

**Nebraska Music Educators Association
Executive Board Meeting
May 2, 2009
Holiday Inn Express, 84th & Highway 2
Lincoln, Nebraska**

The spring meeting of the Nebraska Music Educators Association Executive Board was called to order by President Rex Barker at 10:15 a.m., May 2, 2009 with the following officers present: Rex Barker, Neal Schnoor, Lance Nielsen, Joyce Patch, Bryan Johnson, Kim Wiedeman, Dave Klein, Matt Sheppard, Nicole Chapman, Sarah Boeka, Doug Bush, Ashley Lawton, Judy Bush, and Duane Johnson. Not attending were Kelly Meyer, Roger Thaden, Marilyn Godby, and Daniel Laing. (Prior to the regular meeting the auditions committee met to discuss plans for the 2009 All-State auditions.)

AGENDA ITEMS

President Barker asked for additions and corrections to the printed agenda. He asked that one item— Review of NMEA Awards – be added to the Information Items section of the agenda.

Lance Nielsen asked that approval of the Exemplary Program Award be added to the agenda. President Barker added this item to the Consent Agenda.

It was moved by Neal Schnoor, seconded by Matt Sheppard, that the amended agenda be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Dave Klein, seconded by Lance Nielsen: The consent agenda will be adopted. Motion carried and the following motions were approved:

(Offered by Bryan Johnson) **NMEA will donate \$50.00 each to the Scholarship/Grant Fund in memory of Raymond Kelton, David Fowler, George Vondracek, and Georgine Diers.**

(The NMEA visitation team – Claudianna Todd, Ken Molzer and Lance Nielsen – recommends that Norris Public Schools be awarded the Exemplary Program Award based on the on-site observations. The committee's evaluation and recommendations will be shared with the Norris school district.) **The NMEA Executive Board will award the 2009 NMEA Exemplary Program Award to Norris Public Schools.**

BOARD REPORTS

Secretary/Treasurer Bryan Johnson presented the minutes of the February 7, 2009 Executive Board Meeting. **On a motion by Nicole Chapman, seconded by Kim Wiedeman, the minutes were approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

Secretary/Treasurer Johnson presented a treasurer's report indicating a checking account balance of \$13,097.62, a scholarship account balance of \$3,114.10, and certificates of deposit totaling \$120,192.50. **On a motion by Neal Schnoor, seconded by Doug Bush, the treasurer's report was accepted as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

Secretary/Treasurer Bryan Johnson reported that NMEA financial reports, federal tax forms, and minutes of meetings from 2004 through the present will soon be posted on our web site. These documents include

the 990 forms required of non-profit organizations. The names and addresses of board members are part of the information found on these forms.

PRESIDENT – Rex Barker reported on several items:

- Rex attended the 2nd International Symposium on Assessments in Music in Gainesville, FL. It was very informative and exciting to see what the future of music in America might be.
- He has met with Dr. Roger Breed, the new Nebraska Commissioner of Education. Dr. Breed has read our position statement on the need for a music coordinator at the Department of Education. The commissioner made no commitments until he has had a chance to review the department's working systems and budgets. He promised to meet with NMEA representatives in the future.
- A new communication system is in place between NMEA and the Lincoln Convention and Visitors Bureau. This should simplify the process of working on the NMEA conference shuttle service.
- The contracts with video, photo, awards and apparel vendors are being revised.
- Digital recorders used at Millard South High School have been tested by Matt Sheppard and Bryan Johnson for possible use with NMEA auditions.
- The *Wild Clover Band* has been contracted for the pre-banquet entertainment this fall.
- Rex brought the board up-to-date on the music program at Omaha Nation Public Schools, directed by NMEA member John Mangan. The lack of instruments for student's use was mentioned in a feature article on the music program that appeared in the *Omaha World-Herald*. That article prompted a large number of donations of instruments and money for the music program. To thank the donors personally, Omaha Nation Schools and the town of Macy held a concert and pow-wow in early April. Bryan Johnson represented NMEA and an article about the event will appear in the August issue of the *Nebraska Music Educator*.
- The next meetings of the NMEA Executive Board will be August 15, 2009 at the University of Nebraska-Kearney and November 18, 2009 at the NMEA Conference in Lincoln.

