

Lia called the meeting to order at 6:35. Those present were Jeanette MacCallum, Valerie DeHoff, Lauren Robinson, John Hylton, Gerald Patton, Bill Laarz, Aaron Velthouse, Melissa Hinds, Beth Delk, Talor Barnett, Matthew Clark, Terri Godfrey, Ashlee Sexton, Beth Kolwyck, Brian Russell, Candace Adam, Alexis Derryberry, Grant Farmer, Sandy Elliott, Lorna Pyka, Shawn Frazier, Lia Holland, Missy Cook, Jennifer, Scruggs, Charlie Mason. Two members were on the phone and voted by proxy. They were JJ Ebelhar and Crystal Juechter. Lia began with the presentation of reports. The minutes were presented and accepted as submitted. Lori Busbey gave the Treasurer's report. She pointed out the profit and loss by class in particular to each event. She also noted that as directors, we are the members. You cannot rely on bookkeepers, parents or choral boosters to submit payment for events. It is really important that the deadline and postmark on your payment coincide.

Beth Kolwyck gave the Elementary Mass report which will occur next Thursday and everything looks good and should be a great event.

Brian Russell gave his report on Choral Festival. This event is coming along; however there is some delay in information due to someone at the event location being ill. However, that person is back at work and Brian will be able to get out the information very soon in regards to Choral Festival.

Terri Godfrey gave the report on Mid-State/All-State report. She informed that all directors should register themselves as well as students on-line with TMEA. After completing this registration, you will be given the hotel information and how to book your room for All-State. The deadline for registering on-line is 2/21. All directors and students should complete registration by this date. Failure to do so could jeopardize your student's All-State standing. Jeanette pointed out that the choral concert will be on Friday night this year for All-State.

Shawn Frazier gave the report for Solo and Ensemble Festival. The deadline to register for this event is April 4<sup>th</sup> and the Festival will take place on May 3rd. He encouraged directors to have students participate particularly if they are interested in pursuing a music major in college. It is also good if you have a small choir that might not be ready for choral festival. Sandy mentioned also that at this event, the clinicians take time to work with the students after they perform. It is also a very positive event and encouraging for students. A question was raised if a soloist could come to this event if the school is not participating. Shawn checked the handbook and it stated that either the director had to be present at the event or give a notice in writing with approval from the principal and parents. The student should also be a member of their school's choral program to participate in this event as well as any other MTVA sponsored event.

Lorna Pyka gave her report on Middle School Mass. About 500 students participated in this event this year. The numbers were down after we had to change this event from a Tuesday to a Thursday. Next year, it is still slated to be on a Thursday and she is trying to get Dr. Freer to be the big clinician.

Gerald Patton gave his report on Freshmen Honors. Everything was great!

Ashlee Sexton gave the report for Elementary and Middle school Honors. It was a great event at a new location, Hermitage Hills Baptist Church. They were very hospitable and the location worked really well for this event.

Lia mentioned that a new calendar will be posted tomorrow after tonight's vote. There is just one tentative date on that calendar and it is Middle School Mass and this is due to trying to make sure this does not conflict with testing which would allow more schools to participate next year.

Lia announced to the membership that there was a Mid-State Committee who observed our event and then presented their findings as well as made recommendations on how to make this event better. Brian Russell was the chairman of this committee and presented their report. There have always been suggestions made on how to improve Mid-State but no actions. This is in no way the fault of our present or past chairs of this event. Brian expressed that these people have done a great job. However, the committee thought that the current procedure for Mid-State was not the most effective and changes needed to be made. The following are areas of improvement the committee recommended:

- One day is not enough time for this event. It is the same as Elementary/Middle School Honors. They propose that we move to a 1 ½ day event. They propose that Mid-State should begin on Monday evening, 11/17 from 5:30 – 8:30. The following day would also be used for rehearsal on 11/18 from 9 – 12, 1:30 – 4:30 and then the concerts at 6pm that night.
- The event is too large. The Christ Church is large enough for the choirs but not the audience. It is not also the best acoustical space. They propose to move Freshmen Honors Choir to a different date and location. They also propose to have Freshmen Honors Choir on the same day as 2<sup>nd</sup> Tier Auditions. The freshmen would have the opportunity during the day to listen to upperclassmen run through their All-State music when they arrive for 2<sup>nd</sup> Tier.
- They also proposed to add Thursday night auditions to the large rooms such as Soprano 2 and Alto 1. These judges would be paid a small stipend or directors could use this credit toward MTVA event.

Grant Farmer asked if the cuts would all be released a day earlier than other parts and if it would provide an advantage to students who didn't have to audition until Saturday. The cuts would be released a day earlier, but it was of the opinion that one day would not make that huge of an advantage for those later auditions. They already have the disadvantage of having to audition in one of the largest groups.

- Auditions are held too early in the school year. They propose that we have the auditions held in November. This would require that the music be on hand and directors could pick it up that night after the audition results. The committee thought that the clinicians would need to be chosen early and the music would be ordered and given out at the September audition this year. We would make sure this process would work before doing the audition in November the following year.

