

Minutes of Niagara County Music Educators' Association
Executive Board Meeting
January 8, 2008 @ Pane's Restaurant

Meeting called to order at 6:33 PM. Present: Dean Vallas, Roger VanDette, Linda Schilk, April Carere, Debbie Hutter, Debbie Remson, Jeanne Wright, Ken Kuriscak, Paul Wos

Treasurer Report

Debbie reported a balance of \$5,024.98 as of 1-5-08. As of this date, no contributions have yet been received for the McCone Scholarship.

President's Report

Dean reported that this year's NYSSMA Winter Conference was a success. Attendance was up from the previous year, especially among college students. The new Zone 1 representative is Mike Robertson. NYSSMA is producing DVDs on teaching, which are expected to be available soon. Applications for All-State MUST be completed online this year. NYSSMA Day in Albany is March 10, 2008. The NYSSMA Summer Conference will be held August 10-12 in Albany.

Vice President's Report

Roger reported that there are 9 scholarship candidates scheduled to participate in audition/interviews this month.

Membership VP Report

Jeanne reported that 7 members have paid their dues but have not registered on SoloChair. Jeanne then distributed hard copies of the directory to those who wanted one. April eagerly took one, saying that hard is always good.

Choral VP Report

Linda vented some frustrations which I am hesitant to publish word-for-word.

Bands VP Report

April expressed thanks to all who helped in any way with the December solo festival. Topics for the February general meetings include the rotation of instrumental chairpersons for festival ensembles, and SoloChair usage.

Orchestra VP Report

Debbie was quick to proclaim a big "DITTO" to Linda's unmentionable statement. She feels that the executive board takes too much grief and abuse from people in our own membership who will not abide by rules and deadlines, expecting that exceptions will be made for them. Other than that, she said that preparations for the upcoming festivals are going well.

Jazz VP Report

Ken presented copies of a letter from a student who performed a jazz audition and felt she was scored unfairly, hinting at gender bias. After discussion, Dean suggested that a letter be sent to the adjudicator, informing him of the complaint and stating that this behavior was not in the best interests of NCMEA or its participating students.

April announced that she wanted everyone to know she gave Chris Vadala, the All-County Senior High Jazz Ensemble conductor, a BIG font in her Band Report. Jeanne commented that it was because Chris must HAVE a BIG font of his own. General murmur among the attendees.

Ken also explained the need to re-schedule Chris Vadala's flight time due to the festival concert schedule. This re-booking created an extra \$150 in expenses.

Advocacy Report

Ken Fick absent, no report. T shirts have been ordered, **STUDENT SELLER VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED AT EACH SITE.**

Debbie reminded everyone that tickets for concerts are \$3 each, \$2 for students/seniors. There will be NO family ticket this year.

New Business

Dean showed detail from the April 2007 meeting, when a recommendation was made to have Junior High Orchestra be a strings-only orchestra. There was no record of it being acted on by a vote. Dean asked if the recommendation should be brought to the attention of string teachers in the general meetings. Debbie suggested to keep the current ensemble personnel, including woodwinds and brass. Motion to table the issue until the April meeting by Dean; second by several. Agreed to table.

Topics for February general membership meetings: (1) SoloChair; (2) better adherence to policies and deadlines, professionalism by membership.

Next meetings are general membership meetings at all all-county festival sites on respective Saturdays at 10:00 am.,

Next Executive Board Meeting
Monday April 7, 2008 @ Pane's Restaurant at 6:30