

**Nebraska Music Educators Association Executive Board Dinner Meeting
November 18, 2009
Embassy Suites
Lincoln, Nebraska**

The dinner meeting of the Executive Board of the Nebraska Music Educators Association was called to order at 5:50 pm by President Rex Barker. A quorum of voting members was present. Minutes were taken by Doran Johnson due to the absence of Secretary/Treasurer Bryan Johnson.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approval of 2008 Financial Report – Neal Schnoor made the following motion, seconded by Lance Nielsen: The NMEA formally approves the 2008 financial review and the 2008 990 forms as prepared by the accounting firm of Morrow, Davies, and Toelle, PC. Motion carried unanimously.

Memorial Donations – Roger Thaden made the following motion, seconded by Matt Sheppard: NMEA will donate \$50.00 to the NMEA/NMDEA Memorial Grant Fund in memory of Joe Skutchan. Motion carried unanimously.

Auditions Report: Matt Sheppard encouraged board members to attend the annual auditions meeting. Among the items he will mention at the meeting are the following:

- The digital recordings of instrumental auditions were well received.
- Adjudicators were positive about this change.
- Chorus directors will be asked to consider the possibility of including vocal All-State auditions in the digital process.
- There has been a request for another audition site in North Central Nebraska. Valentine High School has expressed an interest in hosting an audition site.
- There will be discussion regarding the impact of weather on the vocal quotas.

Announcements:

President Elect Schnoor asked board members to consider all aspects of the conference as regards the change to a Wednesday – Friday format. He is very interested in your feedback on the success of this format.

The President's reception will be held at Embassy Room 927 after the banquet on Thursday.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

**Nebraska Music Educators Association Annual Business Meeting
November 18, 2009
119 Westbrook Music Building
Lincoln, Nebraska**

[All officers reports, the minutes of the 2008 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 8:00 p.m.

Aaron Svoboda moved to approve the minutes of the 2008 business meeting as printed in the packet of reports. The motion was seconded by Joe Chapman. The motion carried unanimously.

Rick Mitchell moved to approve the treasurer's report as printed in the packet of reports. The motion was seconded by Brian Regier. The motion carried unanimously.

President Rex Barker shared a welcome from John Richmond, Director of the UNL School of Music. Dr. Richmond was traveling and unable to attend.

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 hard work and dedication. Nebraska music education has a great reputation statewide and nationally – through NMEA we are making a positive impact. President Barker also reported on several items:

- The second annual *Music Education Week in Washington* will be held June 24-29, 2010 in Washington, D.C. This event provides MENC members with opportunities for music education advocacy, intensive professional development, and performances in the DC area.
- The 2010 Biennial Music Educators National Conference with special focus on Research in Music Education and Music Teacher Education will be held March 25-27 in Anaheim, California. This conference will be designed to provide opportunities for leaders in research, pedagogy, and practice to present their ideas and to learn from colleagues across the nation.
- NMEA's contracts with our vendors have been updated and clarified. Contracts with the conference hotels will be negotiated following this convention.
- NMEA has held discussions regarding the position of Fine Arts Coordinator at the State Department of Education with Governor Heineman and Commissioner of Education Dr. Roger Breed. NMEA is meeting with other arts organizations to create a unified effort to reestablish this position. Please watch for communications that will give you specific talking points to share with legislators from your area of the state as we move toward this goal.
- The second biennial Young Leaders Retreat was held last July. Young leaders from the first two workshops are currently sharing their leadership skills with NMEA and their local communities. The next leadership retreat will be held in the summer of 2011.
- Please be an active member of NMEA and communicate often with the leadership of the association. Be ready to take a leadership role when the call comes.
- The 2010 NMEA Conference will be held on Thursday, November 18 to Saturday, November 20, 2010. The 2011 NMEA Conference will be held on Wednesday, November 16 to Friday, November 18, 2011.

PRESIDENT-ELECT – President-Elect Neal Schnoor reported that the theme for the 2009 conference is *Expanding Our View of Music Education*. The keynote address and many of the conference sessions will feature barrier-breaking and diverse ideas to expand the traditional approaches to music education. This year's conference will feature fifteen performing ensembles, twelve demonstration groups, forty-eight general sessions presented by forty-nine different clinicians, two reading sessions and a choral conducting master class, two CMENC clinic sessions and an instrumental conducting master class, fifteen organizational meetings, the CMENC showcase recital, and the ninth annual Tri-M Symposium.

Planning for the 2010 Conference is well underway. Please share your suggestions for clinicians and clinic sessions. Please consider submitting an application for one of your ensembles to perform next year.

