

VBODA Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 10, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.
Newport News, VA

Call to Order at 1:30 p.m. Steve Rice

Hall of Fame Presentation
To Diana Love

Review of Voting Procedures Andrew Loft

Roll Call Laura M. Thomas
Present: D. Armstrong, C. Bly, R. Carroll, J. Elgin, C. Finnegan, A. Hall, J. Hargis, A. Loft, D. Love, B. Neal, S. Rice, S. Schoonover, K. Taylor, L. M. Thomas, S. Turner

Confirmation of Agenda
Confirmed

Minutes from last meeting (Norfolk, VA) Laura M. Thomas
Approved

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report Steve Turner
Total: \$160,921.83
15 Month CD: \$13,834.81
Checking: \$122,227.14
Savings: \$24,859.88

VBODA Operations

1. VMEA/VBODA Fall Professional Development (AKA Conference) Steve Rice
a. Need a middle school person and a string person for the ensemble review committee
b. Ensembles who would like to perform must submit applications/recordings by May 1

2. All Virginia Auditions Carrie Finnegan/Andrew Loft
February 28, 2015 – JMU February 27, 2016 – JMU

Thanks to Steve Bolstad and Scott Ridders for logistical help
No registration anomalies (no one who was not qualified showed up to audition)
Registration was expedient and processed over 800 students in under 50 minutes
Special thanks to Stan Schoonover and to Mike Hackbarth for technical help
Thanks to District Reps and SRO Chairs and Orch Rep for submitting info
iPads were tested successfully in saxophone, horn, cello, and bass rooms.
System as good as people inputting.
See All-Virginia Auditions 2015 report for more detail
Will need to purchase additional technology; A. Loft will present proposal in June.
K. Taylor would like superintendents to receive notice congratulating students who earned All-Va acceptance
A. Loft: Doomsday scenario developed: We can use existing system in place if snowed out, will elaborate later
S Turner negotiated with Apple to purchase 5 iPad mini's

3. All Virginia Band & Orchestra Event 2015 Steve Rice
Appreciation expressed to CNU, John Lopez, Doug Spruill, Darren Kirsch, Wayne Powell

2015 Event April 9-11
Location: Christopher Newport University
Conductors: Symphonic Band: Dr. Lawrence Stoffel, California State University, Northridge
Concert Band: Damon Talley – LSU

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2016 Event April 7-9

Location: George Mason University

Conductors: Orchestra: Kathleen Horvath, Case Western

Concert Band: Greg Bimm, Marion Catholic High School, Ret.

Symphonic Band: Col. Michael J. Colburn, Butler U., USMC (ret.)

2017 Event April 6-8

Location: TBA

Conductors: Symphonic Band: Gary Green – U. Miami

Concert Band: Jamie Nix (tentative), Columbus State U

Orchestra: Anthony Maiello

2018 Event 5-7

Location TBA

Conductors: Symphonic Band: Peter Boonshaft, Hofstra University

Concert Band: Rob Carnochan. University of Texas

Orchestra: TBA

4. Orchestra Representative

Carrie Finnegan

Committee Reports

1. Awards Committee

Linda Gammon

Nominations for Berg, Fuller, and HOF are due June 1, applications on VBODA website.

2. Scholarship Committee

Carl Bly

Will present 2015 Scholarship at tomorrow's concert. Website anomaly, redone, button was placed further down, materials come in piecemeal. We are going to ask everyone to put everything in one envelope

3. Legislative Report

Rob Carroll for Steve King

a. Senate Bill 823 (PE) did not pass; this is good for us. House bill 1626 (Tebow) failed again.

b. State song legislation passed: "Our Great Virginia" is the Official State Song, "Sweet Virginia Breeze" is Official Popular State Song

4. Manual Committee

Dan Kosko

See detailed report on website

Total number of fees: 1055 (\$46,005) (Record number)

400 pieces reviewed at Conference meeting of Manual Committee

VBODA Directory—lots of improvements this year, thanks to M. Hackbarth. District Reps supplying contact info, being added to "Members" tab

We recommend putting graded music on public side of website

RECOMMENDATIONS [motions from the committee to the Board]

#1 Post all VBODA Graded Music Guides on the public side of the VBODA website

This would allow more usage and provide more information to students, parents, and private teachers. Particularly needed for Solo and Ensemble events.[This has already happened!!!]

