

AVA General Meeting
September 11, 2009
Dawson Memorial Baptist Church
Homewood, Alabama

Meeting was called to order by Damion Womack, President, at 5:25 pm on September 11, 2009 at Dawson Memorial Baptist Church.

The minutes from the last meeting were read by Stacy Owens, Recording Secretary, and approved as read.

Executive Secretary Report

- Financial Report was presented to the membership. As of September 8, 2009 the Alabama Vocal Association has \$94,842.89 in checking and \$11,592.52 in savings with total assets being \$106,435.41.
- Pat Blackwell said that it was a typical year this year.
- We received the last half of the grant
- AVA had one student inform AVA that they would not be able to use the FAME scholarship that they had won, but we did have one student claim theirs with all of the proper paperwork intact.
- 160 were registered for Fall Workshop
- All-State Show Choir auditions dates- Thursday is full, so if you have not registered yet, plan on Friday or Saturday to audition.
- Question was raised if AVA lost money on State Performance Assessment. No, we didn't lose money, we just didn't make much.

Motion was made to approve the financial report presented. Motion was seconded and vote carried.

Fall Workshop

Damion appreciates everyone's participation in Fall Workshop. Please come back for Saturday so the board can get feedback on making next year's better!

AMEA 2010

Damion encouraged everyone to come to AMEA In-Service Conference in January. Please come to support the following choirs: Spanish Fort HS, Hueytown HS, Bumpus MS, Alabama A & M, Auburn University, and John Carroll HS. This is an excellent opportunity for your program, so please consider putting your choir through the screening process for next year's AMEA.

- Betsy Cook Weber will be conducting 4 sessions at the conference.
- Gregory Fuller from the University of Southern Mississippi will be the 2010 Honor Choir clinician.

All-State 2010

Auditions will be in 3 locations: Mobile, Birmingham, and Decatur. The membership can choose to audition in any of the 3 sites. This will help the Executive Board by being less stressful going from site to site. There was a concern raised how bus travel for some will be further by going to only 3 sites.

All-State Show Choir 2010

This year's All-State Show Choir will only perform at AMEA.

Damion presented the concerns from the membership and parents about Show Choir performing on the Middle School All-State program.

- Heard from middle school directors that their performance should not be in the shadow of the Show Choir.
- Tryouts for Show Choir and All-State are nowhere near each other and would be hard to enforce them trying out for both
- Heard reports of how bad the behavior was at All-State 2009 from teachers and parents alike

If you have any concerns, please contact the board.

This year's clinicians are going to be great and they are Jared Voss and Hersel Cremons.

All-State 2010

Due to the conflict of All-State Band and Chorus this year, a Festival Committee was formed on the AMEA level. This will comprise of the heads of each division. They will meet and tell each other their dates.

Students can audition for both All-State Band and Chorus and will not be penalized for choosing one over the other if they were to make both.

Question was raised about what if the choir teacher is also the band teacher and they are required to be at both? Damion said he would go to AMEA and see what can be worked out.

Just a reminder: All-State Festival this year is also race weekend. Get your rooms ASAP!

State Performance Assessment 2010

Dates are set for March 24-26, 2010 in Birmingham.

There is a growing problem with finding dates for assessment. Jane Powell presents a proposal about doing a yearly adjudication for a 2 year trial.

Discussion:

- Name of the assessment is a problem for some. Stipends and administrators are more likely to let some programs participate if it's labeled as "State" assessment. Brent Coleman suggested that Damion write a letter to go out to schools to promote the assessment. Diane Johnson suggested that maybe the school superintendent write a letter emphasizing that it is an assessment.
- Can any choir go to any district? Yes, but no parameters have been set. The board wants to look at what's best for the state.

- Maybe it would be better for everyone if it were a little earlier. Some school systems have said no field trips 1 month before testing.

Vote will take place at AMEA at our general meeting.

What about people who won't be at the meeting? Jane said in the past, membership has not participated very well in ballot votes. Someone suggested about setting something up through the website. Damion will meet with the executive board and talk about it.

New Business

MS Mixed All-State Choir commissioned piece is severe concern. Text is not appropriate for middle schoolers. Damion has called Eugene Rogers (the MS Mixed clinician) about the piece and has not been able to contact him yet. Question was posed: Have we paid for it yet? The answer is yes.

Donna Callahan got up and addressed the membership. She got sick and could not come with her choirs to State Performance Assessment last spring. The retired band director that came with them got them through the stage portion and she wanted to thank the people that got them through the sight-reading part of the assessment.

Dr. Banks addressed the membership about the ACDA Choral Invitational. This year's clinician is Sandra Snow. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact him or an ACDA board member.

There was a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded. Vote carried and meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.