

Nebraska Music Educators Association

Executive Board Meeting

February 7, 2009

Daugherty Center – Hastings College

Hastings, Nebraska

[Prior to the meeting the auditions committee met to review 2008 auditions and All-State and begin planning for the 2009 auditions.]

The winter meeting of the Nebraska Music Educators Association Executive Board was called to order by President Rex Barker at 10:05 a.m., February 7, 2009 with the following officers present: Rex Barker, Neal Schnoor, Joyce Patch, Bryan Johnson, Judy Bush, Sarah Boeka, Roger Thaden, Matt Sheppard, Dave Klein, Kim Wiedeman, Kelly Meyer, and Ashley Lawton. (Daniel Laing attended the morning session.) Also in attendance were apprentices Sharon Hoffman, Patty Ritchie and Ross Whiston. Not attending were Lance Nielsen, Nicole Chapman, Duane Johnson, Becky Wilhelm, Marilyn Godby and Doug Bush.

President Barker welcomed everyone and extended a special thank you to Hastings College President Phil Dudley and Music Chair Robin Koozer for their hospitality and the use of the outstanding facility. Dr. Dudley and Dr Koozer were present to extend a warm welcome from Hastings College. All board members were asked to introduce themselves before the meeting began.

Secretary/Treasurer Bryan Johnson presented the minutes of the August 16, 2008 Executive Board Meeting. **On a motion by Roger Thaden, seconded by Kim Wiedeman, the minutes were approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

Secretary/Treasurer Bryan Johnson presented the minutes of the November 20, 2008 Executive Board Dinner Meeting. **On a motion by Dave Klein, seconded by Roger Thaden, the minutes were approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

Secretary/Treasurer Johnson presented a treasurer's report indicating a checking account balance of \$36,939.20, a scholarship account balance of \$2,463.11, and certificates of deposit totaling \$118,953.62. **On a motion by Kelly Meyer, seconded by Roger Thaden, the treasurer's report was accepted as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

President Barker asked if there were any changes or additions to the published agenda. Added to the agenda were the following information items: MENC's Wii Music Program, MENC Teaching Awards, LB 228, and the Lowell Mason Fellowship.

It was moved by Roger Thaden, seconded by Matt Sheppard, that the agenda be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Neal Schnoor, seconded by Matt Sheppard: The consent agenda will be adopted. Motion carried and the following two motions were approved:

- **NMEA will combine the board positions of Advocacy Chair and Public Relations Chair and rewrite the job descriptions accordingly. [This action requires a change in the NMEA Constitution. This change will be placed on the agenda of the annual business meeting in November.]**

- **NMEA will donate \$50.00 to the NMEA/NMDEA Memorial Grant Fund in memory of Julie Soderquist.**

BOARD REPORTS

PRESIDENT – Rex Barker welcomed all new board members and thanked returning board members for their work on behalf of music education.

- Contracts have been signed with the Lied Center for the 2009, 2010, and 2011 conferences. He is now working on new contracts for the video, photo, and apparel vendors.
- The budget committee met and has a balanced budget to present for approval. This is a challenging task in the current economic situation.
- Rex attended the NFHS Annual Music Conference in Indianapolis last November.
- Rex and several other board members attended the MENC North Central Division meetings in Indianapolis on January 22-24, 2009. Topics discussed included the changes in the MENC National Conference, the National Anthem project, and a national music contest. There will be a three dollar increase in MENC dues. Initiatives are underway to better music education, including the Petition for Equal Access to Music Education. The MENC National Assembly will meet in Washington DC on June 17-21, 2009. The next North Central Division Conference will be January 27-29, 2011 in Cincinnati.
- Rex hopes to be able to attend the Symposium on Music Assessments in Education in Gainesville, Florida in April.
- Rex has been in contact with Roger Breed, the new Nebraska Education Commissioner, to arrange a meeting regarding funding for a state music or fine arts coordinator.
- NMEA needs to seek ways to involve Mrs. Nebraska with our programs. The current Mrs. Nebraska has suffered hearing loss and has regained most of her hearing through a middle ear implant. She volunteers with many hearing related issues.
- Future meetings of the NMEA board will be May 2, 2009 at the Holiday Inn in Lincoln, August 15, 2009 at the University of Nebraska – Kearney, and November 18, 2009 at the NMEA Conference in Lincoln.

