

AVA All State General Membership Meeting

Friday, April 4, 2025

In Attendance: AVA Board, General Membership

Amanda Slay called the meeting to order at 8:49am.

Amanda and the board are very complimentary of the BJCC staff- they have been very helpful

Everyone needs to be wearing a badge to go into the concert hall today and tomorrow for dress rehearsals. This is being enforced by BJCC staff.

Cara Thomas motioned to dispense of the reading of the minutes. The motion was seconded and passed.

All State 2026

- March 12-14, 2026
- The festival will be held at Samford University!
- it is during their spring break, so parking should not be an issue
- we will have access to their cafeteria
- Thank you to Kristy Howze for starting the ball rolling with Samford again.

John Kincaid presented the financial report.

- \$36,000 is still sitting in the paypal account.
- As of right now, we have a lot of money in the bank, but we have a lot of all state expenses, SCPA reimbursements, BJCC final bill, yet to go out.
- John estimates when all is said and done, we will have \$80,000 in the bank.
- Hotel block was a big success- we will look to do that in the future.

Cara Thomas motioned to accept the financial report and filed for an audit. The motion was seconded and passed.

All State Show Choir

- next weekend at Spain Park High School.
- Dates and location for 2026 will be coming soon.

AMEA

- Next year is an honor choir year.
 - Zach is planning to run a gospel choir again.
- Please submit to present and perform at AMEA! Deadline to apply is June 1.
- AMEA Jan 22-2, 2026
- Being held at the BJCC.
- We are still looking for a headliner. If you have ideas, please send them to Amanda.

SCPA and Solo and Ensemble f

- All festivals for this year have been held, except for district 4.
- We have received a lot of good feedback!
- Adjudicator training seems to be a success. We are looking to get more people trained.

Fall Workshop

- Sept 5, 2025 in Fairhope. Possibly at Three Circle Church.
- We would like to move Fall Workshop around the state to try to get more people to attend. We will ask for general membership feedback regarding this topic (and others) on the AVA end of the year survey. Please give us your thoughts!

District Chairs

- Sarah Timothy has moved out of District 3, so Melissa Bonds will be stepping into the district chair position, and Cara Thomas will be moving into the co-chair position.
- If you would like to serve as a district chair in the future, please let us know! We will all benefit from more people pitching in and understanding what happens to prepare for these events.

All State

- So many thank yous! Thank you to Kiley and Frank for Risers, Heather Henson for arranging the instrumentalists, Zach for handling communication, the board, the coordinators for going above and beyond.
- Students cannot bring food or drink into the BJCC concert hall.
- We had a lot of no shows this year. The only excused absences are dr. excuse or death in the family.

Convocation Performance

Jefferson State Community College
Iron City Singers
Stillman College

Summer Board

- the board will visit Samford during summer board this year to see the space to help us plan
- We plan to come up with a process to present to you to implement sight reading into the all state audition process. We will use feedback from the membership survey to guide the process
- We are trying to find ways to reduce the cost of some of our events. Specifically, we are going to do a deep dive into what the School Fee covers.
- Your feedback is so important in helping to shape the future of AVA! We want to hear your thoughts, ideas, concerns.

John emphasized the importance of keeping a year's operating cost in the bank so that we can keep having events even in the face of a crisis (Example: covid).

ACDA

Heather Cantwell (president elect) and Quint Harris (president for ACDA)

-please consider joining!

-Advocacy for all levels of choir (elementary-collegiate, as well as church and community choirs)

-Summer Conference is July 13-15 in Tuscaloosa

-Open call for presenters right now- especially need elementary

-Ryan Murphy from the Mormon Tabernacle choir is coming to the summer conference this year!

He will be presenting as well as providing a great clinic

-Grissom High School will be in concert at the summer conference

-Heather emphasized that ACDA has fed her, while AVA has fed her students. Both are wonderful organizations!

-Working on trying to better partner the organizations

-April 25-26 Young Voices Festival

-April 16 is the deadline to submit for ACDA Southeastern Regional Conference. It will be held in Memphis March 7-9, 2026

Chris Deason motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:25am. Ginny Coleman seconded. The motion passed.