

AVA Summer Board 2025 Minutes
Hoover High School Choir Room
June 1-4, 2025

In attendance: Amanda Slay, John Kincaid, Frank Andrews, Traci Fuller, Kate Dupuis, Debbie Flynn, Holly Luke, Caylen Stewart, Drew Mills, Cara Thomas, Melissa Bonds

June 1st, 2025

Amanda called the meeting to order at 5:46pm.

John presented the financial report. He is still working on transferring the funds in paypal into our bank account. Overall, we are in the positive about \$12k.

All State Auditions:

Amanda Slay- SATB

Hilen Wilson- SSA

Zach Banks- TTBB/MS Mixed

Kate Dupuis- MS Treble

Route and Dates:

- October 30-31 District V at Mayfair Church of Christ
- November 2 District I at Florence High School (afternoon)
- November 3-4 District II/III (Birmingham v. Tuscaloosa rotation??)
- November 5 District IV at Meadowbrook Baptist Church in Oxford
- November 6 District VI at Saint James School, Montgomery
- November 7 District VII at 3 Circle Church, Fairhope Campus

John addressed the issues with all of the different registration forms. He gave a demonstration to the board how to make a copy of the information, sort it, hide various information, etc. Additionally:

We are going to change the all state audition registration form. It will include:

- Dropdown menus to select school names, rather than allowing directors to type information in.
- John highlights a school if they have an unpaid balance. These groups should not be scheduled until the highlight is removed.

Membership Survey Review

-73 people responded to the survey

-Lots of good feedback, suggestions about all state audition process, festival, choir duties, etc.

-The board discussed the feedback that was given on the all state audition process, discussed the feasibility of blind all state auditions.

-The board discussed at length the addition of the sight reading process to the all state audition.

TTBB All State Packet- Clinician: Gabrielle “GG” Pierle

-Swilo Yini arr. Michael Barrett

-Percussion needed (ask conductor what they want)

-Descant will be auditioned at the festival

-Haul Away, Joe arr. Jack Stelzer

-All Tenor 2s learn all opt. Solos. Clinician will decide at the festival if she wants to have solos.

-The Lake Isle of Innisfree by Eleanor Daley

- very simple

-Arirang arr. Hyo-Won Woo

-The River by Susan LaBarr

-Percussion and Guitar needed

-Oh! What a Beautiful City arr. Rollo Dillworth

Amanda would like to release a statement in support of Dr. Rosephanye Powell regarding the ongoing copyright dispute with IBC.

Amanda adjourned the meeting at 9:11pm.

June 2, 2025

Amanda called the meeting to order at 8:59am.

Fall Workshop

Will be held at 3 Circle Church in Fairhope, AL on Friday, September 5, 2025

We do not need to pay for the facility, but we will need to pay to hire 3 Circle Church to staff the event. Their Events Director, Facility Director and Tech Director will be on site, and will need to be paid. It will cost approx. \$1,500, which is more than we have paid for the facility in years past. However, Fall Workshop brings in enough revenue to cover this cost, and Amanda feels that the facility is worth it.

Clinician: [Dr. Jessica Napoles](#)

- Session on Teacher Burnout
- Session on Classroom Management
- Developmental Reading Session

The fall workshop schedule was discussed and agreed upon.

SATB All State Packet- Clinician: Dr. Anton Armstrong

- Alleluia! O Praise the Lord Most Holy by Johann Sebastian Bach
- With What Shall I Come by Rosephanye Powell
 - Violin
- On the Common Ground by Alice Parker
 - Solos will be auditioned at the festival
- Flight Song by Kim Andre Arnesen
- There is a Balm in Gilead by William L. Dawson
- Let Everything That Hath Breath by Jeffery L. Ames
 - Drumset (Dr. Armstrong says must be a skilled drummer)

Zach motioned to vote to accept the All State SATB Packet as is. John seconded. The motion passed.

AMEA

- January 22-24 at the BJCC
- Dr. Alissa Rowe is our headliner
- Amanda would like to propose a “sip and sing”. It would involve a reading session, cash bar, and heavy hors d'oeuvres

AMEA Honor Choir

- Will be a gospel immersion choir
- Dr. Valerie Harris will be the clinician
- She is working on selecting the repertoire.
- Schools can sign up to bring an octet.