PRESIDENT-ELECT – Neal Schnoor presented an update on progress toward this fall's conference. He shared a copy of the conference schedule and asked board members to contact him with suggestions and updates. This year's conference has the theme "Expanding our View of Music Education." The keynote will be presented by MENC President Barbara Geer and Dr. Greg Byrne. (Additional information on the 2009 NMEA Conference was presented in the Information Items part of the meeting.)

[Board members discussed how absences due to religious obligations would impact the Wednesday afternoon chair tryouts and the Wednesday evening rehearsal. The question asking if there are possible religious conflicts will be included on the contract returned by selected All-State students and their parents. Information on the Wednesday All-State activities will be sent out in multiple formats – the auditions materials, CD, emails, and magazine articles.]

Dr. Schnoor mentioned that he has had conversations with Bud Dahlstrom of the NSAA regarding District Music Contests and their future. A survey of participating directors is being sent out by NSAA. Please encourage directors to return this survey.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT – Lance Nielsen reported that he is still making contacts from the nomination list for officers for the 2010 NMEA board. There was one NMEA Exemplary Award application and an on-site visitation was completed on Friday, April 17, 2009.

SECRETARY/TREASURER – Bryan Johnson reported on several items:

- The NMEA computer program is being updated for use in 2009. The format of the CD will be the same as in previous years. The audition book will be replaced with PDF files. Those files will be available on the auditions CD and on the NMEA website.
- NMEA membership now stands at 1,875 (Active – 832; Retired – 62; CMENC – 372 Tri M – 609)
- Conflict of interest forms are required from all board members. If you have not yet completed the form this year please contact Bryan.

- Orders for the All-State Chorus CDs are arriving. The CDs will be shipped beginning in mid-June.

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

- Two new computers (a desktop and a laptop) have been purchased for Joyce's office. There is a possibility that the laptop will be exchanged for a different model. The cost of the two computers, including set-up, data transfer, anti-virus software, etc. was \$3,685.39.
- A new version of Adobe Creative Suite 4 software has been purchased for design of the *Nebraska Music Educator* magazine. The old software was not compatible with the new computers.
- The exhibit and the advertising flyers were sent in one mailing. This saved the cost of a second mailing.
- Work continues on the conference database. Joyce met with Neal Schnoor at Kearney to enter data. This method of entering information works very well. The database also allows a quick check to find any room and/or time conflicts.
- The NMEA website navigation needs to be revised. Currently it is very cumbersome to make changes to the site. UNL has been contacted regarding work on a "members-only" secure part of the site but they have not responded. It may be time to explore other options for the website, including seeking other alternatives for hosting and management of the site.
- Joyce believes it is time to stop using the postage meter NMEA leases from Pitney Bowes. This will be a cost savings for NMEA.
- Several states have moved to online versions of their state publications. Joyce does not feel that the time is right for NMEA to move to online publication of the *Nebraska Music Educator*.
- Joyce will be out of the office from June 10 to June 28 to attend the MENC National Event and the National Executive Board meeting in Washington, DC. As a result, the deadline for articles for the August issue of the *Nebraska Music Educator* is June 8 (rather than June 10). Because not much work can be done on the magazine while traveling, articles can be sent later – but not after June 28.
- The budget committee met in Lincoln during the NSBA Convention to work on the agenda of this summer's Leadership Workshop.

CHAIR OF CHORAL AFFAIRS – Kelly Meyer reported that all chorus selections have been finalized. The list of selections was published in the *Nebraska Music Educator* and sent by email to NMEA members. All selections are in print and immediately available. Part Predominant is now in the process of preparing the CDs. They are waiting for some rehearsal notes and pronunciation guides from the All-State Conductor, Elena Sharkova. It may be possible to add a spoken pronunciation recording of the Russian text.

Chorus Apprentice Chair Doran Johnson has asked if it is possible for NSAA District II to use NMEA's digital recorders at district music contests. Board discussion led to the consensus that it does no good for the digital recorders to be used only once a year. The recorders will be made available to all district music contest sites. There will be a rental fee for the use of these recorders. That rental will be used to help with the cost of replacement equipment. The recorders will be available on a first come/first served basis, with District II given priority the first year since they made the initial request. The program will be administered by the NMEA Secretary/Treasurer. Details will be developed and presented to the board for official action at the August meeting.

CHAIR OF BAND AFFAIRS – Kim Wiedeman reported that clinicians are set for the 2009 Band and Jazz Band. The concert band music was ordered from Jay's Music and all selections have arrived.

