MSVMA D7 Fall Meeting

September 18, 2015

Western Michigan Christian HS, Muskegon, MI

AGENDA ITEMS IN BLACK – NOTES FROM MEETING IN RED

8:30 AM – Gather for coffee/refreshments

1. ***Overview of District Finances - COVERED***

Starting Balance for 2015-2016: $8,007.00

Last year’s expenses:

* Choral Festival Expenses
  + Choral Festival Adjudication Fees - $3,145.33
  + Food for Choral Festival - $250.00
* Solo & Ensemble Expenses
  + S&E Adjudication Fees - $1880.76
  + Piano Tuning at S&E - $995.00
  + Food for S&E - $394.14
* Clinicians (TED, MS Choral Clinic) – $421.50
* Audio Recording at S&E - $200.00
* Rubrics & SR Books - $413.00
* Medals & Certificates - $2,477.50
* DM Expenses (Lodging and Mileage): $436.81

Last year’s income:

* Choral Festival Entry Fees - $4,520.00
* S&E Entry Fees - $1,720.00
* Medals - $2,516.00
* Luncheon - $170.00

1. ***Overview of September Full Board Meeting***

Discussed the results of the full board proposals presented at the September FB meeting. These included the following:

* Allowing districts to purchase fewer SR books and asking large choirs to have students share – DEFEATED
* Allowing JH/MS choirs to go for a rating at State Choral Festival – DEFEATED
* Allowing directors to choose whether to use the old or the new rubric – DEFEATED
* Allowing boys to audition for the TTB honors choir in duets – PASSED
* Eliminating the FB position of Medals and Certificates Coordinator and dealing with medals and certificates through the State Office - PASSED

1. ***District S&E Festival***

* February 6, 2016
* Saturday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
* Reeths-Puffer HS
* Online registration/postmark payment deadline: January 13, 2016
* Solos $15, SE $30, LE $60
* Mail check payable to MSVMA and invoice to Kathryn Becksvoort
* Host: Regina Schlaff

Kathryn B. vows to do a better job of labeling warm-up vs. performance times. (Just for you, Robin Kieft! ☺)

1. ***District Choral Festival***

* March 16 & 17, 2016
* Wednesday & Thursday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
* Grand Haven HS
* Registration/postmark payment deadline: February 17, $110 per choir
* Registration/postmark payment after February 17, $150 per choir
* $25 surcharge for over 80 singers
* Mail check payable to MSVMA and invoice to Kathryn Becksvoort
* Host: Juli Dick

Schools that register after the February 17 deadline will be offered whatever time slots are remaining, but schools must be aware that if they register past that date, they are not *guaranteed* a time at the festival. Please register ON TIME!

We had an excellent discussion regarding sight reading at District Festival. We are on the 20-20-20 format for festival, but in many districts, 30 minutes is allotted for the sight reading. There was concern over the fact that our students only have 20 minutes to do all three examples, while in many districts, they have 30 minutes. This does not seem equitable when it comes to ratings. We talked about whether it would be possible to get permission to skip over the unison exercise and go straight to the second one. Two exercises in 20 minutes compared with 3 exercises in 30 minutes seems fairer to us. There was concern over how that would be dealt with on the rubric, since we use the same ones as the districts with 30 minute SR times. Kathryn will contact Ginny Kerwin and see if this could be accomplished without having the write a board proposal. If a proposal is necessary, Kathryn will let Regina and Juli know ASAP and we can write one up before the FB meeting in January.

Please note: ALL PAYMENTS must come to Kathryn Becksvoort at the following address:

Western Michigan Christian High School

455 E. Ellis Rd.

Muskegon, MI 49441

PLEASE verify in your business office that this is the address they are using!

1. ***Results of Chuck Norris’ Study of the Rubric – suggestion of the MS sliding scale and feedback***

Chuck Norris’ study team is recommending that since JH/MS scores are lower across the board, we should implement a sliding scale of six points (adding six points to the Excellent category). Adjudicators will then be instructed not to adjust or add any cushion to their assessment on the rubric – they will simply assess what they hear. The overall consensus from district 7 members was that this is a very positive thing, and will lead to greater accuracy and reliability in adjudication.

1. ***Brainstorming session***
   1. Middle School Choral Clinic

Excellent discussion on this. Directors have difficulty getting authorization for their students to participate, with administrators hesitant to give up instructional minutes. Transportation during the school day was also a big factor in non-participation. Some directors also felt overwhelmed by how early in the year they had to prepare the music. Suggestions for 2016-2017: we will try out a Saturday clinic, possibly in November (to avoid the beginning of the year rush). We will be very careful not to conflict with honors choir rehearsal dates. It would be great to structure it somewhat like the MMEA Elem. Choir Festival, where students do not have to prepare the music too much beforehand. We would like to have a clinician who might be able to teach much of the music right there on site.

* 1. Spiritual Festival

Juli Dick is investigating this. She will be making contacts and will report back to us at the spring meeting, with the goal of possibly implementing a Spirituals Festival during the 2016-2017 school year.

* 1. Timing of Meetings- new site for spring

We agreed that a quieter setting might be good for our spring meeting (quieter than the super-loud table at the Hearthstone, at least!) Regina Schlaff suggested that we take care of voting and nominations through an online survey, which would allow us more time for discussion and in-depth brainstorming at the meeting. We are tentatively set to meet on **Wednesday, June 8** at Reeths-Puffer High School (in a very comfortable room with comfy chairs). Kathryn Becksvoort will take care of catering in a simple supper for us.

1. ***Odds and ends***
   1. Please send all MSVMA-related communication to my MSVMA email address – [kathrynbecksvoort@msvma.org](mailto:kathrynbecksvoort@msvma.org).
   2. The NR (No Rating) will be replaced by CO (Comments Only) at the state and district level this year
   3. Donation to Carolyn Leep, MYAF

We agreed that since we are in a good financial position at this time to donation $250 to Carolyn Leep and $250 to MYAF.

* 1. Concerns/proposals to bring to January full board meeting

Members were reminded that proposals to be discussed at the Jan. meeting must be submitted by December 15.

A sheet was distributed with the meeting agenda on behalf of our district member Deidra Ross, who is also a coordinator for the MMEA Elementary Choir Festival. Districts were encouraged to pass the information along to their elementary colleagues.

 10:00 AM – Roundtable discussion with Shirley Lemon