

The meeting of the Louisiana Music Educators Association Board of Directors was called to order at 10:00 a.m., January 3, 2015 with the following present: Sharon McNamara-Horne, Fran Hebert, Sara Bidner, Bruce Lambert, Greg Oden, Johnny Walker, Brett Babineaux, Jim Trant, Neal Naquin, Jay Ecker, Michael Townsend, Katrice LaCour, Lee Hicks, Carolyn Herrington, Pat Deaville, Gina Anthon and Michelle Wilkinson-Nelson.

Moved by Johnny Walker and 2nd by Jim Trant to approve the agenda. PASSED

Sara Bidner made a correction to the minutes. Moved by Jay Ecker and 2nd by Greg Oden (and Richard Bresowar) to approve the minutes as amended. PASSED

Moved by Carolyn Herrington and 2nd by Jay Ecker to approve the financial report. PASSED

Sharon McNamara-Horne thanked the board for a very successful conference. We need a written procedure manual and check list for each division to avoid some problems when a new division chair takes over. Also, we need to avoid multiple sessions against a highlighted clinician if possible. Sharon stated we need to speed up the meetings. She would like the board to submit reports in advance to board members (email or drop box). Discussion belongs under old or new business. Sharon asked that the May board meeting start at 9:30. She would like to see the meeting end by 12:30.

Strategic Plan – Communication – We need a way to notify membership of changes, send reminders, etc. Email does not seem to be the best option as many younger people go to their phones before they'll read an email. Two better ways to communicate are “Remind” and Twitter.

The website is “built” and ready for information to be moved over. Sharon went into the website last Sunday and added basic pages to the menu structure so that Jim can start moving data.

The Webmaster and Conference Chair will be evaluated by the board through an online survey prior to the May meeting. The Executive Secretary and Editor were evaluated last May. The information will be compiled and shared with the executive committee and employee.

Jim Trant stated it may be easier to communicate with membership if all membership started at the beginning of August. (3 states do this now – Florida, Pennsylvania and Alabama)

Sara Bidner thanked all that helped with registration. 445 registered for L.M.E.A. Conference. 90 were college students. 31 pre-registered but did not attend.

Sara presented the board with the following nominees for district director:

District 1 – Greg Oden District 2 – Johnny Walker, Ty Lege District 3 – Brett Babineaux
District 4 – Richard Bresowar District 5 – Sharon Stephenson District 6 – Guy Wood
District 7 – Jim Trant District 8 – Carol Lupton, Mark Minton District 9 – Neal Naquin

Moved by Sara Bidner and 2nd by Carolyn Herrington (and Richard Bresowar) to accept the nominees for district directors. PASSED

Sharon stated we will have the vote online if possible. A postcard will be mailed to all membership informing them of the online election. Bruce Lambert will get a list of all L.M.E.A. membership to send to district directors and the executive board. District directors will help verify the members belonging to their district.

Fran Hebert will send a list of all students receiving academic all-state awards to the band, choir, orchestra and jazz division chairs.

District 1 – Greg Oden stated he was proud of the many students from District 1 that made all-state. He is glad to serve the board for two more years.

District 2- Johnny Walker reported all was fine in his district.

District 3 – Brett Babineaux reported all was good in District 3.

District 4 – absent

District 5 – absent

District 6 – absent

District 7 – Jim Trant reported all was fine in District 7.

District 8 – absent

District 9 – Neal Naquin reported all was good in his district.

Band Division – Jay Ecker thanked Daphne Richardson and Richard Bresowar for hosting the All State Bands. Both All State Bands had great performances. Jay and Bruce Lambert will evaluate the state solo assessment after this year to see if it should continue. Jay reminded the board that Set 4 will be used for next year's All State tryouts. The 2015 All State conductors are Jeff Cannon for Concert Band and Robert Sheldon for Symphonic Band.

Jazz Division – Lee Hicks reported recording the auditions for All State Jazz was a great success. There are a few things we can do better. He is looking to have the sightreading for All State Jazz written each year. Lee will meet with Hay Ecker, B.J.McGibney and other LAJE members to discuss the audition materials and will bring some suggestions to the LMEA Board Meeting in May. Lee is working to get Jamey Aebersold for a clinic at the 2015 LMEA Conference. He is working on outside funding but may need LMEA to cover his hotel room. Lee will work with James Hearne about a few minor changes in the All State Jazz schedule.

Orchestra Division – Katrice LaCour reported that Gene Moon did a fantastic job with the All State Orchestra. 92 students participated in the All State Orchestra. The 2015 Conductor for the All State Orchestra will be Douglas Droste from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. Katrice announced a change to the All State cello audition music. Change Schroeder – 170 Foundation Studies, Vol. 2, No. 82 to Friedrich August Kummer – 10 Melodious Exercises, Op. 57, No. 3 (Allegro vivo), mm. 1-16. Katrice thanked all those who helped provide equipment for All State and the string faculty from LSU for judging chair auditions and the string faculty from ULL for conducting the string sectionals.

Vocal Division – Michael Townsend reported the All State Choir concerts were two of the best at LMEA in quite some time. He mentioned we need to have accompanists under contract as well as the clinicians. It was suggested at the vocal division meeting that we have hosts/hostesses assigned to the clinicians. Michael will secure a host/hostess to help him with the groups next year. LMEA will pay for the host/hostess room and meals. Michael would like to mail expense vouchers to the clinicians ahead of time so they may turn them in when they arrive. He will make a list of 2 alternates per part for 2nd round students with full contact information so we can secure alternates easier. Michael will get with James Hearne to see if an additional room can be secured to allow for sectionals. He requested that the colleges keep their concerts to less than 45 minutes to allow for more rehearsal time for the All State choirs with their clinicians.