CHAIR OF ORCHESTRA AFFAIRS – Dave Klein reported that William LaRue Jones of the University of Iowa has selected the repertoire for this year's orchestra – *Light Cavalry Overture* by Franz von Suppe, *Huapango* by Jose Pablo Moncayo, and the fourth movement of *Symphony No. 9* by Antonin Dvorak.

CHAIR OF AUDITIONS – Matt Sheppard reported on the results of this morning's audition meeting. The instrumentation of the Band and Orchestra was discussed and there are no special needs this year. It is possible that harp and percussion students may be assigned parts in both the Band and Orchestra.

The digital recorders have been tested and are able to handle the needs of our audition system. Matt is in the process of getting bids for purchase of the recorders. It was decided that NMEA will purchase 90 digital recorders. Matt will meet with Cindy Nichols on UNO to discuss this year's instrumental adjudicators and share concerns about the audition system.

The board discussed the sample audition etude composed by Nolan Schmit. Matt will take suggestions and comments back to the composer to continue work on this project.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:20 p.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

CHAIR OF ELEMENTARY/GENERAL MUSIC AFFAIRS – Nicole Chapman reported that this fall's conference includes a "Share the Wealth" table. Teachers will be asked to bring copies of lesson plans, classroom management ideas, bulletin boards, discipline plans, and organizational tips to share with other elementary teachers.

CHAIR OF MIDDLE LEVEL/JUNIOR HIGH AFFAIRS – Sarah Boeka reported that the performances during "Music at the Capitol" went well. All directors reported that they were pleased with the experience and things went smoothly. Thanks were extended to all who helped with the event. Photography went well and Sarah believes the posed photo should be continued.

CHAIR OF COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS – Doug Bush reported that he attended the CMENC Spring Forum at UNK on March 28. He thanked Ashley Lawton for her work in putting this event together.

The Student Teacher Scholarship application has been emailed to each chapter adviser and is on the NMEA website.

CHAIR OF COLLEGIATE MEMBERS (CMENC) – Ashley Lawton reported that the Spring Forum was held at the University of Nebraska at Kearney on March 28, 2009. Eighteen students from three CMENC chapters attended. Ashley expressed concern about ways to make the forum more beneficial and appealing to students in the future. The Outstanding Chapter Awards are due by June 15, 2009. A statewide newsletter for CMENC chapters is slowly taking shape. Perhaps this newsletter can be available on-line.

HISTORIAN – Duane Johnson reported that the archives are up-to-date. He explained that space is becoming a real concern. Materials for two candidates for the Hall of Fame have been received. The deadline is May 1. Ballots will be sent to the Past Presidents for consideration on June 1.

The Nebraska Music Educators Retired newsletter has been mailed. Included is a form to update personal information and a photo. In addition, a questionnaire is enclosed seeking their opinion on their role as mentors. The results of the questionnaire will be forwarded to MENC National Retired Chair, Robert Guentzler. Nebraska currently has no official policy statement on mentoring that Duane has been able to locate. Such a document is being prepared and will be presented at the August board meeting.

ADVOCACY/PUBLIC RELATIONS – Judy Bush reported that she has met with the education committee of NFTA, attended their meeting on April 27, and participated in a teleconference of their advocacy committee. Lindsey Kennedy, Executive Director of NFTA, is moving out-of-state and they are looking for

a new person in that position. NFTA is looking for ways to publicize Arts and Humanities Month – ideas are always appreciated.

Judy presented an update on NMEA activities at the ESU4 in-service held at Nebraska City on February 16. Other presenters at this in-service were Rosanne Liesveld who presented “Teaching to Your Strengths” and Jennene Anderson from Crete Middle School who presented a session on making the arts a vital part of the middle school curriculum.

NMEA had an exhibit booth at the NSBA Convention in March. Caroline Juster, a trombonist from Westside High School, was chosen as an alternate for the National Symphony Orchestra’s Summer Music Institute.

MEMBERSHIP/MENTORING CHAIR – Roger Thaden reported that the 2009 corporate sponsor plaques have been delivered. Redesign of the Corporate Sponsor recognition is in progress and will be implemented for 2010. Roger has contacted nineteen current calendar advertisers to renew their ads for the 2009-2010 calendars. Six addition letters are ready for prospective advertisers as the space becomes available.

TRI M CHAIR – Becky Wilhelm had no report at this time.

