

# VIRGINIA CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

*a division of*

## Virginia Music Educators Association

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### VCDA BUSINESS MEETING

All-VA Chorus Event – Massaponax High School

Friday, April 24, 2009

**I. Call to Order**

VCDA President, Sherri Matthews, called the meeting to order at 4:02pm.

**II. Introduction of Officers**

President–Sherri Matthews  
Vice President–Lois Castonguay  
President-Elect–Lisa Pennington

Treasurer–Jen Penserga  
Parliamentarian–Charlotte Smith  
Secretary–Mandi Townley

**III. Confirmation of Agenda**

A motion was made to discuss the timeline for calling alternates for All-VA Chorus under new business. Michael Ehrlich moved that the agenda be approved as amended. Lynne Babcock seconded. Agenda was confirmed.

**IV. Review of Motion and Voting**

Charlotte Smith stated that only members may vote and that motions must be made in writing on the forms which were available.

**V. Roll Call by Districts**

District	Attendance	Chair		District	Attendance	Chair
I	7	yes		IX	16	yes
II	9	yes		X	5	no
III	9	yes		XI	11	yes
IV	5	yes		XII	9	yes
V	9	yes		XIII	7	yes
VI	8	yes		XIV	8	yes
VII	8	yes		XV	3	yes
VIII	6	no		XVI	10	no

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### VI. Reports

#### A. Secretary's Report

Report was approved as read.

#### B. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was presented by Jen Penserga. The balances are \$45,701.66 in the General Fund, and \$46,307.55 in the All-Virginia Fund. The total account balance is \$106,943.33. The report was approved.

### VII. Old Business

#### A. Adjudication Committee Report

Charlotte McKee reported that the committee met yesterday, and focused on examining the current adjudication forms in an effort to make one universal adjudication sheet. The committee would like to receive input from across the state. The committee will email District Chairs to gather input, positive and negative, regarding their festivals. The Committee will meet at Conference, and hope to have new the new form and procedures on website by All-VA 2010. Sherri state that VMEA is unifying festival procedure for all sections of the organization. Charlotte McKee is the VCDA representative to the committee.

#### B. Bob Stamback Award

Sherri reported that there has been an effort to try to create a way to add more money to the Honor's Choir scholarship program. You may now recognize and honor teachers or colleagues by making a donation in an honoree's name to the Bob Stamback award. The names and messages will be listed on the VCDA website and in the Honor's program as room allows. More information and the memorial fund contribution form is available online. Anonymous gifts will be accepted and donation amounts will remain unpublished.

#### C. District Festival Results

Moe Turrentine asked Sherri to remind us to fill out festival result forms completely and legibly. Moe has had difficulty deciphering incomplete forms for Blue Ribbon awards. Please check to make sure all blanks are filled in completely.

#### D. All Virginia Audition Piece –

Lynne Babcock introduced the members of the committee. They are working on choosing four pieces for a rotation, but are still checking for sheet music availability. Becky Tyree addressed concerns from a judge's point of view that the piece used this year had been too easy. She suggested that students need to focus on musicianship when preparing. Lynne stated that the goal of the committee is to choose pieces that show phrase, sensitivity, diction, and dynamics, and that sight-singing is used to determine music reading ability. The titles of the pieces should be released in the next month. The question was asked about the ability to record REAL piano accompaniment for rehearsal and auditions, because the computer music doesn't allow for musicality. Lynne responded that it is possible. Sherri elaborated that in order to use recordings of a

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live piano we need to find someone to record the accompaniments. She thanked Phillip Keirstead for creating the computer accompaniments this past year and noted that he had them available to reps in September. Live recordings are possible if someone is available to create and distribute them.

### **E. Sight reading guidelines**

Sherri expressed concern that some districts are not following the guidelines in the manual for sight-reading in auditions. She re-read the guidelines and reminded that they are printed in the manual and available on the website. The question was asked about the possibility to have one source for writing the sight-reading examples for entire state to cut back on discrepancies. Discussion followed. Lynne Babcock proposed that the state adopt one composer to write sight-reading for All-VA auditions. They could be distributed via email before auditions. Dennis Gilbar seconded the motion. A concern was raised regarding the security of the sight-reading if alternate weekends are used for auditions. Discussion followed regarding trust issues, fairness, and ethics. Sherri said that it would not a problem to do separate examples for separate weekends to prevent the possibility of students sharing, and that reference examples will be posted online. Lynne reread motion-“I move that the sight-reading examples for All-State Chorus auditions be written by one composer for the entire state to use. The choice of composer would be made by the VCDA President, and the sight-reading examples would be emailed to the All-State Audition chairpersons the night before auditions. This will ensure that all the schools are consistent in their audition process, and that the “playing field” is level for everyone in the state.” The vote was sent to the floor, and the motion passed.

### **F. Honors Choir**

Mandi confirmed that auditions will be held October 3, 2009 at Longwood University in Farmville. SATs are scheduled for October 10. The audition piece will be changed for this year. We are in the process of choosing the piece. It will be uploaded to the Honor’s Choir Website as soon as possible, within the next few weeks. An email will be sent to District Chairs to let everyone know when the piece is available online.

