

**Nebraska Music Educators Association Annual Business Meeting
November 20, 2008
119 Westbrook Music Building
Lincoln, Nebraska**

[All officers reports, the minutes of the 2007 annual business meeting, and the treasurer's report were available to members as they arrived at this meeting. Members were asked to peruse the reports prior to the start of the meeting.]

President Rex Barker called the annual business meeting of the Nebraska Music Educators Association to order at 6:30 p.m.

Rick Mitchell moved to approve the minutes of the 2007 business meeting as printed in the packet of reports. The motion was seconded by Tom Jaworski. The motion carried unanimously.

Aaron Svoboda moved to approve the treasurer's report as printed in the packet of reports. The motion was seconded by Becky Wilhelm. The motion carried unanimously.

OFFICERS REPORTS

[Note: President Barker's report was the only report read aloud at the meeting. All other reports were presented only in written form. All members attending were encouraged to ask questions of any officer at the appropriate time.]

PRESIDENT – President Rex Barker thanked the entire NMEA board and all members of NMEA for their efforts in keeping the association strong. He also reported on several items:

- A leadership retreat will be held July 20-21, 2009. Music teachers who have finished their second through seventh years of teaching may be invited to attend.
- Several members of the NMEA Executive Board will attend the North Central Division Conference in Indianapolis on January 22-24, 2009
- Dr. Roger Breed is the new Nebraska Commissioner of Education. NMEA will continue our efforts to reinstate a music education position within the Department of Education. Governor Heineman will make opening remarks at the first All-State concert on Saturday.
- President Barker attended the NFHS Annual Music Conference last weekend. Topics discussed included adjudication forms, home schooling, Smart Music, mentoring, competitive events, and adjudicator training. Rex co-presented a session on curricular/co-curricular activities.
- The 2009 NMEA Conference will be held from Wednesday, November 18 through Friday, November 20. A similar schedule will be used in 2011 (November 16-19, 2011).

PRESIDENT-ELECT – President-Elect Neal Schnoor reported that this year's conference will feature 23 performing ensembles, 22 clinicians presenting 40 sessions, two reading sessions, five CMENC sessions and a showcase recital, 14 organizational meetings, and a Tri M Symposium. Peter Boonshaft will present this year's keynote address, in addition to speaking to the CMENC and Tri M students.

The 2009 Conference will have several changes due to the Wednesday-Friday schedule.

- Please mark your calendars to show the schedule change and communicate this information to your administrators, students, and parents.
- CMENC and Tri M schedules will be similar to current practice but on Wednesday rather than Thursday.
- There will be no opening concert.

- All-State chair placements and sectionals will be moved as late as possible on Wednesday to allow for travel time.
- Early plans call for sessions by MENC President Barbara Geer, Henry Leck, David Sackschewsky, Quincy Hilliard, Darlene Koldenhoven, Paul Brodene-Smith, Greg Foreman, Dale Bazan, and Bobbie Thornton.
- Please consider submitting tapes for performance ensembles at the conference.

PAST PRESIDENT – Past President Lance Nielsen thanked the nominating committee for their work – Joni Osborn, Linda Donohue, Stephanie Stanek, Kim Bejot, Chad Sharff, and Frank Ibero.

Several projects have been funded, thanks to help from our corporate sponsors. These include NMEA/ESU staff development sessions and next summer's Leadership Retreat. Please contact Lance with your suggestions for other projects that could be supported by corporate sponsor funds.

Lance thanked those who served on the awards review committee: Joann Couton, Bill Roehrs, Denise Lueke, and Curtis Forsch. Awards will be presented at the annual banquet. NMEA's 75th anniversary committee has been established and is looking for ways to celebrate this milestone. Committee members include Jim Schulz, Rita Stinner, Patti Niemann, Brian Anderson, Cheri Helmer-Riensche, and Joyce Patch.

SECRETARY/TREASURER – Bryan Johnson reported on several areas:

- Membership continues to be excellent. Membership totals on November 1, 2008 include 905 active members and 55 retired members.
- There were 3,264 All-State applications this year. There was a small decrease in the number of applications for all four ensembles. Over 99.7% of the applications arrived in electronic format.
- Secretary/Treasurer Johnson shared an overview of the duties and responsibilities of his office.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & EDITOR – Joyce Patch reminded NMEA members that they are welcome to contact her anytime. She also shared an overview of the duties and responsibilities of her office. As editor of the *Nebraska Music Educator* magazine, she is always looking for things to include in the magazine. If you have information about yourself or others that would be "good news" about music education please send it in! Action photos of students are also needed. Please be sure the students have signed image release forms and the photos are submitted in high resolution (300 dpi or better).

CHAIR OF CHORAL AFFAIRS – Kelly Meyer reported that this year's auditions took place with very few issues or problems. Student contracts are now handled by the NMEA Secretary/Treasurer. Several of the students in the All-State Chorus have also been selected for sing the National Anthem at the state football championship games. NMEA and the NSAA have worked together to make sure the students can participate in both prestigious events.