- The committee felt that the current percentages for sight-reading counts too much toward a student's score as it stands right now. There was some concern that there is a lot to be done in TN to be ready for this type of audition. The students who are doing well right now are those who play piano or another instrument or those who have the financial ability for private lessons. The committee felt this was an unfair advantage. There are some students who have only had one year of choir because they did not have access to choir in middle school. If they did, the amount of time they were in class was minimal.

Brian also discussed that there is also the proposal of making some changes in voicing for the Mid-State Choir. There are not many locations that can house a 200 voice choir. If we would like to move to a superior acoustical space, we would need to decrease the number of students in the choirs. He discussed the possibility of 144 voice choirs for mixed and women's and 88 in men's. Grant Farmer asked if the same was being discussed for Freshman. At this time, that is not being considered. Lia expressed that if there were any members who had input about the voicing, to please email Lia or Brian.

There are two things that we need to vote on tonight:

1. Constitution Changes – Article XII Fees

\$8 audition fee for Freshmen and Mid-State

\$6 audition fee for all other audition events

\$5 student fee for all mass choir events

\$5 student fee for all solo & ensemble events

\$3 student fee for Choral Festival

\$12 student participation fee for Freshman Honor Choir and Mid-State Choirs

\$55 student fee for All-State Choir

\$75 director fee for TMEA registration

\$113 NAFME/TMEA individual membership fee

\$36 NAFME retired individual membership fee

*All-State Choir and TMEA registration fees are subject to change per TMEA.*

Article XIII Honorariums

Solo and Ensemble Judges \$125 for the first 3 hours/\$25 after that

Choral Festival Judges \$300 per day

Clinicians for Mid-State Choir \$750 per event

Clinicians for (with the exception of Elem. Mass) \$500 per day

Clinicians for Elementary Mass \$300 per day

Accompanists for Mid-State Choir \$450 per event

Accompanists (with the exception of Elem. Mass) \$300 per day

Accompanists for Elementary Mass \$200 for 1 choir/\$300 for 2

Jeannette asked if anyone had run the numbers on how this would affect the expenses for the Freshmen Honors/Mid-State event. Brian has run these numbers and distributed a handout showing that with this new fee structure, the event would be in the black.

Lia called for a motion to vote on the constitution changes. Jeanette made the motion and Matt Clark seconded the motion. Members voted and the motion passed.

The next item to vote on is a standing rules change. We are putting in writing a practice that is already in existence. The new addition would be:

- I. General Rules and Reminders for Directors
- C. Director's Responsibility
2. Events

**\*\*Take out\*\*** b. If rules are not followed, a letter will be sent from the chairman of the event to the principal of the director involved.**\*\***

It would read:

- b. If at all possible, the director should notify the event chairman of any cancellations before the scheduled appearance time. Event/Audition fee are not refundable.
3. If a director fails to satisfactorily perform duties required at an event or audition, the chairman of the event and/or member of the Executive Board reserve the right to inform the principal of the director involved. The director's participating students may also be disqualified.

## II. Student Eligibility for Auditioned Events

1. Student must be enrolled and in good standing in his/her school's choral program.
2. Student's director must satisfactorily perform duties associated with audition and/or event.
3. In the case of home schooled students, the student will be deemed eligible if all of the following conditions are met.

Lia called for a motion to vote on a change to the standing rules. Jeanette made the motion and Charlie Mason seconded. The motion did pass and there will be a second vote in August on this Standing Rules Change.

Jeanette asked if Mid-State would be at Christ Church. The location has not been determined as of today. That location is open but it will not be finalized until a decision is made about numbers as well as other venues that might be a possibility.

Lia proposed a slate of officers for next year. The board has approved these officers. There was a motion to open up the floor for nominations but there were no persons nominated. All officers were elected as proposed from the board. Below will be the officers for 2014:

Past-President: Ms. Lia Holland

President: Ms. Alexis Yatuzis-Derryberry

President-Elect: Mr. Shawn Frazier (Middle TN Christian School)

Secretary: Ms. Beth Delk (White County Middle School)

Collegiate Chair: Dr. Craig Zamer (TTU)

Mid-State/All-State: Dr. Brian Russell (Stewarts Creek High School)

Freshman Honors: Mr. Gerald Patton (Blackman High School)

Middle School Honors: Ms. Missy Cook (Donelson Christian Academy)

Middle School Mass: Ms. Lorna Pyka (Rock Springs Middle School)  
Elementary School Honors: Ms. Candace Adams (Eagleville School)  
Elementary School Mass Choir: Ms. Jessica Morel-Scruggs (Southside Elementary School-  
Shelbyville)  
Solo and Ensemble: Mr. Michael Choate (Cookeville High School)  
Choral Festival: Mr. Grant Farmer (Wilson Central High School)

Lia called for new business. Lia announced that there is a workshop at MTSU on 2/21. Information is on our website. Lia also recognized Sandy Elliott who served as president as well as Jeanette MacCallum who served as our treasurer. Both were presented with plaques and applauded by the membership for their dedicated service to MTVA. There was a motion to adjourn at 7:40pm.