

NJAJE MEETING 10/11/10

Present: J. Lindner, Haas, Anzuini, Lesser, Graham, Branker, Russo, Tolentino, Demsey, Dohrmann, Warshafsky, Heller, Kunkel

Absent: May, Cox, S. Lindner

1. Meeting called to order 5:30 PM by J. Lindner. Dr. Kunkel will be taking minutes due to Mr. May's absence.

2. **Secretary's Report.** Minutes of June 2010 meeting sent electronically by Mr. May. Minutes approved.

3. **Treasurer's Report.** Mr. Anzuini discussed incoming fees and expenses, which will be available in detailed report. Bank balance stands at \$17,000 plus. This leaves us in very good shape for this time of the year. Medals and plaques ordered. Not able to give report on Money Market account or Kerber Scholarship balance this evening. Treasurer's Report approved.

4. **Vocal Jazz Report.** Dr. Dohrmann met with South Jersey Choral Director's president to discuss some perceived problems with Region III Chorus. Diana met with some interested parties regarding the next region auditions, and it has been decided not to work through the traditional region contacts (NJMEA related organizations). Groups will still be rather large in nature, trying to give more students this experience. Discussion of these circumstances ensued. Conductors will be: Region I, Charles Postas from Pequannock; Cindy Hardy from Monsignor Donovan for Region II; and Dr. Dohrmann will conduct Region III. A groundbreaking year is planned with select jazz choirs in all three regions. Diana inquired about vocal clinicians for the upcoming conferences.

5. **Higher Ed Report.** Dr. Demsey reported that it is Dr. Branker's turn to conduct Intercollegiate Jazz, hopefully with a partner from Rutgers (Bowen or Herwig). Demsey would like the IC Concert Band (NJ Band Conference) and the IC Jazz Band to partner in terms of the concert offering and possible presentation at Rutgers. Julius will file the paperwork with NJMEA to keep things centralized. Demsey pointed out for the board's information, that Rich DeRosa, a strong advocate for jazz education in NJM, had departed WPU to accept a position at the University of North Texas.

6. **Region I.** Mr. Tolentino is still working on the locations, and has a potential (yet unconfirmed) conductor for high school band. No conductor yet for Jr. High group. Julius will be taking over the duties of coordinating the February NJMEA Conference contributions of NJAJE from Jeff Haas.

7. **President's Report.**

- a. Mr. Linder reports that all-state band and chorus rehearsals are proceeding nicely, and took care of some details regarding NJPAC and AC concerts. Discussed request from award honoree Don Braden to have some “Jazz For Teens” students involved in some way at the NJPAC Conference. Discussion of possibility of interview on WBGO, possible membership affiliation with them, etc. Jeff Haas will be in touch with WBGO.
- b. Mr. Lindner, along with other board members who were involved, reviewed changes to the constitution discussed at a separate meeting held in summer 2010. Further clarifications and suggestions were offered by board members. Constitutional changes were approved, and will be sent out electronically, to be voted upon by the membership along with the next election ballot.
- c. General membership “meeting” at the November conference will be conducted by Mr. Lindner, primarily as an informative introduction.

8. Region II Report. Mr. Heller reported that Montgomery Upper Middle School will host rehearsals and concert.

9. Region III Report. Mr. Cox (via e-mail) reported that Chris Farr (UArts) will be conducting the high school group. He expressed continued concerns about the number of students auditioning.

10. Vice-President’s Report. Mr. Haas reported that Denis DiBlasio, Mike Carubia, and Lisa DeSpain will be the November conference clinicians. Mr. Haas would like to put out a request to current and past membership as a reminder, in order to assure a strong attendance. February conference coming together, as noted earlier, Mr. Tolentino is taking over coordination. Steve Zegree is currently listed as the most noted visiting clinician. Mr. Haas noted success in getting etudes online early. He also brought up the discussion of using a “commissioned” big band piece in lieu of etudes, which did not seem to meet with much interest. There are currently no official corporate sponsors for this year. Mr. Heller and Mr. Warshafsky will take over this duty from Mr. Haas.

11. State Auditions Report. Mr. Warshafsky reports that a move towards online application still under investigation, using Google Docs. Signature forms will still need to be filled manually, and there will of course be a learning curve involved. All State is likely a better starting place than region groups.

12. Past President’s Report.

- a. Mr. Lesser reports that membership stands at 59 members. Although “Jazz Inside” magazine claims to be sending out the “next” issue, Mr. Lesser will discuss the infrequent number of issues with Eric Niemeyer, and try to assure that he will be giving us credit

- b. Proposal from JEN that we affiliate with them, basically an affiliate membership for a fee of \$25 per chapter, with us being allowed to offer JEN membership to our members for \$10. Tabled for January meeting.
- c. Combo fest proceeding with same locations as last year, with the hopeful audition of a final performance evening in May @ MSU.
- d. State Jazz Festival Survey. Questionnaire is under development to attempt to ascertain directors' feelings about competitive versus non- competitive festivals.

13. Jersey Jazzer Report. Recent issue sent out as planned.

14. State Jazz Festival. Mr. Graham reported that 2010 Prelims/Finals were highly successful. There were no reports of overt complaints about judging, and there were no penalties for groups arriving late, or going overtime in performance. Thanks to Diana Dohrmann, who revised the program information regarding the Kerber Scholarship. The 2011 state festival is nearly at capacity, with 39 out of 40 slots already taken. Discussion of request from Nick Rotindo regarding the request to move up in level. This is not being allowed at this point.

15. Adjudication Festival Report

Dr. Kunkel introduced discussion of use of digital media instead of cassette recordings, and will report back with a recommendation. Issue remains as to judges owning their own digital recorders, or us providing them.

16. Website Report. All is well, aside with some issues regarding the e-mail service provided for the website.

17. Officers for 2011-2013 term. Need to elect all offices, slate should be put forth at the January meeting. Nominating committee will be Dr. Kunkel, Jeff Lesser, Ron Heller.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40.