

Alabama Vocal Association  
 Summer Board Meeting  
 Renaissance Hotel, Montgomery  
 June 5-6, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 8:36 am on June 5 at the Renaissance Hotel in Montgomery, Alabama. The president, Damion Womack welcomed everyone and introduced the new board member, District 2 chair, Loren Snyder. Board members in attendance were Damion Womack, Jane Powell, Paul Edmondson, Pat Blackwell, Stacy Owens, Cathy Shelton, Carl Davis, Loren Snyder, Margaret Heron, Susan McCall, Sherry Smith, Jerry Cunningham, Kathy Hughes, and Jennifer Fyock. Member that was absent was Heather Cantwell.

The minutes from the previous board meeting were read by recording secretary, Stacy Owens and approved.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Executive Secretary gave the report with \$92,137.25 in the checking account and \$11,589.72 in the savings account with the total assets being \$103,726.97.

Points of interest:

- Only lost \$2,400 on All-State this year
- Concern for AMEA because money was lost due to people that didn’t share rooms or didn’t checkout, leaving rooms unused. The president requests that if board members plans are altered, please let them know so that rooms can be taken care of before it’s too late.
- State Performance Assessment has \$2,500-\$3,000 in outstanding bills.
- District reports were better this year. Pat asked chairs to watch expenses like printing programs and possibly sharing sight-reading.

Motion was made to approve the Treasurer’s Report. It was seconded; motion carried.

**Dates of Events in Districts (Some dates have changed since Summer Board)**

District Chairs gave their dates and locations for their events for the year. District 2 did not have dates yet because she had just been added to the board.

**AVA State Events**

Fall Workshop - September 11-12, 2009, Dawson Baptist Church, Birmingham  
 All-State Show Choir Auditions – October 1-3, 2009, (Bluff Park?) Birmingham  
 Honor Choir Screening-November 2-13, 2009  
 AMEA/Honor Choir/Show Choir- January 21-23, University of Alabama  
 All-State Auditions- January 29-February 5  
 State Performance Assessment- March 22-24, Birmingham  
 All-State- April 15-17, Samford University

**District Events:**

	<b><u>Fall Solo/Ens.</u></b>	<b><u>Fall District Performance</u></b>	<b><u>Music Ed.</u></b>	<b><u>OA/OCS</u></b>	<b><u>Honor Choir</u></b>	<b><u>All-State Auditions</u></b>	<b><u>Spring District</u></b>	<b><u>Spring Solo/Ens.</u></b>
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		<u>Evaluation</u>			<u>Screening</u>		<u>Performance Evaluations</u>	
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### All-State Auditions

Dates for this year's All-State auditions are January 29-February 5, 2010.

January 29 and 30 will be in District 7.

District 7 will host both days. (Kathy will be running auditions)

February 1-3 will be in Birmingham.

District 3 & 6 will host February 1 (Margaret and Jerry will be running auditions)

District 4 & 2 will host February 2 (Susan and Loren will be running auditions)

February 3 will be run by Heather Cantwell

February 4-5 will be in Decatur.

District 1 will host February 4. (Carl will be running auditions)

District 5 will host February 5. (Sherry will be running the auditions)

All registrations need to go directly to Pat Blackwell. She will do all scheduling for all districts. Districts can audition in any district they choose.

Pat will do the district reports for All-State auditions.

Pat will judge Middle School Mixed this year, but next year a past president or someone who has served on the executive board will be the 5<sup>th</sup> All-State judge.

### **All-State Festival**

All-State festival this year is the same weekend as All-State Band and the Talladega race. Hotels are at a premium so books rooms ASAP.

Jane Powell brought up the point that if a child makes both All-State events (band and chorus), that they not be penalized the next year if they choose to participate in All-State band.

Clinicians for 2010 All-State Festival:

SATB- Andre Thomas

SSAA- Lori Hetzel

TTBB- Charles Robinson

Middle School Mixed- Eugene Rogers

Middle School Treble- Connie Drosakis

Damion wants to implement a transportation coordinator for the All-State festival- possibly a board member like Paul Edmondson. Discussion ensued about possibilities. Choir coordinators need to be responsible for bringing their clinicians to a designated drop-off point on campus.

Board discussed starting the rehearsals a little later- maybe starting at 1:00 pm for the assembly. The schedule will be fine tuned by AMEA.

Date for All-State 2010

Damion made the decision about the date after talking with Samford and Mr. McAfee (President of ABA). With the high school testing being moved to our normal time, it's getting harder to schedule time for All-State.

Notes for All-State Choirs:

Divisi within a part: Districts 1-4 top notes  
District 5-7 lower notes

SATB

- Needs one percussionist
- Only the first movement of African Sanctus will be performed
- Jinny, Git Around- if it is not available, he will choose another

SSAA

- Universal Song- if not available by July 1, she will pick another
- Board is requesting a period language piece instead of "Yo Le Canto"

TTBB

- In Pentatonic Alleluia, all tenors need to learn Soprano 1,2,3 and all basses need to learn Soprano 4, Alto 1,2,3.

### MS Mixed

- Board questioned the bass range for the song “Sanctus”. Wants the president to discuss this with the clinician.
- Board wants the chairs to make sure that their districts know about the 3 part division in “Old Dan Tucker” and prepare their kids accordingly.

### MS Treble

- Cripple Creek is already being done by TTBB choir so another piece will be chosen.

### AMEA

Betsy Cook Weber will be the AVA headliner for the conference. She will be doing 4 sessions over 2 days.

We will need rehearsal monitors for the Honor Choir this year. The clinician for Honor Choir 2010 will be Z. Randall Stroope.