Elementary All State Choir will be going on at the same time.

Discussion about Adjudicator Training:

- How do we certify that adjudicators have completed the required training?
- Where does that information go?
- Adjudicator feedback suggests that we need to refine the process.

MS Mixed All State Packet- Clinician: Dr. Josh Palkey

- Benedicamus Domino by Victor C. Johnson
 - Trumpet
 - m. 74: altos divide along district lines, basses divide along district lines
- Safe Places of the Heart* by Robert S. Cohen (*ask for a replacement*)
- Ngothando by Mbuso Ndlovu
 - 3 percussionists
- Wannabe arr. Nathan Howe
- I Am Light arr.
- Seeking Light by Brandon Williams
 - Solo will be auditioned at the festival
 - Parts divide along district lines

SCPA/Solo and Ensemble

- Discussion and review of director feedback from the end of year survey.
- The board sang through the proposed sight reading packet for SCPA 2026
- Discussion regarding the Sweet Spot Live bid to record judge's commentary and SCPA performances

Caylen motioned to vote to accept the bid from Sweet Spot Recordings. Cara seconded. The motion passed.

- Adjudicator contracts: John would like DCs to wait until getting all signatures before sending back to John.
- Please be mindful of the payment scale, and make sure to stay within the meal per diem.
- Request for payment: do separate requests for honorarium and for mileage/meals.
- AVA Calendar- more detail is better than less. DCs can update their information right to the calendar and share with the membership.

Medals:

- Pricing is going to increase .70c per medal due to tariffs. (the ribbons currently come from China)
- If the numbers stay the same this year from last year, we will make about \$175 total profit.
- If prices continue to rise we will have to look at increasing what we charge, or we will have to subsidize the medals in a different way.

Caylen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:40pm. Traci seconded. The motion passed.

June 3, 2025

Amanda called the meeting to order at 9:10am.

The board discussed the statement that was released by Alabama ACDA. Amanda has drafted a statement on behalf of AVA, and it will be released later today.

All State HS SSAA Packet- Clinician: Dr. Anthony Trecek- King

- By Night by Elaine Hagenberg
 - Optional violin, cello, and percussion
 - m. 83 and m. 97 optional soprano 1 notes will be decided at the festival
- Lux Aeterna by Michael John Trotta
 - optional soprano 1 and alto 2 notes will be determined at the festival
- Always Keep This Close by Zacharay J. Moore
 - optional string quartet
 - m 58-67- parts divide along district lines.
- Tryin' to Get Home arr. Anthony Trecek-King
 - optional violin

- solos will be determined at the festival
- all soprano 2s learn the soprano 1 part while solos are being sung and return to soprano 2 part when tutti is marked. (m. 26-28, m. 39-43)
- Air and Fire by Katerina Gimon
 - further direction will be given by the director
- Controlled Burn by Dessa and Jocelyn Hagen
 - string quartet
 - m 81-82, and m. 92 voices split along district lines

MS Treble All State Packet- Clinician: Jess Obrach

- Hohonolofatsa arr. Daniel Jackson
 - split s1, s2, a1, a2. Students will register for their part.
- Ave Maria by Camille Saint-Saens
 - All sopranos sing S1 part
 - All altos sing S2 part
- Cuando la cumbia traiga lluvia by Camilo Rojas and Juan Camilo Molina
 - Percussionists will be determined at the festival
- Take This Gift by Tracy Wong
 - percussion
 - m. 61 and 62 soprano 1 divide along district lines
- Oh, Watch the Stars arr. Moira Smiley (If Bright Morning Stars arr. Wailin' Jennys remains unavailable on jwpepper)
 - S2 sing the A part. All altos sing the A2 part
- Commissioned piece by Emily Drum

AMEA Gospel Immersion Honor Choir- Clinician: Valerie Harris

- Lord Send Your Spirit by Raymond Wise
- How Good by Michael Engelhardt
 - Drumset
- Use Me arr. Jay Rouse
 - Drumset
 - bass
- I Love the Lord with Total Praise arr. Bradley Knight