PRESIDENT-ELECT – Neal Schnoor reported that plans for the 2009 conference are progressing nicely. The deadline for session proposals is March 1 and many of the time slots have been filled. He asked that board members study the schedule as it now exists and get back to him with all questions and potential problems. It is especially important that the ensemble chairs take a close look at the details of their ensembles rehearsals, placements, luggage storage, etc.

Changes were made in the rooms used for the final warm-ups of the Band and Orchestra. Luggage and instrument storage for those ensembles will also be changed as needed.

Ideas for sessions and clinicians are still needed. Please send ideas to Neal as soon as possible. The board also discussed concerns about the shift in conference dates and how it may affect teacher's release time, student availability, attendance, etc.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT – Lance Nielsen was unable to attend the meeting as he was presenting at the Tri M Symposium at the Utah MEA Conference. His report thanked Judy Bush for her help in setting up the February ESU In-Service at Nebraska City. The ESU 10 in-service has been postponed until the fall. Candidates are now being considered for the 2009 board elections. The nominating committee is Bill Roehrs (District 1), Jennifer Orvis (District 2), Brad Weber (District 3), Phil Hesterman (District 4), Jody Liess (District 4), and Brad Ronne (District 6). \$4,500.00 was donated by corporate sponsors and the updated sponsor list is on the NMEA website.

SECRETARY/TREASURER – Bryan Johnson reported on several items:

- Attendance at the 2008 conference was excellent. Actual attendance included 707 pre-registered NMEA members and 63 NMEA members registered on-site, 304 CMENC members and 218 Tri

M students. There were also 325 non-NMEA members in attendance and 757 All-State students, making a grand total attendance of 2,374.

- NMEA membership now stands at 1,863 (Active – 824; Retired – 63; CMENC – 367; Tri M – 609)
- Bryan reviewed the NMEA financial policies as they regard board members. All board members need to have a new conflict of interest form on file.
- NMEA members are eligible for reimbursement for travel expenses to MENC events. Please contact him to determine your actual amounts.
- NMEA funding for the scholarship/grant program is now automatically transferred from the long-term savings. In 2009 the amount transferred will be about \$2,300.00.
- The All-State application program will be revised this spring. The program will remain about the same but the accompanying audition booklet will be eliminated.
- The Band and Orchestra chairs should select the 2009 All-State excerpts as soon as possible. Send all selected music to Bryan for processing.
- All NMEA board members were given a chance to review the official conflict of interest policy and ask questions about this policy. A new form must be signed each year and placed on file with the Secretary/Treasurer.
- New NMEA board members were given a chance to review the official NMEA Employee and Board Member Protection (Whistleblower) policy and ask questions about this policy. A form needs to be signed and placed on file with the Secretary/Treasurer.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/EDITOR – Joyce Patch reported on several items:

- Joyce extended thanks to everyone for their work at the 2008 conference. Special thanks to the retiring board members and welcome to all new members of the board.
- Email is the board's primary means of communication to be sure to check your email daily. Let the rest of the board know if you will be away from your email for any length of time. Be sure to keep a list of all deadlines. Please let Joyce know immediately if you are having trouble meeting any deadline.
- Joyce shared a list of the articles needed for the *Nebraska Music Educator* magazine.
- The NMEA Young Leaders Retreat will be held July 20-21 in Kearney. Hotel and meeting rooms have been secured at the Country Inn Suites. Nominations are due by March 1.
- Thank you letters have been sent to conference clinicians, conductors, etc. Letters have also been sent to colleges and universities reminding them that they must contact the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel by March 1 if they wish to reserve space for a reception prior to the NMEA banquet.
- Please contact Joyce if you need a phone card.
- NMEA envelopes are available from Joyce.
- The desktop and laptop computers used by the Executive Director were purchased in 2003 and can no longer run the software needed to produce the *Nebraska Music Educator* magazine and other business applications. Joyce is working with a computer technician to select new computers that will run the needed software.

