



Alabama Vocal Association

November 27, 2010

Dear AVA Members,

I want to take this time to thank you for your involvement in AVA. 217 students auditioning for the All-State Show Choir, 2626 registering to audition for the All-State choirs, and 150 teachers attending Fall Workshops lets me know that you are working hard, both for your students and to better yourself as a teacher.

There are deadlines approaching for many events. The All-State Show Choir registration deadline, without a late fee, is November 30. Each district has OCS/OA/ME auditions within the next few weeks. Please refer to alavocal.org for dates and registration deadlines. Registrations for these events are to be sent to your District Chair.

The registration deadline for the All-State Festival is December 15 and should be sent to Pat Blackwell. Please adhere to the new policy for sending a list of your students that is outlined on the All-State Festival Registration Form, F2.4, send a **photocopy of the All-State Notification Letter with any changes or corrections in RED INK**. You should send this copy even if there are no corrections. **This is taking the place of making a new listing.** Also, please include with your student list any *special needs* that AVA should be aware of.

I encourage you to register for the **AMEA conference**. The conference dates are January 20 -22, 2011. All pertinent information can be found in the ala breve or at alabamamea.org. We have some quality presenters coming our way and there should be something to interest everyone.

Dr. Rosephanye Powell will be sharing with us the inspiration behind her compositions and leading a quality reading session. She will also have a session on vocal health within the Show Choir....very timely with our All-State Show Choir rehearsing just down the hall.

Dr. Patrick Freer is steeped in middle school experience and research. He will share with us rehearsal strategies designed for the middle school and demonstrate working with the middle school boys changing voices. His Rehearsal Strategies for Adolescents also includes a reading packet.

AVA is sharing 2 sessions with the Elementary/General Music division on the use of Quality Literature for Music Literacy with session presenter, **Dr. John Feierbend**.

Another session I encourage you to make time for is **Dr. Marvin Latimer's** session concerning adjudicated festivals. He is actually tailoring this session for AVA in light of our journey to create a new assessment form. We have talked extensively over the past couple of years and he is offering a session to share with you the results of research that has led to the form that we are considering putting into AVA use. This is your opportunity to take a look and ask questions before the AVA makes the final decision next summer. This affects each director and each choir that will attend State Choral

Performance Assessments and we value your input. Please take advantage of this opportunity to speak with Dr. Latimer and become well informed concerning this issue.

We are thrilled to have the following choirs performing: **Grissom High School Concert Choir, Decatur High School Women's Choir, Bragg Middle School Mixed Choir and Liberty Park Middle School Girls Choir**. We congratulate them on being chosen and thank all those directors who submitted applications.

You also have the opportunity to hear messages from the current MENC President, **Dr. Scott Shuler** and Alabama Retirement Systems CEO, **Dr. David Bronner**.

The **All-State Show Choir Festival** will once again be a part of this conference with April James and Greg Jasperse, clinicians.

Please help AVA make the adjustment to this new venue and be prepared to help in any way that is necessary. The first time in a new environment can sometimes present issues that could not be anticipated ahead of time. It will take all of us pulling together to insure a positive first experience in Montgomery.

I wish for each of you successful holiday concerts as you close out the first semester of this school year. May you be surrounded by friends and family during this season of thanksgiving and praise.

Sincerely,

Jane Powell

2010-12 President

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