

TMEA Region XV Orchestra Division Spring Meeting
April 24, 2016
Jennifer Miller, TMEA Region XV Orchestra Chair, Presiding

Called to order at 2:16PM by Chairperson Jennifer Miller

1. Financial Report:
 - Still waiting on reimbursement of judges who were sent to judge All State Auditions.
2. Approval of Fall Minutes
3. Selection of Sites for 2016-2017
 - Cathey Middle School selected for middle school region auditions.
 - PSJA Southwest High School selected for high school region auditions.
 - Fossum selected for high school all state recording session with the caveat that if UTRGV is available, this topic will be re-visited at the fall meeting.
 - McAllen High School selected as site for Region Clinic and Concert, but may be unable to host due to scheduling concerns (professional development may be taking place during the selected dates). Roma High School Performing Arts Center selected as alternate site.
 - UTRGV selected as site for UIL Concert and Sightreading. PSJA selected as alternate site.
4. Region Clinicians:
 - Tentative confirmation from Brenden Townsend (high school) and Julie Blackstock (middle school) for 2016 clinicians.
5. Music Advisory Committee:
 - There is a lack of consistency with solo and ensemble rankings (it is currently the wild west of judging). It is difficult to justify to students and parents why they received the score that they did. Sometimes students play beautifully and get a 2, sometimes it's a "1 fest." There is discussion of adopting a rubric that could lead to more consistency in the judging process. A motion to give officers at the state level the authority to adopt a rubric is passed.
 - Magnet schools would like to compete based on their enrollment numbers. Schools in the metroplex areas currently have to compete as 6A schools in some situations, even if a public school with the same enrollment numbers compete as a 1A. A motion to change the current system fails.
 - New Music Advisory Committee Chairman: Willy Maciel is elected as the new chairman.
6. UIL – Ruben Adame
 - Past site hosts thanked for their service.

- There is discussion of having judges give recorded audio comments at UIL orchestra contests. Arguments are made for and against. Recorded comments would potentially offer directors more detailed feedback. Kids might be “freaked out” hearing the judges talk about them. There is concern that the sound of the judges talking would be heard on the recordings. Questions are asked: Do other regions do this? Do other divisions do this? The band division in our region does this. There is concern about the judges handwriting. No one can read their chicken scratch. At some point in the future, judges may use their own computers and a software program to complete the comment sheets digitally. Some directors believe it’s bad form to talk during the performance. Some directors also believe that the comments should be more general, not measure by measure specific. A motion to have judges give recorded audio comments fails. The idea of typed comments seems popular amongst the membership.
- Checks must be received on time. There is discussion of reprimanding directors who don’t complete their paperwork on time. If a director DNA’s their group before the deadline, they will get a refund. If the director waits until after the deadline, they will not receive a refund. No exceptions.

6. Selection of Region Officers:

- Corrine is elected to the post of treasurer/secretary.
- Andy Arango is elected to the post of vice-chairperson.

7. Old Business:

- Discussion of raising the clinician stipend. In 1983 David earned a hundred dollars for a gig. In 2016 David still earns a hundred dollars for a gig. A motion to raise the clinician stipend from \$500 to \$595 is passed.
- Contact Brian Miller concerning future business.
- High School music selection meeting will take place at Morris Middle School on May 2nd.

8. Pepwear vs. TMF:

- TMF is not punctual. TMF messed up the shirts, and expected the region chairperson to do their work. Pepwear shirts are prettier. The motion to go back to Pepwear passes.

9. Banking:

- Meredith recommends we switch banks to avoid transaction fees. She recommends we switch to IBC Bank after she makes her last deposit in our present banking institution. A motion to give Meredith and Corrine the authority to work on this together and come up with a solution that works in our best interests is passed.

Motion to adjourn at 3:27PM