CHAIR OF AUDITIONS – Matt Sheppard reported that the “intent to host” forms have been sent to all audition sites. The faculty at UNO will adjudicate this year's audition tapes. The contacts will be Cynthia Nichols and Jim Saker. All contracts have been received for the composing of the third set of All-State etudes. He will stay in contact with the composers to try to keep the project on schedule. Matt thanked Lance, Joyce and Judy for helping survey the membership to get their ideas about proposed changes to the audition system.

Matt presented a summary of the topics discussed at the auditions meeting held prior to the start of the regular board meeting. Plans call for the purchase of hand held digital recorders and their use in this fall's instrumental auditions. He also stressed the importance of having a board member at each of the audition sites during the auditions.

HISTORIAN – Duane Johnson was unable to attend the meeting. His report indicated that work on the archives is an ongoing process. The criteria and subsequent presentation for the Hall of Fame has been reviewed by the Past Presidents Council and a new form is being devised. There have already been inquiries about the process and one candidate's materials have arrived. The retired members have

received a questionnaire regarding their mentoring activity. NMEA should establish a written philosophy and guidelines regarding mentoring.

President Barker asked for volunteers for a committee to help Duane with the task of identifying the retired membership and documenting their mentoring efforts. Board members designated to assist Duane are Roger Thaden, Neal Schnoor, and Sharon Hoffman.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/ADVOCACY – Judy Bush reported that she will attend advocacy and education meetings of the Nebraskans for the Arts at the end of January/beginning of February and a legislative breakfast on January 29. An in-service will be held at ESU 4 on February 16 with Rosanne Liesveld presenting. NMEA will have a display at the NSBA Convention on March 5 and 6.

Judy emphasized the fact that if NMEA wants a Fine Arts person at the state Department of Education a financial solution must be in place.

CHAIR OF ELEMENTARY/GENERAL MUSIC AFFAIRS – Nicole Chapman was unable to attend the meeting. She reported that the elementary sessions at the 2008 conference had great attendance and there was positive feedback concerning the Meet and Greet session. Nicole is hoping to continue working with GPOC and the Kodaly chapter for another elementary event this fall.

CHAIR OF COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS – Doug Bush was unable to attend the meeting. He reported that he and Ashley Lawton are working on the CMENC Spring Forum. He will be in touch with chapter advisers to discuss ideas concerning CMENC events, coordination between chapters, and other issues.

CHAIR OF MIDDLE LEVEL/JUNIOR HIGH AFFAIRS – Sarah Boeka reported that Music Education week is March 2-6. Ensembles selected to perform at the capitol are the Waverly High School Singers, the Exeter-Milligan Sixth Grade Band, Paul Adams Elementary School Chorus from Lincoln, the Ashland-Greenwood Middle School Band, and the Lincoln East High School Singers.

The Westside Middle School Band, directed by Bob Jenkins, will be the demonstration ensemble for the Middle Level Reading Session at the 2009 Conference. Conductors/clinicians will be Chiyo Kamada, Roger Thaden, and Marla Janak.

There was discussion of ways to get more NMEA members to apply for programs such as Music at the Capitol. Email reminders can be sent and Joyce and Bryan will devise a schedule for these reminders. Patty Ritchie asked if a Middle Level Orchestra Reading Session could be added to the conference. Neal Schnoor encouraged the orchestra teachers to work out the details and, if possible, this event can be added to this fall's schedule.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened at 12:31 p.m.

EXHIBITS – Marilyn Godby was unable to attend the meeting. She reported that there were 65 exhibits, three affiliate booths, and 11 complimentary tables at the 2008 conference. There were two businesses on the waiting list and no cancellations. The adjusted total income was \$26,335.00. The expenses at the Embassy Suites totaled \$14,996.81 leaving an estimated profit of \$11,339.19. In 2009 the Embassy will increase charges. NMEA has already updated the amounts we charge for exhibits for 2009 to reflect these increases.