CHAIR OF BAND AFFAIRS – Michelle Bluford reported that the All-State Band Conductor is Dr. Quincy Hilliard of the University of Louisiana – Lafayette. Michelle expressed her thanks for all the assistance she has received during her term of office.

CHAIR OF ORCHESTRA AFFAIRS – Dave Klein reported that Louis Bergonzi of the University of Illinois is the conductor of the 2008 All-State Orchestra. The conductor of the 2009 Orchestra will be Dr. William LaRue Jones of the University of Iowa.

CHAIR OF AUDITIONS – Tom Jaworski shared a detailed list of the results of All-State auditions from all eleven sites. Several new developments have occurred this year: NMEA has developed an accurate

paper trail of all auditions to verify that each student has been heard; 3,044 auditions were scheduled in 2008; and contracts have been extended to three Nebraska composers for a third set of audition etudes. These new etudes should be available for use in 2010. The cassette tape recorders used for instrumental auditions are at the end of their usefulness and need to be replaced with digital recorders. The NMEA board is also considering going to a web based audition system.

An audition system developed by the Washington Music Educators Association is available for our use but the start-up fee is estimated at \$10,000.00. There would also be a fee of about \$10,000.00 each year. Using this system would allow individual schools to record their own auditions and would eliminate audition day conflicts. Tom encouraged NMEA members to share their thoughts and ideas with incoming Auditions Chair Matt Sheppard.

There has been some discussion of changes in audition sites in the Omaha metro area and in the North Central area of the state. Serious study of these requests will take place in the future.

PUBLIC RELATIONS – Judy Bush reported that it has been a good year for public relations and advocacy programs. NMEA sponsored in-service training for music teachers at ESU4 in Nebraska City. NMEA is working with ESU4 to provide a brochure to all ESUs to provide ideas and clinicians for similar services across the state.

Music in Our Schools Month was highlighted by the Music at the Capitol concerts and by public service announcements on radio and in the print media.

NMEA is a member of Nebraskans for the Arts and Judy has been asked to serve on their board of directors. NFTA is affiliated with the Kennedy Center for the Arts and works at a state and national level to promote the arts and arts legislation.

CHAIR OF ELEMENTARY/GENERAL MUSIC AFFAIRS – Nicole Chapman reported that Matt McCoy's sessions are being cosponsored by NMEA and the Great Plains Orff-Schulwerk chapter. The first "Meet and Greet" event with the elementary clinician is also co-sponsored by GPOC with raffle items donated by Sonor and West Music. The performance is by third grade students from Reeder Elementary School in Millard.

Nicole's plans for future projects include working with Orff, Kodaly, and other statewide elementary music organizations to sponsor new clinicians; do research on new music, technology, and resources available to elementary music teachers; and provide support for elementary music workshops around the state.

CHAIR OF MIDDLE LEVEL/JUNIOR HIGH AFFAIRS – Mike Koch thanked the membership for their support during his term of office. Music Education Week at the Capitol is set for March 2-6, 2009.

CHAIR OF RESEARCH – Daniel Laing reported on the first year of the new research position on the board. He is working to try to better integrate research into the activities of the association. He encouraged NMEA members to contact him with ideas and questions about any topic related to music research.

CHAIR OF COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS – Jan Harriott thanked everyone she has worked with during her term of office. There are now 13 active CMENC chapters in the state. The annual CMENC Forum is now taking place at the Cornhusker hotel and St Paul's United Methodist Church. Two CMENC chapter advisers (Adam Lambert of Chadron State College and Clark Roush of York College) contributed articles for the *Nebraska Music Educator*. This year Nebraska had no applicants for the John Lennon/BMI Scholarship for student composers.

CHAIR OF COLLEGIATE AFFAIRS – Jody Neel reported on activities of the state's CMENC chapters.

- CMENC chapters are now using Facebook as a communication tool.
- A delegate system has been established for voting for the Chair of Collegiate Affairs.
- The forms for applying for the Outstanding Collegiate Chapter Award have been revised.
- The archive of CMENC materials has been organized.
- The Spring Forum was held at UNK on March 1, 2008. 28 students from four schools attended. Topics included *Vocal Health; Why Am I in the Class and When Will I Ever Use It?*, and a panel of administrators.

TRI M CHAIR – Rebecca Wilhelm reported that there are 16 active Tri-M Chapters in the state in November 2008. You can activate a Tri M chapter at any time – simply contact Becky. This year's Tri M Symposium included about 170 students.

HISTORIAN – Historian Duane Johnson asked all former NMEA officers to look through their files and contribute materials to the archives. Especially needed are recordings of recent All-State performances.

Five persons received material for the Hall of Fame. One was elected last year but was deferred to this year. One deferral from last year was elected and one person was elected based on letters received this year. The due date for next year's nominations is May 1, 2009.

The retired music teachers meeting is held each year during the conference. Please keep Duane informed of folks who retire and of any address changes.

The annual meeting of Past Presidents will be held during the conference.

