of the CD/DVD price increase.

Jane stated that the audition fee could be increased to \$8.00 to cover this cost, as ASSC was done.

Ginny asked Carl to look at a comparison of last year's financials to see what needed to be done. She recommended comparing event by event and other costs.

Rebekah said that solo and ensemble registration was a factor, because registration was down this year.

Christie asked for a breakdown of her fall/spring solo and ensemble.

Ginny asked for other suggestions from the board. There were no other suggestions.

Ginny asked for consistency in check requests from the district chairmen for judges' compensation. Rebekah said she needed a breakdown of stipend, mileage, etc. on the payment request form.

Stacy asked if we could have a fillable check request form. Cara and Randall asked if the form was for one judge or one event. Rebekah said to use one form for each check that is written.

Ginny asked if we needed to continue the database registration, and Rebekah said yes, that would need to be continued. Meg asked if we could add a cell phone number to the database.

Rebekah said she would try to have it ready to register soon, and Ginny would send out an email around June 15-20.

Online Registration

Ginny asked Rebekah to discuss website and registration forms. Rebekah stated that for All-State festival, directors will not have to re-enter student names. She said last year went pretty well, but this year should work even better.

Information will be entered at the time of audition registration and it will not have to be entered again.

Solo and Ensemble will have a new form, according to the site directors choose.

Rebekah said she is working on AVA being able to accept credit cards, however a fee may need to be charged to the director for this.

Jerry stated that he would prefer to see the complete registrations as they come in and Rebekah said she could set it up to send district chairmen an email as directors register. (email the form to them)

Rebekah said she updated the AVA calendar, but it currently has only the major state level events on it.

ASSC Reading session: Clinician is Paul Gulsvig

Selections are: "My Shot"

"Sing"

"Better When I'm Dancin'"

"Everywhere that You Are"

Ginny expressed her concern with "Sing", especially if the group is small like last year.

She also asked how soon we would be able to get the cuts in order to give them to Matthew Curtis.

Late Fee Issue

Ginny shared the late fee issue with the board and the new policy the Executive Board has proposed. She said that we are not currently following what's in the handbook, which needs to be modified. She shared what Rebekah felt the specific problems were:

- Directors register on time but do not pay by the absolute deadline
- Due to accepting payments until the absolute deadline, we must publish schedules that include schools who have not yet paid
- Directors who don't register on time, send payments late, etc. have "extenuating circumstances" (real or made up) and want exceptions made, which takes time and causes one person to be the judge instead of entire board making the decision about these cases

Solutions:

- Incentive to register and pay early – everyone will pay full amount but a rebate will be issued to schools who register and pay by the early deadline
- Only have 1 deadline; require payments by this deadline, and only consider people registered once their payment has been received
- 1 week after the deadline (or enough time for checks to come in with postmark date), publish schedule with only those schools who have registered and paid AND cancel registrations of schools who have NOT paid

Schedules could be sent out 5 weeks prior to the event.

Ginny stated with the addition of early registration, directors would be given more reminders to register.

Rebekah told district chairmen they would have to send their schedules to the entire district, rather than only the directors who have registered.

Ben commented that the board's review of "excuses" was a good idea and would take the sole responsibility off of the President. He also recommended that we have a form for directors to fill out, as this may reduce the number of cases with which the board would be presented.

Stacy expressed concern over the early registration incentive, saying that it may cause AVA to lose too much money.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Monday, June 7, 2017

Ginny called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Cathy read the minutes from the AVA Governing Board meeting on Mar. 1 and 3, 2017.

The minutes were approved as read.

MS Mixed Reading Packet

Clinician: David L. Brunner

Selections are: "Cantate Domino"

"Sililiza (Hear Me)"

"Ritmo"

"Take Me to the Water"

"Galop"

"I Dream a World"

After board discussion, Ginny said she would request that Brunner cut "Ritmo" and choose a different closing selection to replace "Take Me to the Water".