PAST PRESIDENT – Past President Lance Nielsen thanked the nominating committee for their work and presented the slate of officers for the 2010 NMEA Executive Board.

Corporate sponsor's funds have been used to help finance the NMEA Leadership Retreat in Kearney and staff development workshops held in conjunction with the state's Educational Service Units. Please contact incoming President-Elect Rex Barker with your suggestions for projects that can be financed using Corporate Sponsor funds. This year twenty-two corporate sponsors contributed over \$4,000.00 in support of music education.

The 2010 Awards review committee consisted of Barb Mock, Judy Bush, Royce Schweitzer, and Janelle Reetz. Thanks to everyone who took the time to nominate their colleagues for recognition. Award winners will be announced at the NMEA Banquet.

The NMEA 75th Anniversary committee is continuing to work on ideas for a special celebration in 2011. Please contact either Lance or Executive Director Joyce Patch with your ideas.

SECRETARY/TREASURER – Bryan Johnson reported on several areas:

- The current world-wide financial downturn is having an impact on NMEA's finances. Long-term investments were down slightly this year and will be lower in 2010. This has occurred because we were able to guarantee interest rates two years ago. Those rates are no longer available and, as our investments come due for renewal, lower rates and shorter terms are being offered. Expenses at the conference venues have seen a substantial increase this year. To maintain all programs and services while limiting expenses, NMEA has attempted to cut costs in areas such as postage and printing. More communications are being sent by email rather than through the US mail. Please be sure that NMEA has your correct email address on file.
- Membership totals on November 1, 2009 include 849 active members and 70 retired members. There are 205 CMENC and 261 Tri M members at this time.
- There were 3,210 All-State applications this year. Instrumental auditions increased slightly. There were 93 fewer vocal applications than in 2008.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EDITOR, WEBMASTER – Joyce Patch reported on several topics:

- Advertising in the *Nebraska Music Educator* magazine has declined due to the current economic situation. Please inform NMEA if you have an address change. It is very expensive when the postal service returns a magazine as undeliverable. Some states across the country are investigating putting their magazines online and stopping print publications. How do you feel about this issue? Would you read an online magazine? Do you prefer the printed magazine? Please contact Joyce with your thoughts.
- The summer leadership retreat had thirteen participants. The event was successful and the participants plan to stay in contact with each other as well as with the participants of the 2007 retreat.
- Several cost cutting measures were implemented this year. Two mailings – the exhibits contract and the magazine advertising flyer – were sent together to save money. The NMEA postage meter was returned to Pitney Bowes to save the monthly rental fees. As much as possible, email is now used for communication rather than the US postal service.
- Please be sure to vote tomorrow at either the Holiday Inn or the Embassy Suites.

CHAIR OF AUDITIONS – Matt Sheppard reported that it has been an eventful year for NMEA auditions. 92 new Olympus W210-S digital recorders were purchased and used for the instrumental All-State auditions. Site directors were trained on the new equipment and were given ample time to train their local workers. Thanks to work done by Doug Johnson, band director at Omaha Creighton Prep High School, the optimum settings were determined for the new equipment. The new equipment worked very well and all auditions were recorded successfully at the eleven audition sites.

The commissioned set of third year instrumental etudes is progressing well. The board plans to implement the new etudes in a timely manner. There are also discussions on adding sight reading to the audition process.

The snowstorm that hit the state on the day of auditions – October 10 – effected some areas of the state more severely than others. Matt extended a thank you to board members and site directors who accommodated schedules for those students who were delayed by the weather conditions. Unfortunately, there were cases where students were unable to make their auditions. From a vocal standpoint, the number of missed auditions was minimal and there was little to no effect on the quotas.

Matt shared detailed results on the number of All-State auditions, cancellations, students accepted, and students not accepted. Please encourage your talented musicians to audition.

CHAIR OF CHORAL AFFAIRS – Kelly Meyer reported that this year's chorus consists of 442 students. Ruth Moore of Hastings College is the accompanist. There will also be an accordion player and three percussionists for *Libertango*. The solo in *This Little Light of Mine* will be sung by two tenors, as per the conductor's request. There were concerns regarding the range for the Bass II's in *O Tebe Raduyetsia*. The number of singers auditioning for that part did decline but there was no problem filling the required quota.

CHAIR OF BAND AFFAIRS – Kimberly Wiedeman reported that the All-State Band and its conductor, Joseph Missal from Oklahoma State University, have everything ready for rehearsals to begin. Two alternates have been placed in the Band due to cancellations. All percussion needs have been addressed and teachers have been recruited to help with chair placement auditions and sectionals.

