

NJAJE Executive Board Meeting
Omega Diner, North Brunswick, NJ
Monday, January 19, 2015, 8:30 PM

Call to order – David May - 8:56am

Attendance: Jeff Haas, Dave May, Jeff Lesser, Mike Anzuini, Jeff Kunkel, Meredith Foreman, Dave Demsey, Joe Bongiovi, Randy White, Steve Bishop, Doug Barber, Joe Verderese

Meeting Procedures: Robert's Rules should be followed.

Opening Remarks:

- Dave May – Glad to be back

Secretary Report – Joe Verderese

- Motion to accept minutes from last meeting – Jeff Haas
 - Seconded – Dave Demsey

Treasurer Report - Mike Anzuini reports a balance \$
(missed the number, sorry)

- Joe B and Mike A working on making the official change-over
- Treasurer's report was emailed out for members to look at last week.
 - Lots of money went out in November – Conference, NJ Jazzer, still accepting membership fees
 - Took in \$9,000, spent \$14,000 in the past quarter
- **Trophies Unlimited** - in Hamilton, NJ - Our new vendor for trophies
- Jeff lesser Motion to accept Treasurer Report
- Dave Demsey - Second

President's Report – Dave May

- **Check Letterhead and Gmail addresses** – Each attendee checked our letterhead and gmail addresses to make sure for accuracy

- **All State Jazz Managers for 2015** – Lost both all state managers moving towards next year, so we are in need of at least 1 manager moving forward. Brian H is willing to help and share all documents, but someone needs to step in. Involves a few nights stay in Atlantic City in November.
- **Web Master + Website** - Jeff Lesser is interested in continuing to work on the website and serve as webmaster.

Vice President Report – Jeff Haas

- **November Conference -**
 - Thanks to everyone for coming and helping out.
 - Great things to say from Bob Stoloff and Mark Taylor
 - NJPAC is very easy to work with. We are reserved for next November for November Conference and concert
 - Jeff Haas Has spoken to Jim Snidero to possibly be clinician – cost of \$1,000 – much less than the last 2 years, plus can get some aid from Selmer. May include hotel cost.
 - All in favor of Jim as clinician
 - Steve Bishop has spoken with Kerry Marsh about conducting the State Jazz Choir as well as do our teacher clinic. Price would come in somewhere around \$3,000-\$3,400 including all the dates, travel expenses (2 flights,) etc. NJMEA pays for the room in Atlantic City. Steve Bishop would teach the music at the extra rehearsals before Atlantic City weekend.
 - Steve will begin negotiating with Kerry Marsh for the entire package for 2015
- **All-State Conductors Discussion –**
 - David Demsey proposes a “wish list” for conductors in the area and out of the area – to help us navigate the more expensive conductors
 - Jeff Kunkel tossed the idea around of rolling this concept in with the intercollegiate level
 - There has been some interest from Mark Taylor, Bob Lark (Chicago), Ryan McCarthy (Vermont), John Diversa (U. of Miami)
 - Other names tossed around: Conrad Herwig, Denis DiBlasio
 - Some other states require conductors to present a list of 2x as many tunes as needed, and then NJAJE would select the music from that list.

- President will coordinate all information to the state conductors to make sure all information gets out to them appropriately. This will be Mike Anzuini this year, since he is president elect.
- Steve Bishop recommends creating a contract for our conductors to ensure that we don't end up with any mistakes
- 2016 is 50th year of Thad Jones/Mel Lewis band. Can approach people like Dick Oatts, John Mosca, Gary Smulyan for 2016
- We will pursue Conrad Herwig and Denis Diblasio
- Will make a decision on Friday, February 20 meeting at NJMEA.
- **February Convention Update –**
 - Reading Band is happening
 - Likely to be Saturday around 11am
 - Academy – there have been 4 submissions – directly to Marie
 - We no longer have a booth or table at NJMEA – effective a few years ago
- **Region and All State Application –**
 - Jeff Haas sent email with links to the new application process
 - We need to have clarification on the application form for the 2nd chair rhythm section players
 - Lots of discussion regarding the rhythm section for vocal jazz
 - Jeff Haas - Motion to make a box for rhythm section candidates to confirm their understanding that the 2nd chair will be assigned to the combo/Region Jazz Choir
 - Joe Verderese - Seconded
 - “I understand that if I place 2nd in the audition for a rhythm section instrument, I will qualify to perform with the Region Jazz Choir.”
 - Application Deadlines:
 - Student deadline for online submission – Wednesday, March 4, 2015.
 - Tuesday, March 10, 2015 – Director postmark deadline
 - Can we make a more prominently placed link when audition forms are available?
 - Jeff Haas will contact Jeff Brown to work on getting the forms up by this Saturday, in time for All State Band Auditions.
 - Steve Bishop will put together the finishing touches on the choir forms.