Honor Choir Reading Packet

Clinician: JD Frizzell

Selections are: "Magnificat" (Bach)

"I Thank You God"

"Soon Ah Will Be Done" (Frizzell)

"An Afro-Celtic Diddle"

"Kids In America"

Meg shared that she is concerned that the 8 part "Soon Ah Will Be Done" and "Kids in America" would be too much for a screened Honor Choir, as this is not an auditioned All-State choir.

She will email Frizzell and ask that these two be replaced with a more lyrical selection and maybe a more “singable” a cappella pop piece.

Fall Workshop

Ginny asked whether or not we want to offer free registration for veteran teachers who have not attended for 3 years, and \$25 for new teachers.

The board will not reimburse for subs for Fall Workshop.

New Teacher luncheon: Although it was mostly not new teachers, but we decided to keep the name.

Meg will coordinate or assign someone else to coordinate luncheon.

As per Rebekah’s email, we will not hold people responsible if they register and not attend. They will not have to pay the registration fee.

ASSC

All-State Show Choir Festival will be held at All-State and not AMEA. This will reduce the hotel expense by one night. We will allow 9th graders to audition this year.

Jane shared the schedule, beginning at noon on Tuesday before All-State. No school should have to spend Monday night before. Since the schedule will overlap OCS auditions, the board decided that District OCS/OA students would be excused from rehearsal for their state audition.

Possible locations are Homewood HS, Mountain Brook HS, and Homewood Church of Christ.

Auditions will be held in Birmingham, location TBA, on Thursday, Oct. 5 (afternoon), Friday, Oct. 6 (all day) and Sat. Oct. 7 (if needed)

Ginny asked if we should hold the audition results, and Jane stated that we should, since Honor Choir is no longer an issue.

Jane and Cathy will do vocal auditions and Meg will run registration.

Jane reported that Dale Kincaid offered to do a Jr. Show Choir for free.

This could be a workshop by invitation, to begin with in the early stages. This could eventually be held at AMEA.

Survey results will be reviewed concerning the AS requirement for ASSC kids.

HS SSA Reading Packet

Clinician: Alison Mann

“Radiant Sister of the Day”

“Lauda Jerusalem”

“O Pastorelle, Addio”(p 4 alto split; S1 and S2 district, I-IV high/V-VII low)

“Warrior” (pronunciation of “a”???)

“Lullaby”

“Will the Circle Be Unbroken”

All pieces were approved.

Late Fee Proposal

Board discussion followed a review of the late fee proposal:

Nicole asked if the early incentive would be for every registration. Ginny stated that it probably would not be offered for every event.

Hilen suggested that we try it only on those events which have lost money. Christie asked how the “rebate” would be handled and suggested giving a credit instead. Ginny stated that it would be in the form of an issued check. She said that giving a credit would present a problem on the registration forms. She also stated that this would help schools that have issues with paying the school fee.

Each board member expressed his/her views on the new policy:

Stacy said she was concerned about losing money on the early bird deal

Hilen suggested having it only on the event we have the most problem

Nicole suggested an alternative to sending back the check if it’s late:

Invoicing with late fee (her school requires paying the late fee out of pocket)

Ben agreed with the policy. He suggested sending a positive letter with the rebate to administration.

Carl stated that the district schedules must be posted on website on the scheduled date.

Jerry expressed that he did not agree with the rebate or graduated late fee, however, he does agree with the one deadline.

Christie agreed with the policy.

Jane stated that she hoped this would finally solve the late registration issues, however she felt that the bookkeeping could be difficult.

She advised that communication be extremely clear.

Ginny said that she wanted to make sure schedules were not posted to include schools which have not paid. The board agreed on these issues, as well as having one deadline. The rebate and graduated deadline issues are still being discussed. Rebekah said she would have to post a list of all schools who have paid for AS audition registration, in order for all directors to view.

The board will later vote on the policy. Since the bylaws will not change, this will not require a membership vote. The handbook will need to be changed.