#2 Convene a 3rd "Tech Summit" of critical participants to continue to design, develop, and implement a single data source for all VBODA schools and information. Manual Board, Auditions Tabulation Manager, and Orchestra All-State Tabulations Manager, All-State Band Data manager, Web Master, Treasurer, President, and President-elect should be involved. Cost would be honoraria for participants, as well as lodging, meals, and travel expenses. Likely timeframe would be in late June or early July, or early August.

Benefit – having a single data source for VBODA school information is needed to facilitate the transition from hard copy information to digital, online information. Accurate naming, filing of fees, assessment histories, director information, and on and on, can be stored, manipulated, and accessed from a "school-based records system." Once created, District, Regional, and State Event Hosts can utilize these materials online.

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Appreciation expressed by S.Rice to S. Schoonover for coding

5. Legacy Recording Stan Schoonover
 - a. *See report. S. Schoonover would like to give this chairmanship up; has a large tub of materials*
 - b. *Discussion of where materials could be stored... ODU, VCU?*
 - c. *Laura will do email blast to membership to solicit missing materials (done 4/13/15)*

6. Website Report Mike Hackbarth
 - a. *Very active; 60,000 hits on All-Va results page alone, 150 hits daily*
 - b. *Since January, 800 members of about 875 active members have logged on*
 - c. *Info on website needs to be in pdf form*

7. All-VA Jazz Ensemble Committee Steve Turner
 - a. *See report, action on 2nd Jazz Band. Would require an additional \$2,000 for conductor*
 - b. *Recommend Saturday a.m. concert at VMEA for both Jazz Ensembles*
 - c. *Recommend not doubling everything; see report for specifics*

8. Solo and Ensemble Adjudication Report (formerly Concert Adjudication) Carl Bly
 - a. *See report*
 - b. *By June, will have working copies*
 - c. *Much discussion about putting Sight Reading sheet in computer form*

9. Sight Reading Committee Report Band Diana Love
 - a. *We have three selections for next year, will review individual parts as well*
 - b. *Request for rigor on grade II selection to be reviewed regarding independent entrances by the band, complicated rhythmic 'changeups'*
 - c. *How is feedback solicited? D. Love asked adjudicators; members also give her feedback*

10. Sight Reading Committee Report Orchestra C. Finnegan for Tina Hans
 - a. *We are trying to find someone to self publish, copy, and send the music.*
 - b. *We review written SR at Conference*

11. Judges' Training Andrew Loft
 - a. *4th Adjudicator's training held this morning. 32 attended. Over 150 total so far. Membership is reminded to submit recording so that people can be fully trained. Consider adding stipend for trainer. Only 8 have fully completed the training (submitted recording.) C. Finnegan: Can we put those 8 names on line for those who are hiring for next year already? A. Loft: Yes, will happen soon.*

12. VBODA Marching Band Assessment Committee Brandon Neal
 - a. *This is a Standing Committee. Need to clarify in handbook. Confirmed in Ex Bd minutes from Nov 2010*
 - b. *Last year, pay was unbalanced, came out in positive (over \$3K)*
 - c. *Committee is looking at equity in numbers of bands. 160 bands participating. Manual says 30-40 is generic number. Adjudicators have stated that 25 is a more reasonable number. Ideally, every site has 20.*
 - d. *Event fees being looked out, sites starting to cost more, other costs rising. If we have a consistent number of bands per site, things will even out.*
 - e. *Trying to get representation from every district of the state on this committee*
 - f. *Sites for approval: West: Recommend move to Richlands, has turf. Pulaski not interested anymore, would like to host their own competition. Discussion about the remoteness of location. Northwest: Rockbridge HS Northeast: Patriot; East: Massaponax; Southeast: Ocean Lakes; North Site: South Lakes, Central: Liberty; and Capitol: Hermitage. All on turf except Hermitage. We have been paying \$450-1500 facility usage.*
 - g. *C. Bly: What about Liberty U rather than Richlands?*