CHAIR OF ORCHESTRA AFFAIRS – Dave Klein reported that William Jones of the University of Iowa is the conductor of the 2009 All-State Orchestra. He extended a special thanks to Larry Maupin for many years of writing the program notes for the final program. Thanks were also extended to all who helped with the sectionals and auditions held on Wednesday afternoon.

MEMBERSHIP/MENTORING – Roger Thaden reported that work continues on designing an implementable statewide mentorship program. Active networking remains our current plan of action. The NMEA membership calendar and directory were completed and distributed as in the past.

HISTORIAN – Historian Duane Johnson reported that the NMEA Archives are up to date and more material comes in all of the time. Three individuals have been elected to the Hall of Fame this year – Linda Donohue, Gary Davis, and William Roehrs. Retired music educators have received a newsletter that included a questionnaire regarding mentoring in the state and a request for personal information.

CHAIR OF COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS – Doug Bush reported that there are thirteen active CMENC chapters in the state. The 2009 CMENC Forum is in place with sessions at the Nebraska Union and Westbrook Music Building. The Outstanding Chapter Award and the Student Teacher Grants will be awarded at the NMEA banquet. There were no applicants from Nebraska for the John Lennon/BMI Scholarship.

CHAIR OF COLLEGIATE MEMBERS – Ashley Lawton reported on activities of the state's CMENC chapters. The Spring Forum was held on March 28, 2009 at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Three CMENC chapters were represented. The forum will be evaluated to try to make this event more appealing to students as attendance has been low. Communication between the state's chapters continues to be difficult. A statewide collegiate newsletter will be used to help chapters communicate with each other.

ADVOCACY/PUBLIC RELATIONS – Judy Bush reported on events and projects from 2009:

- There was a breakfast meeting last January with state senators to discuss support for the arts.
- On February 16 NMEA provided clinicians for music in-service held at ESU4. This event will be held again in 2010.
- NMEA provided an exhibit booth at the NSBA Convention in March and the NCDA Conference at Doane College in July.
- The annual concerts held at the capitol building to celebrate *Music in Our Schools Month* and Nebraska statehood week took place the first week of March.
- In July a meeting was held with a Lincoln television station and with representatives from NET 2 to discuss televising the All-State concerts.
- A meeting with Dr. Roger Breed took place in September to discuss the need for a fine arts coordinator and possible funding for the position.

CHAIR OF RESEARCH – Daniel Laing had no report at this time.

CHAIR OF ELEMENTARY/GENERAL MUSIC AFFAIRS – Nicole Chapman thanked all of the NMEA members who volunteered to preside over clinic sessions and concerts. Over sixty presidors were used in 2009. A new “Share the Wealth” table for elementary music teachers was introduced this year. Nicole also attended elementary workshops sponsored by local Orff and Kodaly organizations to make contacts with those organizations and NMEA.

CHAIR OF MIDDLE LEVEL/JUNIOR HIGH AFFAIRS – Sarah Boeka reported that Music Education Week at the Capitol is set for March 1-5, 2010. Completed applications and the audition CD are due to her by January 15, 2010. Sarah also thanked NMEA members who volunteered to preside over conference sessions. Your assistance to the guest clinicians is invaluable.

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 \$26,315.00. (This figure does not include the expenses from the Embassy and Midwest Tent & Events.) The exhibit area is at capacity – 102 booths plus eight additional booths in the East Hallway.

Costs at the Embassy Suites will go up this year. Fees charged for NMEA exhibits are \$250.00 for the first booth (which includes the \$25.00 NMDEA annual dues) and \$225.00 for each additional booth. Additional 6' by 1.5' tables are available at \$20.00 each and electrical outlet costs are \$30.00 each. Exhibit booth signs and pre- and post-shipment of materials is provided by Midwest Tent & Events.

NMDEA continues its support of music education in Nebraska by providing funds to the NMDEA Grant fund and the NSBA Scholarship fund.

TRI M CHAIR – Rebecca Wilhelm reported that there are ten active Tri-M Chapters in the state in November 2009. You can activate a Tri M chapter at any time – simply contact Becky. This year's Tri M Symposium included about 125 students. Sessions included presentations by the 2007 NMEA Young Leaders, a freelance recording/mixing engineer from San Diego, and MENC President Barbara Geer.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PRESENTATION OF SLATE OF OFFICERS:

Past President Lance Nielsen presented the slate of officers recommended by the nominating committee. This year's nominating committee was Bill Roehrs of Lincoln (District 1), Jennifer Orvis of Plattsmouth

(District 2), Brad Weber of Wayne (District 3), Phil Hesterman of Grand Island (District 4), Jody Liess of Cambridge (District 5), and Brad Ronne of Scottsbluff (District 6).

