

**AVA General Membership Meeting
Friday, September 11, 2016
First United Methodist Church, Montgomery**

Ginny Coleman called the meeting to order at 4:20 p.m
Cathy Spence read the minutes from the All-State meeting on March 4, 2016.

Rebekah presented the financial report.

Year End balances were:	Checking: \$79,467.02
	Savings: \$11,633.22
	Total Assets: \$91,100.24
Current balances were:	Checking: \$75,599.09
	Savings: \$11,634.64
	Total: \$87,233.7

After no questions the report will be filed for audit.

Vice President, Carl Davis shared emails from David O and Sue Johnson expressing their gratitude and satisfaction with a wonderful All-State Festival. He also shared the process of the decision to hire Rebekah Stevens as Executive Secretary, as well as Web Master of AVA. These two positions will maintain two separate salaries, but combine responsibilities, since Rebekah has qualifications for both positions. No fees will be raised.

Brent Coleman asked for clarification on the combined positions, but having two separate salaries.

Fall Workshop

Thank you to the board, and James Seay for their help, and FUMC, Montgomery for making this possible. Ginny asked for the membership to go on Remind to give feedback on this year's workshop.

ASSC

Jane had nothing new to report.

All-State auditions

Packets are available from JW Pepper, with audition/performance notes from the clinicians. Matthew Curtis with Choral Tracks has rehearsal tracks available for purchase. The deadline to register is September 21. Following the final auditions, results will be posted on the AVA website.

AMEA

Gary Taylor is concerned with performance venues not being adequate for choral performances. There is current discussion concerning this and accommodations will be made. J.D. Frizzell will be our guest clinician.

SCPA

This year the date range is a little more narrow than usual. Festivals are scheduled over a five week span. The membership was asked to give feedback if this was an issue for anyone. All choirs will be recorded, free of charge to the membership. This will be included in the registration cost.

The issue of why some directors are not bringing their choirs to SCPA was discussed. Several ideas to remedy this were mentioned:

New this year, and for one year only: if a school has not attended for the last 3 years, they may register one choir for free. Directors were asked to contact Rebekah to register, if this applies to them.

It was also mentioned that sight reading may be a barrier. There was much discussion among the board. It was suggested that new directors may opt out of sight reading, they may audit and observe other directors in the sight reading room, or they may be allowed to sight read a unison piece. Ben suggested that we make videos of the sight reading process and post on the website as a resource.

No decision was made at this point. Ginny stated that we do not want to compromise our standards of adjudication, but simply try to extend a hand to new directors or directors in struggling programs.

All-State Festival

Kenny has seemed pleased and confident things will work well again this year. We have communicated with Samford concerning providing meals for students. AVA has given a deadline for them to respond if they are going to provide.

Miscellaneous

John Kincaid: ACDA: Young Voices Dates: ????? 4th-9th grade Clinicians and dates are posted on ACDA website. New directors or inactive directors will be offered the same incentive as AVA to attend.

Extended an invitation to Summer Conference.

Rachel Smith: ACDA has a Choral Honor Society for middle school and high school. Info is on the website or you can email her.

AVA is partnering with ACDA to compile a list of every choral program in Alabama to reach inactive directors/schools.

Online registration

Directors should let District Chairmen or Rebekah know if they are having problems.

Logo:

We are looking at possibly merging the existing AVA logo with something new that will coordinate with AMEA.

Future All-State Auditions

The board has had some discussion about revising the audition process to save money, and reduce the amount of fatigue on the adjudicators that currently occurs. Having District Chairs "screen" students by video, then submit to the board for an in-person audition was mentioned as a possible solution. Directors were encouraged to be thinking this through and communicate any ideas or concerns.

Changes to Bylaws

Ginny explained the changes that were printed on the ballot for the membership to vote. John Kincaid made a motion to accept the changes. Motion passed.

Ginny recognized District Chairs so that the directors could see who their chairman is and meet together, if needed.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:49 pm.