All State Show Choir Packet- Clinician: Mark Myers (asked for a more challenging program)

- Bad Vibe arr. Anita Cracauer
 - Soprano ½ split, Tenor ½ split
- Ghostbusters arr. Tom Anderson (Replace or find a more complex version)
- A Brand New Day arr. Connor Warren Smith
- Send in the Clowns

All State Festival

- 2019 was the last year the festival was held at Samford
- The board discussed the schedule from 2019 and reworked it to make it usable for this year.
- When selecting singers for all state choirs, we need to keep in mind the rehearsal spaces at Samford.
- Dining will be available on campus this year. Matthew will generate a means for directors to order meal tickets online along with their festival registration.
- Restaurant list will be included in the all state correspondence
- We are going to add a school name drop down on the all state registration form.

Digital Media Secretary/Executive Secretary

- Common payment deadlines worked well this past year
 - Dates for this year:
 - Fall Workshop Pre-registration: August 29, 2025
 - All State Auditions/OCS/ME Registration: September 26, 2025
 - All State Show Choir Audition/Honor Choir Registration: December 1, 2025
 - All State/SCPA/Solo Ensemble Registration: January 13, 2026
 - All State Show Choir Registration: February 24, 2026
 - State Level OCS Interviews February 10, 2026
 - DCs need to send out a beginning of the school year email to remind their membership about the payment/registration deadlines, festival dates, location changes, details about the audition process, etc.
 - Virtual District Meetings (Q and A/as needed)
 - District 3: 8/14
- Contact list for NAFME is regularly sent to Amanda from Rusty Logan.
 - Not everyone on the NAFME list that is classified as “choral” is on the AVA mailing list.
 - Additionally, many of the addresses on the AVA mailing list bounce back.
 - When we send out a general membership list, should we use the NAFME membership list rather than the AVA mailing list.
 - We are going to move forward with emailing both the NAFME mailing list as well as the one that AVA collects at the beginning of the school year.

OCS/ME

- DCs should include a reminder to teachers about ensuring that resumes are grammatically correct and professional.

Frank motioned to double the pay of the OCS/ME Judges from \$50 to \$100. Traci seconded.

Discussion

Andrew made a motion to end the discussion and move to a vote. Cara seconded.

The motion passed.

-With the goal of increasing involvement in OCS/ME, the suggestion was made that the State OCS and the State ME winners could serve as “emcees” for convocation at the All State concert each year.

Miscellaneous

-We are considering putting a fine in place to penalize directors that do not show at auditions rather than automatically disqualifying the student from being able to participate in the festival.

-the board discussed raising the mileage reimbursement rate from .40 per mile to .54 per mile to align with the rate that AMEA is currently paying. For reference, the IRS mileage rate is .70 c per mile.

Caylen made a motion to raise the mileage rate from .40 to .54 per mile to match the rate that AMEA is currently paying for mileage. To take effect July 1, 2026. Melissa seconded. The motion passed.

-John presented the bid from Sweet Spot live to record All State and All State Show Choir for next year.

Caylen made a motion to accept the bid from Sweet Spot live to record the All State Show Choir and All State performances this year. Drew seconded. The motion passed.

-John presented the bid for medals.

Caylen made a motion to accept the bid for medals for this year. Drew seconded. The motion passed.

-Amanda presented the contract to hold the All State Festival at Samford University

-Base license fee is \$15,000

-50% must be paid by September 12, 2025. The remainder of the bill must be paid by December 12, 2025.

-On campus meals are expected to cost \$11.25 per person per meal.

Andrew motioned to accept the contract with Samford University for All State 2026. Cara seconded. The motion passed.

Caylen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:27. Drew seconded. The motion passed.

June 4, 2025- Samford University Campus

The site visit/meeting began at 9:00 am.

Drew motioned to accept the updated bid for SCPA recording from Sweet Spot Live. Traci seconded. The motion passed.

Caylen motioned to adjourn summer boards at 10:36am. Melissa seconded.