Lunch break (11:30-1:00)

The meeting resumed at 1:03 pm.

Honor Choir Screening

Meg reviewed with the board the guidelines and procedures for screening and reminded them that the information was in the handbook.

She is going to prepare a spreadsheet with students' names for each district chairman.

1. Students should arrive at the screening with the parent sheet signed.
2. Name tags should be prepared with the corresponding number from the spreadsheet.
3. Screening should be done after school hours and district chairmen should run the registration.
4. Students should be divided into sections and then each section stand in a circle. Have directors rotate sections so that each director hears all singers.
5. Meet with the directors to set the standards for selecting students.
6. Have a "practice run" of each song before performing for the pass/fail score.
7. Send the final score sheet (F7.3) to Meg. Do not "announce" which students make it.
8. Final results will be posted online.

SCPA Sight-reading

Ginny reminded the board of the proposal she made at All-State involving different levels of Sight Reading. She asked the board if there were any comments or concerns from directors at SCPA.

Nicole commented how crucial it is for directors to have an actual method for sight-reading, since that makes up half of the points on the rubric.

Meg was concerned about high school programs that do not have a feeder program and therefore, no experience.

The issue would be how to insure the integrity of the directors.

Hilen suggested having a demonstration of effective sight-reading procedures at Fall Workshop.

Jerry commented that one of the purposes of sight-reading is director accountability.

Stacy stated that sight-reading should not be treated as a separate, isolated exercise.

Jane reported that she contacted JD Frizzell's wife to find out what Tennessee's sight-reading guidelines are. She stated that they have a rhythm exercise, as well as the musical selection. They also are allowed, at the discretion of the adjudicator, to sing it a third time with accompaniment.

Jane made the suggestion that the Middle School procedure be altered. For example, each section would be allowed to sing their part individually. She suggested that some flexibility is needed in the adjudication process.

Hilen made the suggestion that the sight-reading levels be selected on the registration.

Ben stated that his concern is that by SCPA students are not exactly "beginners" if they have been taught sight-reading since August.

Christie suggested using a P/F system, or to not have the sight-reading affect the overall score.

Jerry stated that this may positively result in directors choosing better literature for their stage performance, rather than "dumbing down" to match the sight-reading level.

Carl's Report of Finances (2016 compared to 2017)

All-State made \$4500 less this year.

Auditions made \$1242 less (meals-extra person this year)

All-State Festival: made \$3331 less this year

His suggestion is to up the registration fee or remove the DVD (raise it by \$3.00)

Facility cost has increased.

Ex Sec. salary has increased with the addition of Web Master salary.

His suggestions: to raise each student fee by .50 to cover these costs.

All-State audition fee is raised by \$2.00.

Or: Only raise AS audition fee by \$3.00 to \$10.00

AS No-Shows

The board reviewed the no-shows and approved the excused absences.

Email from Diane Swearingen

Student conflicts with All-State: The possibility of her student being selected for Capstone Leadership Academy was an issue. The District Chairman was notified before auditions.

Diane asked if the board would consider having a waiting list for students in this situation.

The board decision was to leave the policy as it is.

Email from Kate Dupuis

All-State audition process: How can we add a musicality component?

Cathy suggested having them sing a scale.

Second email

Could there be a sight reading or musicality component?

Ginny stated that we need to be thinking about revising the audition process.

MS Treble Packet

Clinician: Laura Farnell

"Laudate Dominum" *

"How Can I Keep From Singing"

"Lunar Lullaby" (alto split on district lines) *

"El Vito" (when in only 2 parts, split S2's along district lines) *

"Gerakina" (" " " ") *

"When I Think of You"

"Climbin' Up the Mountain, Children!"

"You Are My Music" *

The board voted to keep the selections marked with an asterisk.

