

## **SKMEA Fall Meeting 10/3/18 4:30 p.m. Spiro's Pizza, Mukilteo**

CHRIS Called the meeting to order at 4:43 p.m.

In attendance:

Chris Angelos

Nancy Duck Jefferson

Ken Caldwell

Karen Helseth

Scott Barnes

Kira & Nathan Rengstorf

Jaci Cummings

Gilian Malacari

Amy Stevenson

Brittany Newell

Phil Onishi

Patty Schmidt

Suzanne Dejong

Anne Kreider Hughes

Robin Enders

Elizabeth Anderson

### **Welcome - Chris**

Chris talked about updating his contact list for skmea teachers. Chris welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced Amy Stevenson as president elect and Phil Onishi as secretary.

Everyone present introduced themselves. Nathan also mentioned that he has an email list too.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Nathan presented the financial report. He announced that we're on a slow downward trend.

The cost difference from past years is related to our use of the eca for events which have become more costly.

### **Some financial discussion followed:**

One possible idea was proposed that would increase the number of participants in some of our events or up the fees for festivals. There was limited discussion of festival fee increases.

Nathan informed us that the eca is becoming more expensive, a trend that is expected to continue in the coming year.

Amy Stevenson brought up the idea of raising the ensemble fee for solo ensemble to a \$25 fee for all ensembles (different than the current difference between small ensemble \$15 and large ensembles \$25) This change would offset the rising costs of large group festivals.

Amy asked what the ideal balance for the organization? Nathan explained that carrying a \$15,000 to 20,000 balance is ideal?

There was some discussion about which events are costing more than fees paid. High School Band One festival, and middle school solo/ens festival have been revenue losses.

Chris at this point asked if we would approve the budget that Nathan submitted.

Scott made a motion that we approve the budget submitted by Nathan. Amy Stevenson seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The vote passed with 100% approval. The budget was approved.

### **Approval of the Spring 2018 minutes**

The spring 2018 minutes were not approved as they were not available in printed form at the meeting.

Amy recalled notes from our spring 2018 meeting in which it was proposed that Middle school Honor Orchestra festival fees be raised from \$25 to \$30. We did not vote on this proposal.

### **WMEA UPDATES**

Karen Helseth

Talked about WMEA activities

Including Geoffrey Boers presentation at state assembly regarding a choral literacy project.

Karen also talked about increases in participation fees for all NW. Reality is that the WMEA has been losing money in the course of the last few years, but this year is particularly difficult because of costs in Portland. She conveyed how challenging the WMEA felt in increasing the All NW participation fees for 2019. She said that as difficult as a fee increase was, the WMEA Board felt it was absolutely necessary.

Nancy Duck Jefferson asked about hotel availability of conference hotels. She reports that hotels are already reporting that at least one of the conference hotels is already sold out. Scott recommended that Nancy contact the WMEA office to ask that they see about increasing the number of hotel rooms for the conference.

### **SKMEA Festivals Discussed**

#### **Middle Honor Fest**

There was discussion about increasing the number of middle school students from each school. The discussion included the possibility of more space open for middle school orchestra students. The general feeling was that there is still space for more middle school orchestra players and that the local teachers should advocate for increasing the number of participants in 2019. The discussion included Nathan saying that we would break even if 22 more students registred. This number is the break even point for the entire Honor Festival. The middle school choir teachers felt it would be fairly simple to increase the number of choir participants. There was a brief discussion of choral balance between TB and SA. In the past treble numbers were limited mostly in order to balance the TB numbers. Kira suggested that we move forward with larger SA numbers and find other ways to balance the groups, including adding string bass to the TB parts, or bringing in high school boys to add to the TB mix. It was consensus that they would try to increase the number of students, particularly SA membership for the upcoming year.

#### **High School Solo/Ens Fees discussed**

A motion was made to change the high school and middle school ensemble fee to \$25 per ensemble. Increasing ensemble fees up from the previous small ens (\$15) and large ensemble remain \$25.

Ann Kreider Hughes, made the motion to increase ensemble fees to \$25. Amy seconds the motion and the motion passed.

### **High School Festival Changes**

It was decided that for a one year trial, high school full orchestras, could be included in the band 1 day. Scott mentioned that would it might be problematic to find a qualified judge for full orchestra? Most people spoke that it wouldn't be a big issue.

Amy made a motion to open full orchestra on band 1. Amy thinks that if just Kamiak and Lynnwood make this change, the problem should be solved or at least improve.

### **Middle School Orchestra Festival**

Anne had a middle orchestra question. She wanted to know more about the maximum number of groups performing on one day at the ECA. She recalled that perform slots at one time were 25 minutes and now have become 20 minutes with the increased number of groups. There was discussion about how the 20 minute time slots are working. A number of people voiced support of the 20 minute time slots. Judging and workshop logistics work well with the 20 minute slots. Others felt that kids would stay more engaged as audience members with shorter time slots as well. Scott addressed the fact that the ECA needs to end our day at 4 p.m. It may be possible to extend the day, but it may be problematic. A concern was also raised that extending the day creates huge transportation concerns.

### **Capping the number of performing groups at contests**

Nathan talked about the burden on the festival managers to say no to some groups because some of the festivals have become so large. If we cap the number, we exclude kids, but if we try to split the event, we'll lose money.

What do we do?

Scott mentioned that we have made the decision that if groups are outside SKMEA then their names can be placed on a waiting list. Outside the organization would only be allowed to participate if space allowed.

### **March 12, 2019 Choral Festival Conflict with Testing**

There is discussion about the giving of testing on the March 12th date. Switching dates is not workable due to bussing, and conflicts with specific students.

Patty is wondering if her issue can be solved through asking the manager (John Hendricks) about scheduling her choirs at specific times.

Chris says that we are tabling the testing issue on March 12th, until we can gather more information. Waiting on Lynnwood and possibly other schools to find out about their testing situation.

### **Festival schedules**

Chris will send out a new hosting schedule because the info that Chris distributed was incorrect and not up to date.

WMEA proposed rule changes:

We looked at 2020 contest proposals.

Proposals were presented with relatively little discussion.

Chris asks if there are ways to include more elementary teachers in our meetings. Phil spoke, that in past years contact has been made with many of the elementary teachers, but many feel that there is little to gain by coming to the meetings.

Next Wednesday, May 22, 2019

Meeting finished 5:50 p.m.