

MTVA Minutes
Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Board Meeting

The MTVA executive board met on January 7, in Harding Hall. The meeting was called to order by President Robert King at 5:30 pm. Those board members present were: Tiffany DePriest, Jeremy Jones, Lewis Walling, Lia Holland, David Spencer, Valerie DeHoff, Katie Oldham, Jerry Pierce, and Jj Ebelhar. Bobby Jean Frost, Angela Tipps, and Tim Pate were not in attendance.

President King reminded the board that the Elementary/Middle School Honors proposal will be voted on at the general meeting, and since it involves the MTVA constitution and not the standing rules, it only requires a one-time 2/3 majority vote. He has copies available for anyone who needs one.

This year's solo/ensemble festival will be held at Franklin High School; Connie Fuller is the chair of this event. It has been moved from TN Tech to a more central location to up participation. Connie will submit names for judges; she is considering using TN Tech judges again. President King points out that the choral festival uses different judges every year. However, the Tech judges do a very good job. After varying input from the board, President King said that the board will e-discuss it this week.

President King reminded everyone that the choral festival is earlier this year (March 12-13). The deadline is January 29. He wants the board to encourage participation. Also, on the original application, some information was incorrect. The correct information is: you must pay for a minimum of 21 students (you don't have to actually have to have that many) at 3.00 per student up to 40; for each one over that it's 1.00 each. Also, President King reminded the board that the festival is not to just get an A; it's a chance to learn and grow as a director.

David Spencer gave the treasurer's report. He did mention that the ending balance does not reflect the 10,000.00 that is in a CD. Also, President King discussed the commissioned piece for All-State next year. Since it will be a choral piece, MTVA will pay part of the composer's fees.

President King addressed the letter which MTVA received from TPAC regarding the Middle School Mass festival. He stated that he was planning on sharing points 2 and 3 with the membership. The first item was regarding riser pick-up. Points 2 and 3 dealt with the issues of girls caught changing clothes in a public location by a male usher and with trash in the courtyard. The letter was also sent to Jeanette Crosswhite who was not overly alarmed. She said that she is sure MTVA will take care of it. MTVA doesn't pay TPCA for the use of their facility; we only pay for ushers, work crews, etc. We're taking it up when they could be renting it to someone else. The basis of the problem seems to lie in our directors and their belief in Tim. President King has talked with Tim, who offered to step down. A better solution is that Greg English will co-chair the event for the remainder of President King's tenure. He believes the event will be better with Tim's experience and Greg's help. President King is not pleased with the spirit of cooperation from MTVA directors. His concern is what to do when directors are given the rules and break them again. After a lengthy discussion, President King asked Tiffany to chair a committee which will look at this; he also wants Greg English to be a part of this committee. He would like a report by the February meeting. After this report, there will most likely be a caucus after the February or March meeting of all directors who are involved.

Katie reported that All-State forms and money will be due at Mid-State; alternate forms are due at that time. No checks will be deposited until after the 2nd-tier auditions.

President King went over the general meeting agenda. Jerry would like to say something about the MS Honors auditions. President King mentioned that he will be making a plea for help with venues. Also, MTVA is still guaranteed 800.00 from the t-shirt/plaque company at Mid-State. Lewis mentioned that there are new files on the website for the All-State men's piece "Long day Closes".

President King adjourned the meeting at 6:48 pm.

General Membership Meeting

President Robert King called the general membership meeting to order at 6:58 pm, in Harding Hall. Members who are listed on the roll are: Cyndie McGuire, Linda Towe, Greg English, Donna Martin, Connie Fuller, Nancy Jolley, Linda Boze, Sam Duggins, Tiffany DePriest, Danny Chantrand, Jerry Pierce, Valerie DeHoff, Lewis Walling, Lia Holland, Jeremy Jones, David Spencer, Jessica Mitchell, Katie Oldham, Lynn Jury, Missy Cook, Greg Herring, Jeanette MacCallum, Edward Freytag, Meghan Therrell, Stella McKnight, Carolyn Riggins, Judy Yeaworth, Debbie Wilson, David Cassel, Felicia Barber, Gerald Patton, and Susan Shirel.

The first item of business was Mid-State (since it's the next event). Jj Ebelhar reported the clinicians: All Mid-State Honors Choir- Ken Hawkins, Women's Mid-State- David Childs, Freshman Honors Mixed- Cooper Patterson, Freshman Treble- Kathy May. Jj has arranged for different members of MTVA to introduce each clinician to his/her group. Each student will have an assigned seat in rehearsal (by name tag). The students should be in their seats by 8:45 am on January 23. If anyone sees any problems, Jj would like to know about them so she can take them to the board. President King reminded everyone that there will be 2 Mid-State concerts: Treble session at 6:30 and Mixed session at 7:30. This seemed to be a good way to avoid overcrowding.