Joe Eveler and Shannon Forry were called to the front. Sherri thanked them for doing a tremendous job hosting this event, and presented them each with a plaque. Joe thanked everyone for being excellent guests and having students WELL prepared!!

Sherri thanked Phillip Keirstead for assisting in creating All-VA nametags. She also reminded to make sure that all forms are filled out correctly, legibly, and completely to prevent misspellings. Make sure Commitment forms are complete and turned in **before** auditions. She reminded everyone that there are two parent signatures required on the back. One signature is for acknowledging that the rules will be followed and the second signature is to allow for emergency medical treatment as needed. Please make sure forms are correct!

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### **G. All Virginia Chorus 2010**

#### **1. We do not have a host school as of yet.**

Three schools are trying to work out hosting the event. Sherri will announce the location when she knows.

#### **2. April 29 – May 1, 2010**

#### **3. SATB Director, Z. Randall Stroope**

#### **4. SSAA Director, Charlotte Adams**

### **H. Literature Manual Committee**

Lisa announced that in November 300 pieces were added to manual. 56 pieces added this weekend. Committee was introduced and thanked with applause. If you are interested in joining the committee, contact Lisa Pennington. They are currently trying to grade all of the previous All-VA pieces. Some are Permanently Out of Print (P.O.P), and will not be graded unless a copy can be obtained. The next committee meeting will be Thursday at Conference. You may deliver pieces to a committee member by 4pm on Thursday. Please send photocopies as originals will not be returned. She reminded that different voicings of pieces do not have the same grade; different voicings make different pieces.

Sherri thanked Head Chaperones for handling everything at the hotels! Lois commented positively on Note Check policy and the level of preparation was obvious this year. The procedure for the note-check rooms was discussed. All rooms were run the same. The rehearsal director just ran a regular rehearsal in their own teaching style, while pre-designated teachers were asked to walk around and make sure students knew their notes confidently. If questions or concerns arose, Sherri was called in to double check the situation.

## **VIII. New Business**

### **A. Missing Event Reports**

Jen passed out a chart to help explain where to send paperwork for required reports. She has been having big troubles receiving reports. She needs a report for EVERY event! Copies of every receipt are not required. Please pay close attention to event reports and send only required information. Please contact her if you have questions! She clarified where surplus funds should be sent. She read list of received reports by District. Reps were asked to make notes of missing forms, and to see Jen if there were questions.

### **B. VCDA Officer Nominees**

Lisa discussed the VCDA elections will be held in November. The nominees for Secretary are Dennis Gilbar and Phillip Keirstead. The nominees for President are Lynne Babcock and Nate Miller. She thanked them for their willingness to serve in leadership capacity.

### **C. VMEA conference sessions**

Sherri announced that we receive 6 slots for sessions at conference. She said that we currently use two sessions for reading sessions, which only leaves four

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sessions available. She wanted to confirm whether the reading sessions are deemed valuable enough to continue hosting them. They were identified as being valuable to us and will continue as part of the VMEA conference.

### **D. Performing Group Applications**

Teachers interested in bringing a choir to perform at VMEA should turn the application in to Lisa by May 1, and she reminded that next year, the applications will go to the new VCDA President-Elect. Michael Ehrlich discussed the performance guidelines that were passed by VMEA to make sure the performances demonstrate literature for directors to hear and take back to their groups. Sherri said VCDA felt that the guidelines fit instrumental performance groups, and voted to follow the list given to guest conductors which is posted on the website. Lisa reminded that the application has changed a little, and requires 4 pieces- 2 from 07/08 and 2 from 08/09. A thought was raised about including a question/answer session at conference with director's that have brought groups to perform. The idea was well received and will be suggested for the 2010 VMEA Conference.

**PERFORMANCE APPLICATIONS ARE DUE MAY 15.**

### **E. ACDA report**

Becky Tyree reported that 156 singers out of 603 applicants were chosen for this year's Middle School honor's event. The kids are doing a wonderful job! She discussed the summer conference, and handed out brochures. She also encouraged directors come submit auditions to come sing in the festival choir. Joe Eveler is hosting the festival choir. She encouraged everyone to come to ACDA and be rejuvenated.

### **F. Motion regarding timeline for All-VA alternates**

A motion was read from the floor, "I move that the deadline for calling alternates be moved from the Tuesday before All-State to the previous Friday at 5:00pm. This will enable the student to learn the music, resolve scheduling conflicts and the teacher to do paperwork, music exchange, etc." Discussion followed concerning sending music to alternates, the number of alternates usually called, the conditions surrounding the need for calling alternates, and what happens if an alternate is unavailable. It was stated that it is too expensive to provide music to alternates, and that if alternates cannot attend the event, the voice part is not replaced. Alternates did participate in the note checks, but the teachers were aware of their last minute circumstances. Call for Vote: Motion defeated. 38 yes, 76 no's.

### **F. Closing Remarks**

Thank you for all of your work in bringing students. Pay attention to duties and assist in lining students up before concerts. Shannon reminded that the front parking lot is now available, and that luggage can be stored in the building during concert time. Also, it will be announced again to students that cell phones should

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NOT be used during concerts, even in the audience. Meeting adjourned at 5:16pm.