Elementary Division – Michele White was not present but submitted a report. There were a lot of attendees in the elementary clinics this past November. Comments and suggestions were mostly positive regarding the conference. Michele submitted an evaluation sheet with her report that had suggestions that were elementary division specific, conference specific and LMEA specific. John Feierabend will be the main attraction for elementary division 2015. He will present 2 or 3 double sessions. GIA Publications will pick up the extra cost (over and above the money that LMEA spends) and GIA will purchase 3 or 4 booths. Dr. Sandy Mathias will be the LAKE clinician and will present 3 sessions. There is not much room for other presenters. We will be sure to schedule Dr. Bartolome (she is an tradition at LMEA). Michele reported that John Feierabend could present a Keynote Address for LMEA if this is what we want. She also suggested we may consider a theme for our conference.

University Division – absent

Collegiate/NAfME – Loyola will host a clinic for music educators on January 31.

Public Relations – Carolyn Herrington reported all went well with the exhibits this year. Minor changes are being considered and will be reported at the conference planning meeting in August.

Hall of Fame – Tom Wafer was not present but emailed Sharon McNamara-Horne. All is fine with the Hall of Fame. He is getting a steroid shot to help him with pain.

A.O.S.A. – Gina Anthon presented the board with a general music calendar for 2015.

January 24 – North Louisiana ORFF workshop in Shreveport

January 31 – LAKE Workshop in Sulphur

March 7 – North Louisiana ORFF workshop in Shreveport

March 19-22 – OAKE National Conference in Minneapolis, MN

March 21 – Red Stick ORFF workshop in New Orleans

April 18 – Mississippi ORFF in Jackson, MS

April 24 – LAKE Choir Festival in Pineville

A.S.T.A. – Michelle Wilkinson-Nelson thanked LMEA for allowing ASTA to put out material at conference. Electrify Your Strings in November was amazing. Over 300 students participated. Mark Wood was the presenter. Michelle will attend the ASTA national convention in March.

Editor – Pat Deaville asked district directors to get their articles to him by January 5th. He talked to the board about the newsletter. It depends on the website being ready, a place on the website to post articles and an email bank to send out the newsletter.

Webmaster – Jim Trant reported he is in the process of getting the new website ready.

Conference Coordinator – James Hearne was not present but emailed a report. He thanked everyone for their help in making the conference run so smoothly. Board members should email any possible changes for next year's conference to James.

LMEA Advocacy Chair – John Mlynczak emailed a report. He stated he was able to pass out letters and information at the conference and had good response. The advocacy session had about 40 attendees. Moving forward, priorities include:

Setting up the Advocacy page on the new LMEA website

Emailing membership with the ideas we put forth in the LMEA letter

Printing the letter as an article in the next *Louisiana Musician*

Writing sample scripts for educators to use to speak on advocacy

Identifying committee members who can help with these efforts

Old Business -

Brett Babineaux reported all 3 state regionals will be held the week of April 25-30, 2016. Region 2 will be hosted at the Lake Charles Civic Center. Region 1 and Region 3 will have sites to Brett before the May board meeting. Brett, Bruce Lambert, Sharon McNamara-Horne, Fran Hebert and Sara Bidner will meet to finalize all details before the May meeting. (April 6 at the Crowne Plaza in Baton Rouge)

Sara Bidner moved to change the election for public relations to coincide with the president and division chairs. (Carolyn Herrington will serve an additional year) 2nd by Neal Naquin (and Richard Bresowar).

PASSED

Bruce Lambert discussed insurance for LMEA. Penny Goldman with Louisiana Companies is submitting information to several companies. Garry Taylor, executive director for Alabama MEA, sent Bruce the first few pages of their insurance policy. This will be a starting point for Penny to write the LMEA policy.

Sharon McNamara-Horne stated the supplemental list for Vocal Large Ensemble Assessments must be updated, especially the lower levels. Michael Townsend will help with the update.

New Business –

Sara Bidner presented information to the board regarding executive secretary salary. Examples of MEAs with membership comparable to Louisiana (within 100 members) have part-time executives with salaries of \$26,000 (plus an assistant to the executive at \$9200) and \$35,000.

Neal Naquin moved and Jay Ecker 2nd to increase the executive secretary salary by \$3000 this year and an additional \$3000 next year. PASSED

Sharon McNamara-Horne reported an online evaluation of the Webmaster and Conference Chairman will be held this spring. General feedback will be given to the board at the May meeting. The Executive Secretary and Editor were evaluated last May.

Sharon McNamara-Horne reported LMEA will use ‘Remind’ for online communication.

Moved by Michael Townsend and 2nd by Jim Trant to increase the travel stipend for All State Conductors to \$600. The honorarium will remain as is. PASSED

Moved by Lee Hicks and 2nd by Jay Ecker (and Richard Bresowar) to use the name L.M.E.A. Professional Development Conference for our annual convention. PASSED

The board discussed how the wind and percussion players are selected for the All State Orchestra. District directors were asked to talk with their districts to get feedback for the board. Should we stay with the process we use now that was put in place when Jim Byo was Orchestra Division Chair, or do we need to change the process?

Jay Ecker will report to the board in May concerning selection of alternates for 2nd round.

Sharon McNamara-Horne warned the board to be careful with copyright restrictions.

Nominations for LMEA Young Music Educators Award must be submitted to Bruce Lambert by September 1.

Sharon McNamara-Horne reminded the board of the May 23 meeting. Start at 9:30 (end at 12:30?)

Meeting adjourned