Lewis reported next on All-State. He had packets at the meeting to give to all directors with Mid-State or All-State students. He emphasized that directors should know their responsibilities as they relate to the handbook. All forms for All-State will be due at 10:00 in Shamblin Theater on January 23 (even alternates). No money will be due for alternates, just those in All-State. No checks will be deposited until after the 2nd-tier auditions. Lewis told everyone that the All-State men's piece, "Long Day Closes", is missing page 2 on the CD; it is available on our website. However, the 2nd-tier audition will not include that portion. Also, the other pieces for all choirs are available on our website. There is a hidden link (www.mtva.org/king/index.htm). There was a question about the Freshman Treble piece "Kum-Bah-Yah". Jj said to put at least half or more on the soprano II part.

Jerry reported that the MS Honors deadline is in 2 days (from the meeting). Only checks and forms should be sent to David- no tapes or CD's. He requests that you fax him a copy of your form. He reminds everyone to make sure that the audition numbers correspond to those sent to him and David. He needs guys, especially low voices. Carol Poston has made a cassette for the German piece which will be given out at the auditions, which are one January 25, at 8:30 am, at McMurray Middle School.

President King began the discussion on the first of 2 voting issues. The first vote on the motion about allowing a student to audition for only 1 voice part at MS Honors requires a 2nd simple majority vote. It passed at the first voting. He called for discussion. Much of the discussion centered on the fairness of this happening. There were several statements both for and against it. After some discussion the questions was called for. President King reminded everyone that a yes vote means that a student may audition for only 1 voice part, and a no vote means that a student may audition on multiple voice parts. 10 voted in favor and 15 opposed the motion. Therefore, the motion failed. There will be no limitation on the number of parts a student may audition on for MS Honors. The second voting issue requires a 2/3 simple majority vote. It is the report on procedures for Elementary and Middle School Honors that the committee which was chaired by Jerry Pierce came up with. It is brought to the membership by the board and needs no second. Discussion about this vote included the following points:

1. Included is that if a student is placed on more than one voice part, and ranks high enough to participate in multiple parts, then he/she will be assigned to sing the voice part in which he/she received the highest score. The wording could be changed from rank-score to rank-rank. Carolyn moved that the wording be changed (Lewis-2nd). After some discussion, the members voted on whether to change the wording from rank...rank to score to rank...rank-24 were in favor, 0 were opposed, and 5 abstained.
2. The question was then called for to vote on the motion from the board (the actual committee report as amended). 18 voted in favor, 6 were opposed, and 9 abstained. Abstention essentially count as no's. President King asked for any of those who voted no or abstained would like to bring it up again. Donna Martin brought up the discussion again.
3. An amendment was proposed that would add that there would be no female tenors or basses. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Another point of discussion was about directors being assigned to judge parts in which they have no students auditioning. Jerry stated that this was to try for fairness and impartiality.
5. Katie called for the question on the resubmission of the amended report. This motion passed. The motion was then made to vote on the amended proposal. The motion passed unanimously.

President King was very appreciative of the atmosphere in which there could be a profitable discussion among professionals.

David Spencer gave the treasurer's report. The report was accepted without abstention.

Tiffany DePriest reminded everyone that the deadline for Elementary Mass is Thursday, January 9. Letters/packets will be sent after the deadline.

President King reminded everyone about the choral festival. The deadline is January 29, and the event is March 13-14 (earlier to lengthen the turn around time before the state festival). Pieces do not have to be on the form at the deadline. This is a great opportunity to grow as a director, and he wants to encourage everyone to participate. The fee structure was incorrect on the original application. The fees are: you must pay for a minimum of 21 students; 3.00 each from 21-40; after 40, it's 1.00 per each additional student. The corrected application is available on the website.

The advance dates of October 27-28 and February 26-27 for next year's MS Mass and ES Mass have had no negative responses, so the plans are moving forward. President King needs members' inside information on big facilities for these events (churches, etc.).

President briefly went over the letter from TPAC (there was no time for discussion). He has put a committee in place to study the MS Mass event. He reminded the members that TPAC doesn't charge us a rental fee, just personnel fees. The 2 issues were: female students changing clothes in an open area and being found by a male usher and trash left by students in the open courtyard plaza. This reflects badly on TPAC as the plaza was not their property. The point is that we cannot keep burning bridges. Directors must follow directions or choose not to participate. When directors come and do not follow rules, they harm MTVA. The board will be coming back with proposals on how they hope to address these problems.

Handouts from Pam Schneller are available about a visiting choir.

New business- Deadline for solo/ensemble is March 15. This month's mini-clinic was presented by Ed Scruggs (Belmont University). His presentation was about tone. Considerations:

1. selection of voices:
 - a. color
 - b. evenness of vibrato
 - c. intonation
 - d. attitude
2. placement of the tone
3. purity of vowel
4. engage the face with the breath

3 attributes of a great director:

1. know what you want (study scores)
2. be able to show/demonstrate what you want
3. insist the singers do what you want

Choral Concepts- Donald Neuman

Greg English encouraged all members to read the article in the TN Musician- "No Child Left Behind"

The meeting was adjourned by President King at 8:37 pm.