CHAIR OF EXHIBITS – Marilyn Godby shared detailed information about income from exhibits and the break-down of types of exhibitors. This year the net exhibit income is approximately \$24,700.00. The exhibit area is at capacity and additional exhibits are being set up in the East Hallway.

Income from exhibits will decrease in 2009 as expenses at the Embassy Suites will increase. The exhibit signs and shipping of exhibitor's materials is now being handled by Midwest Tents & Events in Lincoln.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PRESENTATION OF SLATE OF OFFICERS:

Past President Lance Nielsen presented the slate of officers recommended by the nominating committee.

The nominating committee presented Clayton Moyer and Doran Johnson as candidates for the office of Apprentice Chair of Choral Affairs. There were no further nominations from the floor. **A motion to close the nominations was made by Tom Jaworski, seconded by Evan Lee. Motion carried.**

The nominating committee presented Patty Ritchie as a candidate for the office of Chair of Orchestral Affairs. There were no further nominations from the floor. **A motion to close the nominations was made by Matt Sheppard, seconded by Larry Rathbun. Motion carried.**

The nominating committee presented Deb Lund and Sharon Hoffman as candidates for the office of Apprentice Membership/Mentoring Chair. There were no further nominations from the floor. **A motion to close the nominations was made by Cathy Keiser, seconded by Rick Mitchell. Motion carried.**

The nominating committee presented Doug Bush and Clark Roush as candidates for the office of Chair of College/University Affairs. There were no further nominations from the floor. **A motion to close the nominations was made by Evan Lee, seconded by Brian Regier. Motion carried.**

The nominating committee presented Diane Lewis and Sarah Boeka as candidates for the office of Chair of Middle Level Affairs. There were no further nominations from the floor. **A motion to close the nominations was made by Jim Schulz, seconded by Andrew Johnson. Motion carried.**

A motion to accept the entire slate of officers and close all further nominations was made by Larry Rathbun, seconded by Mike Koch. Motion carried.

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Rex Barker thanked everyone for attending. There are no special announcements at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

AUDITIONS INFORMATION:

Auditions Chair Tom Jaworski gave an overview of the discussion held at the auditions meeting. Members in attendance expressed concerns about inconsistencies in some chorus judging, some of the choral audition material possibly being biased against students of different races or cultural backgrounds, and the possibility of adding sight reading to auditions.

A general discussion was held on audition issues, including the third set of instrumental etudes and the switch to digital auditions. Mark Jones asked if it was possible to broadcast the final All-State concerts on NETV and if ribbons could be provided for the medals given to All-State students. President Barker explained that NMEA has explored the possibility of televising the All-State concerts but NETV does not have enough equipment or personal to record the concerts at the same time as they are televising the state football championships. Since the two events will be on different days in 2009 it may be possible to televise the concerts. Aaron Svoboda asked about the possibility of sharing judge's feedback with directors and students. Tom Jaworski explained that our current system does not allow for that possibility. The judge's forms are not educational tools but are a system for ranking students. Any director who wishes to see where their student ranks compared to the last selected student may obtain that information by contacting the NMEA Auditions Chair.

President Barker presented the following statement as adopted at the NMEA Executive Board's dinner meeting: *NMEA will consider requests to excuse students because of religious obligations from a portion of the Wednesday chair placements or the Wednesday evening rehearsal after all options have been reviewed. NMEA can only allow reasonable excused absences from these obligations when they do not cause an undue negative impact on the All-State music ensembles. The sponsoring music director will be responsible for compensating for any rehearsal details the student may miss. This question will be added to the All-State Participant's Contract: "Will you have any religious obligations that will cause you to miss Wednesday chair placements or any part of the Wednesday evening rehearsal?"* This statement will also be placed on the NMEA web site.

MENC NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD INFORMATION:

Glenn Nierman gave a report on a number of issues facing the MENC National Executive Board:

- There is the possibility of an increase in MENC dues.
- There will be major changes in the MENC National Conference. In odd numbered years it will be a professional development conference held in Washington D.C. In even numbered years it will

be called the *Music Education National Conference* and will be held in the western part of the US, perhaps in March.

- Work is progressing on a performance division of the conference. This will be a competition known as the “President’s Cup” with nominees from each state. Plans call for a televised final with one ensemble declared the winner of the competition. Groups can also choose to perform for comments only. Details of this competition are not yet finalized and may be changed.

Dr. Nierman answered questions from the membership on details of the proposed changes as they would impact performances by guest ensembles, exhibits and displays, and the location and scheduling of the conference. He explained that this is very much a “work in progress” and all MENC members should be alert for more details as they are published in weekly email updates, in MENC monthly publications, and on the MENC web site.

COMMENTS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP:

- Questions were asked about how a move to digital auditions would impact All-State chair placements. [No specific plans to change our current system are being considered.]
- Several directors expressed concern about digital recordings of the vocal auditions. The opinion was voiced that it would be a step backward if vocal auditions are recorded at individual schools rather than at the audition site. It would eliminate the value of a live performance.

A motion to adjourn was made by Clayton Moyer and seconded by Larry Rathbun. The meeting was declared adjourned by President Barker.