Recess (5 minute)

Free Discussion (15 minute limit)

Started at 3:24 p.m.

1. Calendar issues-switching Assessment and Solo and Ensemble events
 - a. *S. Schoonover: We have talked about this before. March provides least amount of conflicts (sports, testing.) Time-honored. You are going to run into a host of other issues if you move it to April.*
 - b. *C. Bly: We want to play new music after March.*
 - c. *D. Love: The kids will rise to the occasion. Get it done.*
 - d. *A. Hall: How about one week later? DA: Make sure we are listening to voices of reason*
 - e. *J. Hargis: You have the whole month of March. As a district, decide what is best. Going beyond spring break is not good.*
 - f. *Consensus of Ex Bd: Do not change the schedule*
 - g. *C. Finnegan: Urge District Reps to schedule a snow date for Assessment*

2. Alternate Assessment plans

Executive Board vote: Option C (one judge listen live, also administer sightreading and videotape) was 'dead on arrival;' Option D (Traveling group of judges come to your school) was deadlocked. D. Armstrong: This might appear to be new to some of our directors, but this has been going on in SW Virginia for years. Schedule a snow date! R. Carroll: I liked the idea of a panel of judges coming to your school. S. Schoonover: Becomes an issue of individual directors determining their own Assessment. A. Loft: Manual already allows Option D. Manual says create a panel. L. M. Thomas: Communication important. A. Loft: Option D is already an option. J. Hargis: Explain that to the District Reps. D. Armstrong: Make sure it's transparent. Just needs to be well-communicated. S. Schoonover: We need to document alternatives as they exist. K. Taylor: Financial implications? Specify parameters for alternate Assessment to qualify as VBODA Assessment. R. Carroll: Burden of extra expense for bringing in a panel of judges falls to specific school. D. Armstrong: Clarify what is already in place. S. Rice:

3. Doomsday All-Va Auditions

*There is not a Quota System in the Manual. Doomsday scenario: Band or Orchestra Director would have to upload audition material, would be done within current FileMaker framework. Eliminate Sight Reading. R. Carroll: Need to be recorded by District Reps or SRO reps in one take. Technology needs to be equal. D. Armstrong: Why not go this way anyway? K. Taylor: Keep live auditions. Go to committee, **S. Rice asked A. Loft to be in charge, report in June meeting**, C. Finnegan welcome to participate. Parameters? A. Loft: Do you want me to formulate myself, then 'chop down' in committee? S. Schoonover: Do what you need to do. **S. Rice: 2 Orchestra, 3 Band folks should be on committee.** Two orchestra people on committee, three band people on committee. C. Finnegan will be on committee, others will be sought from general membership tomorrow. A. Hall: Host 4 central sites rather than 16.*