### Honor Choir

The board reviewed the Honor Choir music:

The board requests:

- that the Honor Choir just do 5 pieces with the Pachelbel piece being cut.
- possibly switch Conversion of Saul with Daemon.
- the concerns of the difficulty of the music be addressed with the clinician.

### Honor Choir Screening

The board reviewed the screening process. We’re moving forward, but the quality of being prepared is still not where we want it to be.

Consistency of the screening process is essential.

- Everyone needs to use a CD for the screening.
- Directors need to rotate through sections
- Susan said there was a screening form that was to be used to assess the singers. Everyone needs to use the same form.

The 2010 Honor Choir music selections are very difficult, but the screening process is not very selective.

2 options:

1. Need to have a more difficult audition and more strict OR
2. Music needs to be easier

Board decided to send music back and ask for easier music.

The board discussed registration procedures. #6 on the procedures for Honor Choir says that directors must accompany students! This has become a problem. Procedures need to be followed as laid out in the AVA handbook.

Also, Paul and Damion will address appropriate dress attire for Honor Choir and All-State.

### **Fall Workshop**

We will have two clinicians for Fall Workshop to present sessions. They are Andre Thomas and Lori Hetzel.

Board fine tuned the schedule for the Fall Workshop.

Board discussed about adding a 30 minute session on Saturday on “How to sight-read at performance assessment”. There were volunteers from the board to lead different strategies for the sight-reading room.

High School

Carl will demonstrate numbers

Kathy Hughes will demonstrate solfege.

Middle School

Jennifer Fyock will demonstrate solfege

Susan McCall will demonstrate numbers.

Pat will bring examples of sight-reading. Carl, Kathy, Jennifer and Susan will need to tell Pat what they will need.

Susan McCall made a motion that the fee for Fall Workshop be increased to \$60 pre-registration and \$75 for on-site registration. Motion was seconded and vote was carried.

Accompanists for Fall Workshop and All-State

Damion will secure these.

Julian Bryson- SSAA

Terry Moore- TTBB

Karen Combs- MS Treble

Missy Powell- MS Mixed

Karen Cantrell- SATB & Honor Choir

### **All-State Show Choir**

Board discussed the behavior at All-State. Damion received three deep concerns about their poor behavior.

Discussion included that the middle school choirs need to be the star on Friday night. Maybe we could move the Show Choir away from performing on Friday night, possibly at the assembly. There were also concerns about the student’s attendance due to possible conflicts (proms, spring breaks...) with the All-State Festival being so late this year.

Margaret Heron made a motion that the Show Choir not perform at All-State and that AMEA be their only performance. Motion was seconded. Vote carries.

Susan McCall made a motion that the one time performance of the All-State Show Choir be a trial for 2010. Motion was seconded.

Concern was expressed about the children not being able to perform in front of their peers. Point was made that it was not their venue; it's All-State. With the timing of All-State being so late this year, we will run into student's spring breaks and proms. Even clinicians said this was not the place for Show Choir to perform.

Vote carries.

Clinicians for Show Choir  
Jared Voss  
Hersel Cremons

Jane asked for suggestions for a choreographer for the auditions.

### **Outstanding Accompanist**

Sherry Smith stated that a middle school OA needs to be recognized at the middle school concert even though they could stay for the high school concert. Damion said he would recognize them at the middle school concert.

### **AVA Logo**

Motion was made by Carl Davis to update the AVA logo. Motion was NOT seconded. Motion was withdrawn.

Discussion ensued about the history behind our logo and it did not need to be changed. The board gave Damion permission to go to a graphic artist to UPDATE the logo, and he will email the board examples.

### **State Performance Assessment**

State performance Assessment this year will be in Birmingham. Judges said that it would be very hard for them to get four days in order to include longer travel time across the state. We had good participation across the state. Some schools are having to deal with a travel cap.

Sight-reading

Dr. Malone said he would write the sight-reading this year.

Motion- AVA governing board will present to the membership a proposal to move away from District/State Performance Assessment and go to a yearly or bi-yearly performance assessment and to become effective for the school year 2010-2011.

Motion was seconded.

Points that were discussed:

Traveling is expensive

This will mean one less time the students will be adjudicated.

State judges cost more plus their travel expenses.

Presently, AVA has to pay for two sets of sight-reading.

Vote carries.

Committee is formed to present this at Fall Workshop- Jerry Cunningham, Kathy Hughes, Damion Womack, and Jane Powell.

### **Bids for All-State recording**

We got 3 bids for this recording contract- Procat, Steve Johnson, and Tim Batt recording. Damion handed out the three bids to the board, all of which were discussed and assessed. Motion was made by Carl Davis to accept the audio bid from Tim Batt Recording and to ask him to submit a proposal for a video product. Motion was seconded. Vote carries.

### **Alavocal Website**

Cathy Shelton gave an overview of fillable forms and the database. Board members have been asked to help “proof” the website and email her of things that need to be changed or that don’t work. There is also a possibility that Solo & Ensemble medals can be ordered on-line through Medalcraft Mint. Pat is given permission from the board to look into setting this up through the website.

### **District Chair Handbook**

The board read through the district chair handbook, including financial reports and procedures for all events.

Jane Powell made a motion that there needs to be a fee for the Music Education Scholarship Application that is comparable to OA/OCS. Motion is seconded. Vote carries.

Corrections were made to forms to reflect the new position of Executive Secretary.

Motion was made to adjourn. Motion was seconded. Vote carries. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm on June 6, 2009.

Minutes are respectfully submitted by Stacy Owens, Recording Secretary.