Committee Work Sessions

Committees were assigned to work on:

- All-State Schedule (Carl/Meg)
- ASSC Schedule (Jane/Cathy)
- FW Schedule (HilenBen)
- MS Mixed divisi (Randall/Cara)
- SR Proposal (Stacy/Nicole)
- AVA Events Date Table (Jerry/Christie)

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Ginny opened the meeting at 8:12 am and shared the membership survey results.

She expressed how pleased she was about the number of responses.

HS TTBB Reading Session

Clinician: Chris Aspaas

Selections: "One by One"

"No Ne Li Domi"

"Exsultate Justi"

"Die Nacht"

"Music Makers, Dreamers of Dreams" (p. 5 fix at festival; otherwise dist.

split)

"Johnny Schmoker"

"Joshua Fit the Battle"

The board chose to delete "One by One".

All-State Auditions

Ginny shared the audition schedule with the board:

Friday, Nov. 10 Tuscaloosa (sleep in bham) Hilen

Sat. Nov. 11 Bham (sleep in bham) Ben/Nichole

Sunday Nov. 12 drive to Florence/Florence (sleep in Hunts) Jane
 Mon Nov. 13 Huntsville (sleep in Hunts)
 Tuesday Nov 14 Huntsville/drive to Gadsden (sleep in Gad)
 Wed. Nov 15 Gadsden (sleep in Gad)
 Thursday Nov 16 drive to Mont/Mont (sleep in Mont) Jerry
 Fri Nov 17 Mont/drive to Mob (sleep in Mob) Jerry
 Sat. Nov 18 Mobile (sleep in Mob) Christie

OCS/OA/ME

Ginny stated that each district should always have at least two judges. This type of judge is different than an SCPA or S/E judge. She said this should be someone who is trained and knowledgeable about the voice and qualifications of a music education candidate. Also, they must be willing to do this for a \$50 stipend. Each district really should have a male and female representative, and there should be plenty of qualified candidates. Electronic submission of resumes: Much discussion was held concerning changing to having students submit their resumes to the district chairs and then to the judges in an electronic format. Ginny will look at using a uniform format before we decide to use only this method.

AMEA

17 choirs have submitted performance audition recordings. This is an increase from 9 last year. Ginny stated that she did not want to be the only one choosing from these groups. Carl shared how he handled this in the past. Ginny suggested sending the recordings to various board members. (One category only....MS, HS, Collegiate, in a "blind" copy). Ginny, Carl, and Meg will be looking for Birmingham area venues for the concerts.

Sight Reading

Randall and Cara presented SR examples that they have reviewed and assigned to the various levels. Stacy and Nicole shared their proposals of how to implement the various levels of SR:

Three proposals were shared including criteria for defining beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels, as well as altering the SR guidelines during the audition.

It was also suggested to shorten the examples, and to allow choirs to sing a couple of measures if needed.

Ben expressed his concern with trying to alter the SR system in order to give higher scores. The experience of earning a low score should be seen as a learning opportunity.

Carl suggested waiting to make these changes until 2018-2019 and informing the membership at Fall Workshop. The board agreed to use this year (2017-2018) to work on developing the various levels and/or revising the procedure for MS and new 9th grade choirs.

It was suggested to work in committees at AMEA. Meg asked the board to email her suggestions to revise the process.

District Event Dates:

District	Honor Choir	OCS/OA/ME	SCPA	S&E
I				
Date	October 24, 2017	November 28, 2017	March 1 & 2, 2018	April 3, 2018
Location	Austin HS	Decatur HS	Mar. 1- First Baptist Church, Decatur	Highland Baptist
			Mar. 2- Florence, Highland Baptist	
II				