4. *S. Schoonover 4453:*

*Time to appoint committee to look into VODA and VBDA? For all the right reasons. Programs in Fairfax have matured very well, surpass number of students in choir and sometimes band in our area. Bands: 60% of Program Participation Fees, Orchestra 40%. For good reasons, we need to consider. S. Schoonover: Has already been positively mentioned at VMEA. D. Armstrong: We need to consider, I support, would provide more strength for both organizations. J. Elgin: How do we do All-VA Event? S. Schoonover: Same as now, becomes combined event. L. Thomas: Concern re elimination of scaffolding. A. Hall: See merit, but would likely need to keep groups tethered together for a period while we build leadership, perhaps beyond our retirements. D. Armstrong: Younger Orchestra directors don't feel ownership under current system. D. Love: Stan, what are your reasons? S. Schoonover: We all have to remember, as band directors, to say "orchestra." We have more band business than orchestra business, more band members, and until we say orchestra directors have to step up, they won't. K. Taylor: How many districts don't have string programs? C. Finnegan: Two. No District Reps are orchestra directors. I am blindsided. There is no one speaking specifically for the O at VMEA. Any vote for O is through VBODA President. R. Carroll: VBODA is largest section of VMEA. Would improve our voice at VMEA. S. Turner: If the problem is not enough leadership, is this the best way to get it? D. Armstrong: We haven't been working together. There has been animosity between B and O for years; if we want to stay together, let's act like one group. Maybe this is a wake-up call. D. Love: Look at it from positive. I am caught off guard, also. What is the downside? Maybe restructure otherwise, before considering split? L. Thomas: We are stronger as a team. S. Schoonover: I wouldn't disagree; that is what VMEA is for. Can we look at the structure of VBODA? **Strategic planning committee established. S. Schoonover, D. Armstrong, L. M. Thomas, C. Finnegan, J. Hargis, A. Hall,***

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*me. We need that second voice, maybe a string Dist Rep and a Band Dist Rep. I get worried about the cracks and kids falling through. J. Hargis: We don't want to create panic or misunderstanding. Forming a committee is the first step if that is the pleasure of the board. Many will be caught off guard. Perhaps a string rep at the district level will energize the membership. Maybe some kind of tethered organization for a time. I fear disaster. D. Love: I am concerned about how people will see this. S. Schoonover: Committee could review **the Structure of VBODA** (Strategic Planning for VBODA.) D. Armstrong: 40% of our income is from orchestra. J. Hargis: Can we also task this committee with addressing VBODA-VMEA alignment issues? S. Schoonover: Sounds reasonable.*

5 minute break

Old Business

1. General
 - a. All-Virginia Workshops Allen Hall
Very good participation. 92 signed up, 133 total participants in workshops, could have 12 additional spots. Worked very well. Appreciation expressed to presenters and to A. Hall.
 - b. 75th Anniversary Commission Orchestra Carrie Finnegan
Brian Balmages is contracted to write piece for next year.
 - c. 75th Anniversary Commission Band Andrew Loft
David Maslanka will write piece for 2017

2. Addendums for the VBODA Handbook Steve Rice
Doug Spruill and Jon Lopez are writing up what they did for All-Va. By June meeting we'll have some of the addendums. Completed addendums go to S. Rice, then to D. Kosko as Manual Editor. L. Thomas: Grammatical and stylistic symmetry? A. Hall's wife Mary Beth will wordsmith after we approve content.

3. Orchestra Carrie Finnegan
None

4. Band
 - a. Combined All-Va Survey Andrew Loft
 - i. *149 in favor of pursuing combined event, 140 not. A. Loft: I thought this was a strong response. A. Loft told choral people we were not ready for 2017.*

5. VBODA Orchestra Representative Constitutional Change Steve Rice
 - a. *Add Orch Rep to President's Committee—went out in VBODA Spring Notes*
 - b. *L. Thomas will send language to Mike Hackbarth for e-vote after Notes is published*
 - c. *Need 2/3 of responders' approval*

New Business

1. Orchestra Carrie Finnegan
CF: Noticed suggested amounts for adjudicators disappeared from website. Was voted on 8 years ago. The VBODA Executive Board suggests to District Reps \$500 for up to 10 hours in a day, then \$50/hr after that. District Band and Regional guest conductor minimum \$1,000, All-Virginia guest conductor \$2,000. Each District or Region will have latitude to negotiate higher fees. Guest conductors—no more than 10 hours per day.