The NMEA Directory is almost ready to go to the printer. The NMDEA Past President's Council will meet in March to determine the disbursement of the NMDEA dues to the NMEA and NSBA grant/scholarship programs.

CHAIR OF CHORAL AFFAIRS – Kelly Meyer reported that the 2008 All-State Chorus was very successful and the conductor was very pleased with the outcome. Choral auditions went smoothly. The 2009 conductor will be Elena Sharkova. Kelly has already been in touch regarding the repertoire and the production of the choral rehearsal CDs.

CHAIR OF BAND AFFAIRS – Kim Wiedeman reported that Joe Missal of Oklahoma State University will be the conductor of the 2009 All-State Band. A repertoire has been selected and the final details are now being worked out.

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

CHAIR OF COLLEGIATE MEMBERS (CMENC) – Ashley Lawton reported that plans are underway for the 2009 Spring Forum which will be held at UNK on March 28, 2009. Ashley is working on a blog/website as a communication tool for CMENC members. She will be soliciting ideas and suggestions for the sessions at the 2009 conference.

Patty Ritchie emphasized the importance of the CMENC students as the future of our profession. She encouraged the board to continue to use the collegiate members as much as possible.

MEMBERSHIP/MENTORING CHAIR – Roger Thaden reported that the 2009 NMEA Directory is now at the printers and should be mailed shortly. This year's directories will be mailed directly from Gordon Bernard Co. Roger has researched various changes possible in the medals presented to All-State students. The size and shape of the medal can be altered, as well as making them available with a ribbon or lanyard. Seven corporate sponsor's plaques have been ordered.

Discussion followed on the philosophy of the All-State medals and their importance, or lack of importance, to the students, parents and directors. Should the medals be worn at the concerts? Do the students appreciate the medals? Is it worth the cost? There was also discussion about the plaques that are presented to corporate sponsors (other than at the \$100 level). The consensus of the board was that an "add-on" could be devised to eliminate the necessity of purchasing a new plaque every year.

In order to meet another commitment, Dave Klein had to leave the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

TRI M CHAIR – Becky Wilhelm was unable to attend the meeting and had no report at this time.

RESEARCH – Daniel Laing had no report at this time.

INFORMATION ITEMS

CONFERENCE UPDATE – Neal Schnoor gave an update on progress toward this fall's conference. Neal asked board members to continue to study the conference schedule and time line and let him know of any potential conflicts or areas of concern. The move to a Wednesday – Friday schedule will necessitate several major changes, including moving the first day's schedule back two hours to help with travel time and to resolve scheduling conflicts. There will be no opening concert. The CMENC sessions will be held entirely at Westbrook Music Building.

LEADSHIP RETREAT – The leadership retreat for young music educators will be held at Kearney on July 20 and 21. Joyce Patch reported that nominations are needed. There was discussion on whether more needs to be done to keep the teachers who have been identified as young leaders in the profession. Judy Bush asked if the wrong impression may be given by calling this a "leadership retreat". The board briefly discussed what needs to be done to continue to mentor these individuals and also keep them actively involved in NMEA. Discussion will continue on how NMEA envisions this project and how it can be further refined.

STRATEGIC PLAN – President Barker asked board members to review the current strategic plan so everyone has the overall goals of the association in mind as they go about working on various projects. President Elect Schnoor will present some of the ideas and goals for his Presidency at the May board meeting and the next strategic planning will take place at the August meeting.

NMEA SHIRTS – President Barker asked board members to let him know if they need an official NMEA board member's shirt. All new board members will need the shirt by this fall.

Wii MUSIC – President Barker gave a brief overview of the Wii Music Program. Through MENC, two Nebraska music educators have received complimentary Wii music systems from Nintendo to use in their classrooms.

MENC MUSIC AWARDS – President Barker explained that MENC is looking for nominations for a new program honoring outstanding music educators in all areas of the profession.

LB 228 – A bill has been introduced in the legislature that would prohibit schools from joining any organization that prohibited students from participating in activities such as club sports during the athletic season. This bill would have tremendous impact on the Nebraska School Activities Association. NMEA will continue to monitor this situation.