EXHIBITS – Marilyn Godby reported that the \$85.00 option for a “dial-up” internet connection at the Embassy Suites has been eliminated. The service is expensive and exhibitors do not use it. If needed, exhibitors can work directly with the Embassy Suites to arrange for a high speed connection. The 2009 Exhibits will set-up from 10:30 am to 4:00 pm on Wednesday, November 18. Wednesday exhibit times will be 4:30 – 7:00 pm; Thursday times will be 9:00 am – 12:00 noon and 1:15 – 5:00 pm; Friday hours will be 9:00 am – 12:00 noon. The exhibit flyer was sent in April. The exhibit contract has been revised and sent to the Executive Director. The contracts will be mailed the first week of August with a deadline of September 15, 2009.

There are 69 NMDEA members for 2009 (67 from the 2008 NMEA Conference and two from the 2009 NSBA Convention). Marilyn met with Rod Schmidt during the NSBA Convention and decided to disburse NMDEA funds as follows:

- \$575.00 to NMEA for Student Teacher Grants
- \$375.00 to NMEA for High School Student Grants
- \$500.00 to NSBA for Scholarships
- \$176.00 for two ads in the *Nebraska Music Educator*
- \$100.00 (estimated) for a graphic artist to revise the NMDEA ad

RESEARCH – Daniel Laing had no report at this time.

INFORMATION ITEMS

2009 CONFERENCE – President Elect Neal Schnoor presented the schedule for the 2009 conference. The schedule is complete regarding clinicians and sessions. The performing ensembles will be selected later this spring. The Sotto Voce Brass Quartet and the Chiara String Quartet have been secured for performances. There will be 46 clinic sessions and 43 clinicians, two reading sessions, a choral conducting master class, two CMENC session plus an instrumental conducting master class and the CMENC recital, the ninth annual Tri-M Symposium, and 14 organizational meetings. The theme for the conference is “Expanding our View of Music Education.”

Neal asked each board member to review very carefully the details of the conference and bring forth any comments or concerns. The conference schedule will soon be posted on the NMEA web site.

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP – The NMEA Leadership Workshop will be held in Kearney on July 20 – 21, 2009. Thirty-five individuals were invited to attend and thirteen are scheduled to participate this summer.

ACTION ITEMS – OLD BUSINESS

ALL-STATE MEDALS AND RECOGNITION – Due to the fact that Roger Thaden was unable to attend this meeting, this item of business was tabled until the August meeting.

ACTION ITEMS – NEW BUSINESS

VENDOR CONTRACTS – President Barker reviewed a proposed new contract for NMEA's use with vendors. This contract includes new rates for Lied Center commissions (20% of on-site sales) and the new videographer/photographer fees. President Barker will get input on the contractual language from the vendors before the contracts are finalized. One of the most difficult questions is how to divide the required Lied Center videographer/photographer fees fairly between the two vendors. Board members asked whether payment of these fees would qualify those vendors as NMEA Corporate Sponsors. Further information is necessary before a decision can be made and the board took no formal action on this item of business. President Barker will report back to the board at the August meeting.

(Sarah Boeka had to leave the meeting at this time – 2:10 p.m.)

NMEA AWARDS – President Barker presented a sample of various awards that are available if NMEA should wish to change any of our present awards. No action was taken and this item was tabled until a later time.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

- President Elect Schnoor asked board members to study the conference schedule and try to determine where an orchestral reading session might be added. This would be a popular session but it requires special logistics. Perhaps this session can be added to future conferences.
- Neal Schnoor asked all board members to look at the current Strategic Plan. Please send him suggestions for changes. The Strategic Plan will be revised at the August board meeting.
- There was discussion on the disposal of the old tape recorders that have been used for All-State auditions. Suggestions included selling the recorders at a minimal price and donating the recorders to schools or other non-profit organizations that could use them. The board reached a consensus that the current tape recorders will be left at the current audition sites (where they are being stored). Each audition site can use these recorders at their discretion. They may continue to use them for their own students; they may give them away, sell them, or simply dispose of them.
- Matt Sheppard will set up audition meetings at the summer NSBA and NCDA conferences to demonstrate the use of the digital recorders. He will work with Lance Nielsen and Bryan Johnson to produce an instructional video for vocal, instrumental, and jazz auditions. These videos could

be placed on the NMEA web site so NMEA directors, students, and the host audition sites can see exactly how each audition should be run.

A motion to adjourn was made by Kim Wiedeman, seconded by Doug Bush, and carried unanimously. President Barker declared the meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m.