Date	October 17, 2017	November 28, 2017	April 5-6, 2018	April 5-6, 2018
Location	Paul W. Bryant High School	Paul W. Bryant High School	University of Alabama	University of Alabama
III				
Date	October 26th, 2017	November 27th, 2017	March 19-21,2018	February 10th, 2018
Location	McAdory Middle School	Cahaba Heights UMC	Gardendale Mt. Vernon UMC	Cahaba Heights UMC
IV				
Date	Oct 17	Nov 30	April 13	Feb 15
Location	Alexandria HS	Alexandria HS	Gadsden City HS	JSU
V				
Date	October 26	November 28	March 22 & 23	February 12 &13
Location	Bob Jones High School	Bob Jones High School	Trinity UMC	Columbia High School
VI				
Date	Oct 25	Nov 29	March 15	March 15
Location	Tallassee HS	Montgomery Academy	First Baptist Tallassee	First Baptist Tallassee
VII				
Date	October 19, 2017	December 5, 2017	March 22, 2018	October 20, 2017
Location	Saraland High School	University of Mobile	Springhill Baptist Church	University of Mobile
Date2				February 27, 2018
Location2				Springhill Baptist Church

Ginny asked the District Chairmen to send their SCPA repertoire list to Rebekah for Jerry to compile as an AVA recommended list for adjudication.

Ginny reminded District Chairmen to consider selecting judges who will represent middle school and not only high school level experience. Judges have requested a 30 minute lunch, as well as a 15 minute break in the morning and lunch.

She also recommended looking at S/E costs...if it is not making money, it should be combined with SCPA by adding it to the end of the day.

LUNCH

HS SATB Reading Session

Clinician: Jeff Johnson
 Selections: Regina Coeli (Mozart)
 O schone Nacht
 Let My Love Be Heard
 I'll Tell My Ma
 No Time (S1 split, p7 to end)

Great God Almighty

All pieces were board approved.

All-State audition results:

We will again post results on-line. Rebekah said the password protected page will definitely work this year. She will send out a link to the audition results, and remind directors that they will have to login with their password. She will also remind them not to share results on social media.

Vendors

Tim Batt Recording: Video and audio for \$9.50 each student (includes shipping)

Recordings will be in MP3 format.

Carl emailed Tim and asked if AVA could lock this in a contract price for two to three years.

AVA Logo

Ginny shared the survey results from the membership. The state of Alabama logo was the top pick. Examples A and use C when needed. Rebekah and Ginny said that two logos will need to be chosen for various purposes. (certificates, seal, etc.) In order to match the AMEA logo, it will need to be blue and red.

Flat Student Fee vs School Fee (Meg Jones)

Meg shared a spreadsheet with figures showing dollars generated from each school, with a breakdown per student. She stated that because this is a more equitable plan, the smaller schools could benefit.

Rebekah shared that she could compile data showing participation numbers in each event.

Much discussion took place concerning this.

Ginny stated that we will have numbers to present at Fall Workshop for further discussion.

If school fee is removed, it must be for all "auditioned" events. (AS, ASSC, OCS/OA/ME)

Virtual School

Board needs to be thinking about this issue...do we allow students enrolled in "virtual school" to participate in AVA events?

Gender Identity Issue

We need to be thinking about the stand that AVA will take on this and the appropriate wording of our policy. What voice part will they be allowed to sing? Handbook will have to reflect our policy. The board decided to stay consistent with the current handbook for the year 2017-2018.

Carl

Carl reported on how to make up for some of the decrease in our income this year:

- Fee increase: (1) .50 all registrations/2.00 AS Auditions
- (2) 3.00 AS Auditions or
- (3) change nothing and continue to lose money

Hilen made a motion to increase the AS Audition fee to \$3.00 for 2017 auditions.

Motion passed.

Email from Charles Henry

Charles has proposed performing a major work in a collaborative concert with ABA and AOA.

The board discussed and mentioned possibly having this performed at AMEA. This could be done on a rotation basis with Honor Choir. Careful planning would need to happen in order to choose major works appropriate for high school ages.

Election of Officers Proposal

Hilen Powell presented a written proposal as a change in the By-Laws stating that "a nominating committee, consisting of the Executive Board will select two candidates for the office of Pres-Elect and two candidates for the office of Recording Secretary. Candidates selected must have previously been a district chairman. These candidates will be presented to the membership at the AS Choral Festival General Meeting. Nominations from the floor shall also be accepted. Officers shall be elected by a plurality of those members present and voting."