The nominating committee presented Annette Mitchell and Judy Welch as candidates for the office of Chair of Elementary Affairs. There were no further nominations from the floor. **A motion to close the nominations was made by Aaron Svoboda, seconded by Rick Mitchell. Motion carried.**

The nominating committee presented Andrew Johnson and Bryan Bohm as candidates for the office of Apprentice Chair of Band Affairs. There were no further nominations from the floor. **A motion to close the nominations was made by Brian Regier, seconded by Daniel Abrahams. Motion carried.**

The nominating committee presented Judy Bush as a candidate for the office of President Elect. There were no further nominations from the floor. **A motion to close the nominations was made by Rick Mitchell, seconded by Aaron Svoboda. Motion carried.**

A motion to accept the entire slate of officers and close all further nominations was made by Tom Jaworski, seconded by Gary Davis. Motion carried.

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Neal Schnoor extended a thank you to everyone who helped move this conference to a Wednesday – Friday schedule. He encouraged attendees to go to sessions outside of their regular teaching area. A lot can be learned by watching music educators outside of your own area.

Ken Molzer suggested that the start of this business meeting be delayed fifteen to thirty minutes so members can watch the start of the All-State rehearsals.

NMEA's 75th anniversary is in 2011. Please continue to share your ideas for special celebrations with Past President Lance Nielsen.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES:

President Barker explained the proposed changes to the NMEA Bylaws. These changes were proposed to reflect recent changes in the make-up of the Executive Board and their job descriptions.

Bylaw III - Government, Section 4 will be changed as follows:

- The appointed board position of *Chair, Advocacy* will be combined with the Public Relations board position and will be known as *Advocacy/Public Relations*.
- The words "Chair of Research/Chair Nebraska Coalition for Music Education (NCME)" will be deleted as this board position no longer exists.
- The job description of the Secretary/Treasurer will be changed by deleting the words "shall send out notice of all meetings" and the words "shall be the membership chairman of the Association."

Bylaw V - Administration, Section 1 will be changed as follows:

- The job description of the Executive Director will be changed by deleting the words "handle matters that pertain to government relations".

Tom Jaworski, seconded by Roger Thaden, moved that the proposed changes to the NMEA Bylaws be approved as printed. Motion Carried.

AUDITIONS INFORMATION:

Auditions Chair Matt Sheppard presented details from the auditions meeting. The switch to digital instrumental auditions went well and was very well received by the audition sites and the instrumental judges.

Several questions were raised from the floor:

- After the third set of instrumental audition etudes is ready will the current sets of Ballenger Etudes be faded out or replaced? Answer: There is no proposal to do so at this time.
- Will an accompanying CD of the third set of etudes be made? Answer: This has been discussed but there is no proposal at this time.
- Could recordings of all of the etudes be placed on the NMEA website as audio files that could be downloaded? Answer: This has been discussed. There are some copyright issues that need to be resolved before this would be possible.

MENC NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD INFORMATION:

MENC North Central Division President Glenn Nierman spoke on national issues that are now facing the national organization. 2009 saw the first annual *Music Education Week in Washington*. State conferences are expanding and are providing much of the in-service content that used to be part of the national convention. This new event takes the place of the old national convention. It will be held every June in Washington, D.C. and will stress advocacy and professional development. During even-numbered years the *Music Educators National Conference* will be held at a site in the western part of the country. The first such event will be held in March, 2010 in Anaheim, California. Students will still be part of the annual event held in Washington, D.C. through the National Honor Groups. Dr. Nierman concluded by assuring everyone that the national conference is alive and well but in a different format.

MENC National President Barbara Geer spoke on behalf of MENC and the National Executive Board (NEB). She stressed that the NEB listens to the membership and takes pride in being responsive to the needs and wishes of the membership. One of the major tasks now facing the NEB will be finding a replacement for MENC Executive Director Dr. John Mahlmann after his retirement next spring. This is a monumental task. A search firm will be hired to solicit applications and narrow those applications to a manageable number. MENC affiliated individuals will create a short list and forward that list to the NEB. Plans are for interviews to be held at the Anaheim Convention. If this time line does not work, an interim Executive Director may be appointed.

COMMENTS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP:

- Joni Osborn encouraged the board to investigate moving choral All-State auditions to a digital format to bring them closer to the procedure that now exists for instrumental auditions. She explained that this issue was discussed in this evening's auditions meeting. The quota system could be kept while using digital auditions.

A motion to adjourn was made by Tom Jaworski and seconded by Jim Schulz. The meeting was declared adjourned by President Barker at 9:10 p.m.