LOWELL MASON FELLOWSHIP – President Barker announced that Nancy Ditmer of Ohio has been chosen as a Lowell Mason Fellow for her work with MENC, Ohio MEA, and the North Central Division. Nebraska was one of the states sponsoring Nancy's nomination.

The board had a discussion on ways to work for the reestablishment of funding for the Fine Arts position at the State Department of Education. President Barker will work to establish a working relationship with Dr. Roger Breed, the new Commissioner of Education.

ACTION ITEMS – OLD BUSINESS

There were no items of old business.

ACTION ITEMS – NEW BUSINESS

BUDGET ITEMS:

ALL-STATE APPLICATION FEE INCREASE – Motion by Kelly Meyer, seconded by Kim Wiedeman: In order to partially defray the costs involved with the switch to digital auditions, NMEA will increase the All-State audition fee from \$18.00 to \$20.00. The fee for applications not sent by email will be raised from \$28.00 to \$30.00. Motion carried unanimously.

CHORUS CD PRICE INCREASE – Motion by Roger Thaden, seconded by Kelly Meyer: In order to cover increased costs of CDs and postage, the cost of All-State Chorus Rehearsal CDs will be increased to \$16.00 each. Shipping/handling fees will be \$1.00 per CD with a maximum cost of \$10.00 per order. Motion carried unanimously.

USE OF LONG TERM SAVINGS TO FUND SPECIAL PROJECTS – Motion by Neal Schnoor, seconded by Kim Wiedeman: NMEA will reserve funds from long-term savings to fund special projects as follows: \$2,700.00 for computer equipment for the Executive Director, \$5,000.00 for the purchase of digital recorders for instrumental All-State auditions, and \$8,400.00 for the composition of a third set of All-State etudes. The board had a discussion on whether the amount designated for computer equipment is enough to handle the necessary purchases. Secretary/Treasurer Johnson explained that the amounts designated are not necessarily the total amount of funding. Rather this is the amount covered from long-term savings. Anything over that amount can be paid from the regular business account. **Motion carried unanimously.**

2009 NMEA BUDGET – Motion by Neal Schnoor, seconded by Matt Sheppard: The 2009 NMEA budget is accepted as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

2011 AUDITION DATE CHANGE – Motion by Kelly Meyer, seconded by Kim Wiedeman: Due to the fact that Yom Kippur and the traditional date of All-State auditions fall on the same day in 2011, NMEA will hold All-State auditions one week later that year: **October 15, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.** Board members who are involved with auditions and All-State should be alert to the fact that there will be one week less that year to process audition results, mail music and information, etc. (This is the same schedule NMEA will use in 2012 to avoid a conflict with the Harvest of Harmony.)

MUSIC LENDING LIBRARY – Motion by Matt Sheppard, seconded by Sarah Boeka: In order to make used All-State music available to all NMEA members, NMEA will establish a lending library of the used All-State music, replacing the current system of offering the music for sale at half price. Bryan Johnson explained that the music is stored at his home and very little is resold. This music could be rented to schools or individuals with the only fee being \$10.00 per title to cover shipping and handling. The loan period would be for either a semester or a school year. Borrowers would receive the music with the understanding that they would be responsible for returning all parts in good condition and they would be responsible for paying any applicable fees for performance rights. There was discussion on the details of administering this system and how it might affect local music dealers. **The motion carried with seven board members voting Yes and Neal Schnoor voting No.**

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

- **Motion by Roger Thaden, seconded by Sarah Boeka: The Corporate Sponsor recognition plaques design will be changed to include “add-ons” to replace the new plaques presented annually. Motion carried unanimously.**
- There was discussion on possible changes in the current system of All-State medals. Ideas presented included separate medals for third year All-State students, a photo of the third year All-State students, wearing the medals at the All-State concerts, and retaining our current practice. The consensus of the board was to take no action at this time and revisit this issue in the future.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Matt Sheppard, seconded by Kelly Meyer. President Barker declared the meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.