

**AVA General Membership Meeting
March 3, 2017
Samford University
Brooks Auditorium**

Board 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 Jane Powell.

Ginny called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

She reminded the membership to follow directions for parking and stated that too many people are not parking where they are instructed, or we will not be invited back to Samford.

There is some confusion as to where directors are allowed to park. They were instructed to use the South Stadium, lot #68

Dr. Tim Banks spoke to the directors and explained that parking is always an issue with large groups using Samford. He welcomed the directors and expressed his wish, as well as Kenny Gannon's, that we will continue to be at Samford for All-State. He also thanked us for not using the food court, and hoped that the rehearsal venues are adequate, apologizing for the inconveniences of HVAC and sound system issues in Wright Center.

Cathy read the minutes from the previous general membership meeting held at AMEA.

Rebekah shared the financial report. Checking account balance was: \$109,737.51
Savings account balance: \$ 11,636.52
Total: \$121,374.03

There were no corrections and the report was filed for audit.

Ginny shared that we would send a link to a survey via *Remind* to allow for easier feedback.

She thanked the membership for their help making this All-State a success.

She also explained the situation with Sigrid Johnson's illness, and expressed her appreciation to Andrew Minear for stepping in to conduct the High School SSA choir.

The dates for All-State 2018 were announced as March 7-10, 2018.

SCPA

This year recordings will be made available of each choir. Directors were encouraged to use these recordings to submit for AMEA performances.

Directors were reminded of the new policy of allowing schools to come to SCPA for free if their school has not participated in the previous three years. They must register through Rebekah, instead of using the online registration procedure.

Ginny shared that the board would be discussing a new proposal for Sight Reading. This would accommodate the varying proficiency levels of individual choral programs. The various

proficiency levels would be defined and what skills would be required. Questions concerning this will be on a survey for the General Membership

Fall Workshop 2017

Fall Workshop will be held on Sept. 8, 2017. Ginny asked the membership to share suggestions for clinicians. She stated that it would most likely be in Montgomery, since that is the most central location.

ASSC

Ginny stated that the auditions in 2017 will include allowing 9th graders to audition. This will be done as a trial period to see if participation numbers increase. She also shared the idea moving the festival to the Tuesday before All-State instead of having it at AMEA. Megan Rudolf brought up the issue of requiring Show Choir students to make regular All-State. Ginny said that we do not have a lot of feedback at this point so as of now, it will still be a requirement. She encouraged the Membership to include their ideas concerning this in the survey. ASSC auditions will be October 5-6, 2017.

Honor Choir

Ginny announced the dates for 2018 AMEA: January 18-20, at the BJCC. The concert will be on Friday night and the Clinician will be JD Frizzell, from Memphis. Screening dates will be set by District Chairmen. Ginny encouraged directors to have their students participate, especially since this is a screening, and not an audition process. This may help to increase All-State participation.

All-State Auditions

Ginny encouraged directors to include in the survey how this process can be improved. She assured the membership that rehearsal tracks will be improved for the next auditions. She also stated that this year, for the All-State 2018 auditions, the process will be the same. The online posting seemed to be work well, and said that the results will be password protected. She reminded directors to share the results only with their own students. Doreen Gullatt expressed concern about her students finding out before she did, and suggested that directors could be emailed only their list.

Ginny announced that auditions would be November 10-17, 2017. She said that we may possibly use recorded auditions in the future, but not this year, and that we would be discussing it at Summer Board. This year there is a possibility of doing simultaneous auditions (recorded and live) in order to work out any issues.

AMEA 2018:

Ginny told the membership that she hoped this year's performance experiences were more positive than previous years, and that she has secured approval to move performances off-site for the upcoming year. Directors from the Birmingham area were asked to suggest sites that would be within walking distance.

ACDA

Meg Rudolf thanked those directors who have been attending the professional development sessions, and reminded them that a schedule is included in their All-State packet. She also asked for feedback for next year's sessions. ACDA Conference is this summer, July 17-18 in Tuscaloosa. Mary Hopper and Dale Duncan are the clinicians. She also encouraged directors to participate in Young Voices and to refer to the ACDA website for more information.

Ginny expressed appreciation to ACDA.

Logo choices have been narrowed down to 3 designs. There has been an attempt to merge the AVA historic logo with the AMEA logo. These designs will be on the survey for the General Membership to complete.

OCS/OA/ME

Plans are being made to allow directors to send resumes to District Chairmen electronically, rather than by mail or hand delivery.

NEW BUSINESS

SCPA sight reading will be the same as this year, but the board will discuss a revision at Summer Board.

Meg Rudolf reported that new state standards are being voted on in April, and the resources for music, space, accompanists, etc. look promising. Cissy Johnson stated that she was on the committee, and she encouraged directors to be advocates. She asked directors to encourage their elected officials to vote it through. She also advised directors to talk to their principals and superintendents about participating on textbook adoption committees.

Carl Davis shared that we could study the figures concerning school fees, and determine what would be most beneficial.

Ginny expressed her concerns that our current late fee policy is not effective.

She explained that there have been many directors this year who have had excuses for being late and have wanted to pay after the deadline. Ginny feels that the AVA President shouldn't have to be the judge of these individual situations. This is not in line with the AVA handbook. She also stated that at times, not allowing students to participate isn't always an appropriate consequence. We are going to revisit this at Summer Board. Some possible solutions may include having an early registration incentive, and/or the reduction or elimination of school fees. However, she stated the school fee issue has been explored in the past and had resulted in a greater expense for smaller schools. The board will be discussing other possibilities at Summer Board.

Stacy reported that Hal Hopson is coming to Huntsville in May. He will do a workshop in Huntsville, and to let her know if anyone is interested in going.

Ginny said that the link to the survey will be sent in the next few minutes, and to please give written feedback.

Christie Motley share the she had written her dissertation on teacher participation in AVA events. Shanked everyone for the progress in the advanced procedures.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 am.