

**Alabama Vocal Association  
Governing Board Meeting  
Renaissance Conference Center, Montgomery  
January 18, 2017**

Ginny called the meeting to order at 7:16. Members present were Ginny Coleman, Meg Jones, Carl Davis, Cathy Spence, Stacy Owens, Hilen Powell, Nichole Hill, Cara Thomas, Randall Fields, Jerry Cunningham, Christie Breland, and Rebekah Stevens.

Cathy read the minutes from the September 10 meeting at Fall Workshop and corrections were made. The minutes were approved with corrections.

Rebekah shared the financial report: Since some events had not occurred yet, all were not reflected on the report. The checking balance was incorrect and should read: \$115, 024.92. The total assets will be adjusted, (\$126,551.44) as well. The report will be filed for audit.

**Fall Workshop**

Ginny reported that participation numbers are continuing to rise. The new teacher luncheon was also attended well and went smoothly. Meg shared that the membership was pleased with the workshop this year and many stated that it was one of the best ones we've had. However, some possible suggestions were made: have it at a more central location, not on a football Friday, more hands on sessions, and more time for social interaction between districts. The consensus was that Montgomery works well with the one-day format. The Board decided to keep it at one-day event. It was also recommended to keep the location consistent from year to year. Several board members stated that FUMC, Montgomery was a little small and congested. Ginny asked for suggestions for other venues. Rebekah mentioned that FUMC did not charge AVA to host the event. Vaughn Forest Baptist Church and Huntingdon College were also brought up as possible sites.

**ASSC Auditions**

Ginny stated that the location and timeline worked fine. We had overall lower numbers, especially in Bass and Tenor. Executive board will meet to discuss any possible solutions to increase participation. Ginny asked for any suggestions from the board. It was mentioned that the time of year is a problem with some of the competitive show choir schools. Suggestions were to add 9<sup>th</sup> graders, or to do away with the All-State Chorus requirement.

(Susan Smith, with AMEA came in to the meeting to introduce herself and to express her appreciation for all that AVA does. She also asked that we inform her of any needs we may have as we move forward this next year.)

**ASSC Festival**

Brett Carroll cancelled on Friday, January 13, as vocal director, with no explanation given. John Baker has agreed to step in to replace him.

**All-State Auditions**

The Executive Board expressed how pleased they were with the audition sites. When results were posted, there were only a couple of issues with directors not getting the link to the webpage. The password protection issue was resolved, so that only directors could see the results.

Issues with rehearsal tracks: Matthew Curtis did not have the instruction sheets until mid -July. In the future he would need to receive that at an earlier date. There was some discussion about continuing to use Matthew Curtis for these recordings. Jerry Cunningham's son Jordan would not be able to do it unless Matthew Curtis was out. This is based on his agreement with Matthew.

Discussion took place to move towards recorded auditions. Ginny is concerned about the timeline for implementing the change.

Carl and Ginny actually recorded an audition this year as a test. Ginny explained to the board how this process would work. Issues were raised concerning the technology available in order to make the change this next year. Also the human interaction component would be missing with a recorded audition.

Meg brought up the issue of the shortage of Middle School boys. She asked the board to consider reasons for this. The issue of transgender students and what part to sing was also brought up. The board needs to be thinking about this becoming an issue in the near future.

### **AMEA**

The board was reminded to attend the leadership breakfast on Thursday morning. They were also reminded of the concerts or sessions that they are presiding. Door guards are also scheduled in order to monitor audience members entering during a performance. The presiders and assistants will walk through the process of escorting choirs on and off stage. They should meet the choirs 15 minutes prior to their concert time in the warm up area. AMEA 2018 will be in Birmingham.

### **SCPA/S&E**

An additional date for SCPA was set up for February. After the General Membership was surveyed about the dates, several directors were unable to commit to the dates scheduled and the February date would work for these directors. This additional festival would be for this year only, and next year District Chairmen will make sure to provide a wider span of dates.

Ginny asked DC's to email the board the names of their judges and recording engineer for each festival. She also reminded District Chairmen to seek out schools in their district who have not participated in SCPA to attend one year for free.

DC's should see page 37-41 of the Board Handbook to set up SCPA and S/E.

Ginny will mail the sight reading music to the DC's.

Summer Board: we assess how adding recording personnel affects the profit for this festival.

### **All-State Festival**

Each board member will be assigned to a choir or another responsibility. They will be the "go to" person before contacting Meg.

Board Meeting will be at 9:00 am on Wednesday, March 1.

The schedule should be confirmed with Samford this weekend.

### **Miscellaneous:**

Summer Board will be June 4-7 in Tuscaloosa.

Problems with online registration were discussed. Very few issues were raised, other than school checks being mailed to Rebekah are being received very late, even when they are postmarked on time.

Ginny asked the board to be thinking about whether or not directors should be allowed to participate in events when they register after the absolute deadline. Should we not just charge them more in late fees and allow participation?

New logo: the board was presented several new AVA logo proposals. They were asked to choose their top 4 choices, keeping in mind that we want to keep some aspect of the previous logo, and coordinate with AMEA. Ginny asked to put a link on the AVA website for the board to access the "board only" page.

Election vs. Appointment of board members: Ginny stated that we need to be electing members of the Executive Board. They have to have been a District Chairman and there should be more than one choice.

Ginny gave the board a handout explaining a new Sight Reading proposal. She asked the board to review it and provide feedback to her via email by February 15.

Add to Summer Board agenda:     Allowing the substitution of All-State students at the audition  
   Submitting resumes electronically instead of driving/ mailing them to DC's

Cara brought up the issue of having one school fee for all AVA events. Ginny stated that we have looked into this in the past, and determined that smaller schools would actually end up paying more.

The board went downstairs to walk through the concert/warm up venues for the choirs. The meeting was then adjourned from there.