L. Thomas: put this in pdf form, send to Mike Hackbarth (done)

C. Finnegan: Would like to make a motion to VMEA that the Orchestra Rep have a vote on the VMEA Executive Board. Seconded by A. Loft. Friendly amendment by J. Hargis: Recommend to VMEA, rather than make a motion, agreed.

Discussion: C. Finnegan: There is currently no voice on the VMEA Executive Board representing string teachers. A. Loft: I agree with this motion but just to clarify--currently there is a voice on the VMEA representing Orchestra—it's Steve.

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2. Band Andrew Loft
nothing

3. Nominations Committee Slate Andrew Loft

- a. *President: Doug Spruill and Amy Birdsong*
- b. *Secretary: Laura M. Thomas, Jenny Ryan*
- c. *Orchestra Rep: Carrie Finnegan*
- d. *Middle School Rep: Sharon Bonneau, Joe LaBrie*

J. Hargis: There is an application online now; when did we decide on that?

S. Rice: I decided to do that; I'm going for transparency. We sent out a mass email to membership.

J. Hargis: Agreed re transparency, but I think the conversation should start with the board.

C. Finnegan: On website, there is a conflict in language re VBODA-VMEA policy for elections

A. Loft: VBODA can decide terms, and I already told VMEA Executive Director. We can not be in direct conflict;

A. Loft says our policy on election of officers is not.

Executive board approves slate, unanimous.

5. Action items from committees

- a. *Materials online: Recommendation from Manual committee to be put on public side of web.*

Motion by S. Schoonover: Adopt 1st recommendation from Technology Committee: I move that we move the Solo and Ensemble Graded List to the public side of the VBODA website.

Seconded by C. Bly

Motion Passes

Motion by S. Schoonover: Adopt 2nd recommendation from Technology Committee: Convene a 3rd "Tech Summit" of critical participants to continue to design, develop, and implement a single data source for all VBODA schools and information. Manual Board, Auditions Tabulation Manager, and Orchestra All-State Tabulations Manager, All-State Band Data manager, Web Master, Treasurer, President, and President-elect should be involved. Cost would be honoraria for participants, as well as lodging, meals, and travel expenses. Likely timeframe would be in late June or early July, or early August.

Friendly amendment by C. Bly: If possible, hold in conjunction with June meeting. Accepted.

Seconded by C. Bly

Motion Passes

Rob Carroll will accept Chair of Legacy Committee.

Motion by S. Turner: I recommend that we adopt the recommendation from the All-Virginia Jazz Committee to create a second All-Va Jazz Band.

Seconded by D. Armstrong

Discussion: Supervision? Same rules, more bodies

Motion Passes

S. Rice will appoint Sharon Jeanes to be the new Adjudication Trainer. She will conduct the 3 hour training—4 sessions, 3 hours. Will also keep records. Honorarium proposed of \$1,000. Need a motion.

S. Schoonover: So moved

Seconded by J. Hargis.

Motion Passes

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Announcements

Honor Band

Laura Mulligan Thomas

Add Potomac Falls HS---10 yr, Tim Niebergall, Director

Music For All National Concert Band Festival Bands

Steve Rice

Featured Bands

Lake Braddock Secondary School, Mike Lully Director

McLean High School Symphonic Band, Chris Wise

Invited Band

Yorktown High School Symphonic Band, Brian Bersh

Sandy Feldstein Music For All National Percussion Festival

Yorktown Percussion Ensemble, Brian Bersh

Committee Report

Steve Rice

- 1. Committee chairs, please submit reports to secretary electronically/digitally*
- 2. Please submit a list of the members of your committees to president, secretary, website chair*
- 3. VBODA inventory and contracts go to Steve Turner*

Appreciation expressed to C. Finnegan for securing substitute conductor for All-Virginia Orchestra.

Next Board Meeting: 1:00 p.m. Wednesday June 24, West Potomac High School, 2500 Quander Road, Alexandria, Virginia

Motion to adjourn by J. Hargis, seconded by J. Elgin, motion adjourned at 5:37 p.m.