

AVA General Membership Meeting
Friday, January 23, 2026
BJCC Forum Building- Forum C
In attendance: AVA Board, General Membership

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

Cara Thomas moved to skip the meeting of the minutes. Zachary Banks seconded. The motion passed.

John Kincaid presented the financial report. John emphasized that it helps immensely if you can have your bookkeeper put what the check is for in the memo line.

Chris Deason moved to approve the financial report. Cara Thomas seconded. The motion passed.

Matthew Gardner presented information regarding registrations, invoicing, etc. and reminded everyone to email him if you do not receive a receipt for your registration.

John Kincaid reminded everyone to send financial questions to him, and registration questions and/or website issues to Matthew Gardner.

AMEA CONFERENCE

Amanda spoke about the overall success of the conference. She thanked John for moving the risers to the facility, Hilan for coordinating the use of the risers/shells, Dr. Cook at Hewitt Trussville for lending us the risers and shells, the board for moving the risers and shell between all performances, and Harrison Hornsby for playing for Dr. Rowe's session. She commented about how wonderful all of the performances have been and reminded the membership to use their SCPA recordings for the applications to perform at the AMEA conference next year. Please also apply to present!

We are open to suggestions for clinicians for Fall Workshop and for AMEA.

She reminded everyone to attend Grissom's performance today, the Elementary All State and AMEA Honor Choirs tonight, and ASFA's concert tomorrow morning .

AMEA will be at the BJCC January 21-23, 2027.

Amanda presented general conference announcements from AMEA.

Phil Wilson, Rob Lyda and Travis Bender from AMEA leadership came in to speak to the membership. They spoke about the importance of music, and about how to receive professional development credit for the conference. You must use your GOVERNMENT NAME when you

register with the East Alabama Regional Inservice Center, and then complete a conference survey on Powerschool. Phil will send out an email with this information next week. Please read it and follow the instructions.

Elections for AMEA President Elect will happen in April. NAFME is also holding elections for president elect, please consider voting for Rob Lyda!

Amanda said that the Honor Gospel Choir is going great. 71 students are participating from 11 schools. She encouraged the membership to bring their kids to future honor choirs. We would really like to continue offering this opportunity to our membership, but we need student singers to participate!

ALL STATE

All State Festival will be at Samford University from March 12-14, 2026

-January 30th is the registration deadline.

-Meal tickets are on sale for the Samford cafeteria and they are \$11.25 each. We are offering them for Thursday dinner, Friday lunch, and Friday dinner. When ordering, please try to make it accurate. *Ticket orders* are due by *Friday, January 30*. *Payment* is due for these tickets by *February 27*. The food court areas on Samford's campus will also be operating, but the meal tickets will only be usable in the cafeteria itself.

-We are hoping to have the All State Schedule released some time next week.

-Parking should not be as much of an issue as it has been in the past.

-Zach will be sending out All State Correspondence within the next week or two.

-Amanda reminded the membership that the only excused absences from All State are a doctor's excuse or a death in the family. Documentation must be sent to the executive secretary within 10 days of the festival.

-If you are not able to attend a festival, you must get another AVA member to agree to supervise your students, get permission in writing from *both* principals and submit documentation to the AVA Board prior to the festival.

-March 11-13, 2027 at Samford University is the *tentative* date for next year's festival.

SCPA

-We are recording performances and judges' comments this year.

-Judges are required to read the auxiliary form. Please use them.

-Judges are required to go through our AVA Adjudicator training.

STATE OCS/ME

- Virtual interviews conducted by the DCs. Schedules will go out this week.
- Tuesday Feb 10: OCS
- Tuesday Feb 5: ME
- We are hoping that these winners can help with the general assembly at All State

FRANCES P. MOSS AWARD

- Please submit nominations by January 30.
- Please see requirements for this award in the handbook, as well as the form to nominate someone.
- Past winners are listed in the back of the handbook

SIGHT READING

Amanda read the statement that the AVA board has drafted for the intent of the addition of this requirement to the all state audition process, and laid out how the trial year will be conducted. This was also presented at the fall workshop.

Amanda Slay motioned that the AVA membership approve the addition of the sight reading component to the all state audition process. Hilan seconded. The vote will be on a google form that will be open for the remainder of the conference (January 24, 2026 at 3pm)

Frank Andrews reminded everyone that this vote is for a trial year. Should the membership vote to move forward with this process, we will review the data, have more discussions, and additional votes will be held before it is permanently implemented.

Amanda expressed that she is in full support of moving forward with this process. She believes it will move vocal education in the state of Alabama forward.

Amanda presented the proposed slate of officers for 2026-2028. We will vote on this slate of officers at All State.

President	Zachary Banks
President-Elect	Caylen Stewart
Vice-President	Amanda Slay
Recording Secretary	Kate Dupuis
Executive Secretary	John Kincaid
District I	Andrew Mills
District II	Amber Yates
District III	Dr. Jillian Johnson

District III Co-Chair

Zoe Large

District IV

Harrison Hornsby

District V

Tucker Ratcliff

District VI

Traci Fuller

District VII

Michelle McCormick

Digital Media Director

Matthew Gardner

***Zachary Banks motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:50am. Brent Coleman seconded.
The motion passed.***