

AVA General Membership Meeting Minutes
AMEA Conference
Friday, Jan 24, 2025
Forum C

In Attendance: AVA Board, AVA General Membership

Amanda Slay called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

Cara Thomas motioned to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Amanda called to motion to vote and it passed.

John Kincaid read the financial report.

-John addressed switching out of names on All State auditions/other auditions etc. He explained that he is able to do that if notice is given to him and the district chair well in advance of the audition.

-Brent Coleman asked a clarifying question about our current paypal balance.

-One check for multiple events is fine, but please put in the memo line what the check is for.

Zachary Banks motioned to accept the financial report. Cara seconded the motion. It was passed.

Dr. Phil Wilson (AMEA Pres) Dr. Rob Lyda, and Dr. Travis Bender stopped by to address the AVA membership.

-Look for your PD Certificate/credit for this conference in the next AMEA e-newsletter. Use your powerschool login to claim your credit through the SDE.

-They are planning an early spring AMEA Zoom meeting to address vocal health.

Matthew Gardner, digital media director, presented notes and reminders.

-Please contact him directly if you are not receiving invoices for AVA events.

-Please do not use "Paypal Later"- it will not generate the invoice as needed. If you need an invoice before you pay, please contact Matthew directly.

-Sight reading examples are on the AVA website

-ASSC results will be posted on the AVA website next week with password protection.

-Matthew will send out another dropbox link for directors of State OCS/ME/OA to submit their materials a week or so before that event.

Amanda asked the membership to contact appropriate board members when you have specific questions.

- John for financial questions
- Matthew for invoices or website
- District Chairs for bylaws, dates, etc.

Fall Workshop was very well received. If you have suggestions for clinicians, roundtable discussions, or sessions, please let us know!

All State Auditions

- New process was very efficient. Auditions ran on time, and it still offered judges a good idea of student preparedness.
- Still working on ideas to streamline the process

All State Festival

- Please have students review their music.
- High School SATB students have important rehearsal notes from their conductor. Please distribute this to your singers.
- Talk about concert etiquette with your students.
- Excused student absences: illness (with a doctor's note), or a death in the family. No other absences will be excused.
- Teacher absences: if you are unable to attend All State with your students, please review the bylaws for the appropriate procedure to still allow your students to attend the event.
- Stillman College, Iron City Singers, Jeff State Singers will be performing
- Hotel Block for All State:
 - Discounted rate is \$180 at the Sheraton.
 - Up until 3 weeks prior to the event, these rooms are secure in our block. After that, those rooms will be opened to the public.
 - We have 40 rooms available in that block. We can add rooms.
- General correspondence will come from Zach during the first week of March.
- Amanda will have the All State schedule by the end of the month if you need it early.

All State 2026

- Date and location should be available within the next few weeks.

All State Show Choirs

- 16 schools registered

- 129 students registered. 105 auditioned.
- We are trying to “beef up” this performance by adding collegiate show choirs, and possibly allowing students that made the ASSC to apply to sing a solo at that concert.
- Please let us know if you have any ideas about how to flesh out this program a bit more

AMEA

- Amanda thanked Hilan for all of her help coordinating equipment and John, Zach and Frank for moving it all and getting it here.
- She thanked the district chairs for all of their help.
- Thanks to Hewitt Trussville High, Montevallo High, Fultondale High for the usage of their equipment
- Congratulations to all of the groups that have performed. It has been an amazing conference.
- Please record your performances (SCPA, spring concerts, etc) so that you can submit videos to apply to perform at AMEA. We need all levels and all voicings!
- AMEA Performance Applications are due June 1
- Please visit the exhibits. Please give ideas for future exhibitors to Amanda.
- AMEA Conference: Jan 22-24, 2026 at the BJCC
- Send clinician/session ideas to Amanda.

SCPA/Solo and Ensemble

- Adjudicator training is happening on Saturday, January 25. It will be accessible online after the training is completed.
- Auxiliary form: We have updated the form to be more efficient and provide the judges with more information.
- The auxiliary form is required and will be given to all adjudicators including sight reading judge.
- Amanda would like to feature all choirs/schools that received all 1s at SCPA on the AVA website.

State OCS/ME

- State OCS: Friday Feb 20
- State ME: Tuesday March 4
- We would like to feature all district winners on the AVA website, and once state winners have been decided, we would like to feature them as well.

Next year is an Honor Choir year. Please complete the feedback survey regarding this matter. We need to decide if this festival is going to continue, and what the format will be.

All State Audition Sight Reading

-Amanda shared the results of the sight reading survey that was sent out by Heather Cantwell and the Sight Reading Committee

-Only 11 directors responded.

-The biggest concern was that fewer schools/fewer students would participate in the festival if we add a sight reading component to the process.

-The results were overwhelmingly positive- but we need more responses.

-Amanda read the mission statement of the AVA and encouraged the membership to be considerate of others.

-It is the intention of the AVA Board to map out a detailed process for the implementation of adding sight singing to the All State Audition process. This will be worked on at the AVA summer board, presented at Fall Workshop, and voted on at AMEA next year. The actual roll out of these processes will happen for auditions in 2027 because the AVA Handbook will need to be updated before it can be implemented.

-We will resend the survey.

Young voices festival is April 25-26 at UA. Susan Brumfield, Erin Towe, Andy Paney are clinicians. Audition registration closes January 31. Mixed choir can bring 9th and 10th graders, sixth grade and under do not need to audition.

Zachary motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:56am. The motion passed.