State Festival and Membership Chair Report - Jeff Lesser

- **State Jazz Festival** –
 - Website changed last year, which created some imbalance in the sites. There were some problems with the forms on the website, leading people to sign up for last year's festival without us knowing. Other issues helped lead to the imbalance. At this point, we have 13 schools at one location, none of which are willing to move to another location.
 - Possible Solutions – Start the festival earlier – 4pm – may not be possible. Festival will run approximately 6 hours. Jeff Lesser will try to negotiate for a 4:30 start time. Schools MUST stick to the 20 minute time allotted.
 - Next year, Jeff Lesser will make sure to check more often to make sure we do not oversaturate one market. (OR we will try to make adobe forms close it out when maxed out.)
 - We will need to relax the rule about staying for the entire festival, due to the length of the festival, at the West Orange location this year.
 - Lengthy discussion regarding the 20 minute time limit of performance as well as the set up/warmup time.
 - Doug Barber – Motion that Time restrictions are enforced at prelims
 - Dave Demsey – Second
 - All in favor
- **Rubrics** – nothing changing
- **Masters of Ceremonies** – I caught as much of these names as possible – it went quick. Next time, I will just ask everyone to confirm all of this information with me so I don't miss it.)
 - Jeff Lesser – 1st night
 - Jeff Kunkel will do Bridgewater
 - April 25 – Finals
 - Steve Bishop - Princeton
 - Joe Verderese – Nutley
 - Haas – JP Stevens
 - Prelims Judges:
 - Wilber Whitteman – Sightreading

- Alan Ferber -
 - Gunnar Mossblad –
 - Glenn Minkos
- Grouping for Finals:
 - 3 tiers, random drawing
- Payments for membership fees –
- **Current Membership –**
 - Payments for membership are in good shape
 - The magazine is quite expensive – taking up more than half of the \$60 membership fees we collect.
 - Are we still receiving this magazine as a hard copy?

Honors Jazz Choir Report – Steve Bishop

- Much of his information was discussed earlier in the meeting
- Can we call his position the “Vocal Jazz Chair?” In addition, we can change the “higher education Chair?”

President Elect report – Mike Anzuini

- **NJMEA Meeting report**
 - CD’s have not been pressed yet from the festival in November.
 - Governor’s Award – we need to select a student for this award – TODAY!
 - Motion to award to lead trumpet player: Sam Wolsk
 - All in agreement
 - NJPAC Payment discussion
 - All Eastern – Students and hosting in 2017
 - NJ is hosting All-Eastern in 2017.
 - All National – Applications are due the Friday after All State Auditions
 - Atlantic City went smoothly, a few glitches along the way. Concerts went well.
 - For the next 2 years, NJMEA is has contract with the Claridge for rehearsals. Where should we have the concert? At Claridge or at the Convention Center?
 - Mike Anzuini - Motion to use Claridge Theatre for rehearsal and concert

- Doug Barber – Second
- All in favor

Past President Report - Jeff Kunkel

- Prospective All State Conductors – talked about earlier in the meeting
- JEN Conference Report – Jeff Kunkel went to the conference and it was outstanding
 - Next year is in Louisville, then in New Orleans, and next possibly in Reno.
 - Performances were great
 - They are not looking to organize at the state level.

Jersey Jazzer Report - Meredith Foreman –

- Are we doing one in the spring? Or just wait until the fall for the next one.
 - Possibly do a vocal spotlight in the spring to start pumping the vocal jazz stuff
 - Add a page at the end with other information
- Will be electronic copy in the Spring.

Higher Education Report – Dave Demsey

- **Collegiate Ensemble** – 2015 NJMEA Conference
 - Group has been selected for next year.
 - Jeff Kunkel and Dave Demsey will be the directors
 - Rehearse 1x two weeks before the event
 - Perform on Thursday night after the Intercollegiate Wind Ensemble Concert (If the wind ensemble happens.)
 - If Wind Ensemble does not happen, then we will try to get the 7pm slot

Region I report – John Maiello

- John is not present today
- Nutley will not be an option for the festival this year.
- Jeff Haas is conducting Region I HS band
- Middle School does not have a conductor yet
- Steve Bishop will be audition chair for all 3 regions of vocal jazz

Region II report – Randy White

- Joe Bongiovi still helping out
- Reached out to Rahway HS for hosting
- Conductors are not confirmed

Region III report – Doug Barber

- Rehearsals and Concert at Burlington Township, Marlton Middle School, and Seneca High School. The first rehearsal site is TBA
- Mark White Conducts MS Band
- Steve Bishop conducting choir
- Josh Lawrence will conduct HS Band

Old Business –

- **Combo Festival or Clinics?**
 - Doug Barber will put together a proposal for combo festival to be approved at June meeting.
 - Go back to the “old format” at 3 different colleges

New Business –

- Need to hold elections for the next 2 years
 - Nominating committee includes Jeff Lesser and Jeff Kunkel
 - Election will be posted online
- Offering our services for clinics/workshops at other schools

For the good of the order -

- New York Voices playing at Ridgewood HS on February 27 with big band of NJ guys
- Next meeting – Monday, June 8, 2015 – Dinner Meeting

Adjourned – 12:33pm

- Motion to adjourn – Mike Anzuini
- Second – Dave Demsey
- All in favor