

Niagara County Music Educators' Association
Minutes of Executive Board Meeting, Nov. 24, 2008

Present: D. Vallas, R. VanDette, D. Hutter, N. Kyle, L. Schilk, A. Carere, D. Demson, J. Wright, P. Wos

Meeting called to order 6:23 pm. It could have been earlier if Ken Fick wasn't so picky with his dinner order.

Minutes of October meeting approved as written and distributed.

Treasurer Report

Debbie reported an account balance of \$14,696.36, which included all solo festival audition fees.

President's Report

If we know of any Niagara County student participating in conference all-state, let Dean know so he can send a congratulatory note.

Vice-President's Report

NCMEA Scholarship audition/interviews will be held on January 13. There is \$2,400 in scholarship money available. Applicants for both NCMEA Scholarships and the Kuriscak Award: Hannah Milligan (Starpoint), Robin Padilla (Barker), Toni LaMantia (Niagara-Wheatfield), Jacob Granat (Niagara Falls), Jenna Geracitano (Niagara Falls); NCMEA Scholarship only: Seamus McDonell (Niagara-Wheatfield), Eric Equils (Niagara-Wheatfield), Evan Farley (Wilson); Kuriscak Award only: Jennifer Mess (Niagara-Wheatfield).

VP Membership Report

Jeanne reports that we have 9 business members.

VP Choral Report

Linda reported 233 junior high choral auditions, from which 80 were selected. With a new choral teacher (Linda Werder) now in place in Niagara Falls, students from NFHS will participate in all-county jr high and sr high chorus.

Linda announced that she is not seeking re-appointment to the choral VP position in fall 2009, so the position of Choral VP on the NCMEA executive board is open beginning in fall 2009.

VP Bands Report

April announced that there are openings for senior high band chairperson and conductor for 2010. She also suggested the possibility of giving a stipend to host schools for the solo festivals. After discussion, the matter was tabled.

VP Orchestras Report

(I admit I missed some of the opening conversation here, but I know it ended with April saying how she liked to tell her husband how big they are and everything. Hmmm. . . .)

Deb has all of the program info for the festivals. With board approval, she would like all auditioning students to receive a score of at least 90 to make the experience a positive one for the students. Approved.

VP Jazz Report

Ken Kuriscak absent, no report.

Advocacy Report

Ken Fick reported that the NCMEA Conference Day is set for March 24 at NCCC. An invitational brochure will be sent at the end of January.

Other Reports

Due date for payment for instrumental solo festival was October 24. There was much discussion involving a late payment from Newfane High School. It was noted that this was not the first time that Newfane did not adhere to the deadline date for payment, they were also late in 2007. After discussion, it was the decision of the board to adhere to the deadline and exclude Newfane High School's instrumental solo applicants. Dean would notify the teacher with copies to the school and district administration, notifying them of the decision and the reasons for it. Motion by Deb, 2nd by Linda. Approved.

(Secretary note: The decision was later made to allow the students to participate in the festival, with notice given to school and district administration that this cannot occur in the future.)

New Business

Deb mentioned that not all people got recording order forms or ticket order forms. Dean said that not all teachers took the forms at the audition festival. Dean brought forms to the meeting for distribution.

Debbie Hutter is starting the process of having NCMEA become incorporated and tax-exempt. She obtained copies of the constitution and by-laws and updated them. She distributed copies to the board members for perusal and comments.

Motion to adjourn by Ken Fick, 2nd by Jeanne. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul M. Wos
NCMEA Secretary