Ginny stated that the current process does not give the membership enough time to consider any candidates who might be nominated from the floor.

Hilen made the point of "who do we trust" with the election?

Meg stated that AVA has so many tasks for which the Executive Board is responsible.

Ginny said that we might want to send out an email presenting the Pres. Elect to the membership before the vote.

After discussion, a new proposal was presented:

New Proposal:

"A nominating committee, consisting of the current year's Ex Board, will select one candidate for the office of Pres-Elect and one candidate for the office of Recording Secretary. These candidates will be presented to the board at the AVA board meeting at AMEA. Upon approval, the candidates will be presented at the general membership meeting at AMEA at which time nominations of qualified candidates will be accepted for a predetermined time period. The membership will have time between AMEA and All-State to voice questions and concerns regarding candidates. Officers shall be elected by a plurality of those members present and voting at the all-State general membership meeting."

This above proposal will be presented to the membership as a change to the By-Laws.

OCS/OA/ME/Resumes

Stacy is going to use Jot Forms to come up with a method of submitting OCS/OA/ME resumes electronically.

Ginny reported that the reg./deadline dates will be the same for all districts for HC Screening and OCS/OA/ME.

SCPA and S/E dates will be calculated back from the specific date for each district.

HC

Meg reminded that each school will send up to 8 students in 2 balanced quartets. Schools may combine to complete a quartet. Schools must participate in their own district.

Late Fees

Ginny asked Jane to look at By-Laws concerning this to see if the new policy will require a change in By-Laws. It was determined that it would not.

The early registration incentive was removed, one deadline would be set, the schedule would be published with only schools which have paid, and others will be cancelled. The graduated late fee was approved.

The board will vote on this after the dinner break.

Ginny asked Jane to look at dates to make sure the deadlines are consistent and will work.

AVA Calendar

A list view of AVA events, by district will be compiled by Rebekah and sent out.

Stacy suggested subscribing to "Calendar" for AVA events.

SR

Groups will meet after the dinner break to choose SR samples for each voicing. (Changes in SR policy will not take place this year.)

MS: Stacy Ben, Christie, Cara

HS: Jerry, Randall, Hilen, Nicole

Ginny shared the proposal she will present to the membership for the new late fee policy.

She showed a comparison of our existing policy and the new policy. The board will vote on this. Membership does not need to vote since it is not in the By-Laws.

Rationale:

- We do not want to publish schedules that include schools who have not yet paid, and then have to remove those schools if payment is not received
- We want to simplify the deadline dates by only having 1 deadline
- We want to increase payments made on time
- We want to give additional time to register late in case of emergency
- We want the entire board to be able to review cases with extenuating circumstances

OLD	NEW
Registration due by deadline; payment due by absolute deadline	Both registration and payment are due by the deadline
Deadline for state events – 6 weeks prior Deadline for district events – 4 weeks prior (exception of HC Screening and ASSC Auditions)	Deadline for all events – 6 weeks prior (exception of HC Screening and ASSC Auditions)
Everyone was scheduled and then we removed people who did not pay	Only those have registered and paid by the deadline will be scheduled

Everyone who registers must pay	Registrations that are not paid by the deadline will be cancelled
Late payment period is: ■ 2 weeks at \$50	Late payment period is (non-accumulating): ■ 2 weeks at \$50 ■ 3rd week at \$100 ■ 4th week at \$150
No payments accepted more than 10 weekdays late	No payments accepted more than 20 weekdays late

Other details:

- Director, book keeper, and principal will be notified by email if payment is not received and registration is cancelled.
- Any incomplete payments (including checks received without appropriate late fees) will be returned.
- If the director has extenuating circumstances and wants the board to consider a refund of late fee, the director can complete a request for the board to consider at the next board meeting.

Other Business

After no other business, the Summer Board meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm