

NJAJE Executive Board Meeting
Americana Diner, East Windsor, NJ
Monday, June 8, 2015, 5:30 PM

Call to order – David May - 5:51pm

Attendance: *Jeff Kunkel, Jeff Haas, Joe Verderese, Randy White, Joe Bongiovi, Steve Bishop, David May, Mike Anzuini*

Meeting Procedures: Robert's Rules should be followed.

Opening Remarks:

- Dave May

Interim Secretary Report – Joe Verderese

- Motion to accept minutes from last meeting – Dave May
 - Seconded – Jeff Kunkel, all in favor

Interim Treasurer Report

- Joe B sent out the treasurer report via email and handed out a basic version of it at the meeting
- We are using quickbooks now.
- At last meeting, we were running short on cash as we were putting money out for events.
- NJAJE lost a good amount of money on prelims
 - Steinert and Jackson Liberty were 50/50 splits. Some individual schools lost money due to poor attendance in the audience and participating bands.
 - How can we resolve this situation to turn it into a financial positive for hosting schools?
 - Can we find sponsorship to help us with prelims?
 - Finding sponsors was quite difficult

- In the past, the sponsors were local dealers and each sponsorship was good for a year's worth of events within NJAJE. Generally, sponsors do not come from large corporations such as Yamaha.
- Total ticket sales from 5 nights of prelims was \$1800
- The question was asked: "If sight-reading doesn't count, why do it at prelims?"
- NJAJE lost \$2025 on prelims, including ticket sales income
- Motion to accept Treasurer report – Mike Anzuini
- Seconded – Jeff Kunkel
- All in favor

Jeff Lesser Report

- Issues raised about posting of results for prelims and finals
 - Never used to post results of prelims because it was not considered competitive in that sense, more about education. Ratings given.
 - Didn't send out results until a teacher brought it up after not sending them.
 - Posted google doc of the scores without the names of schools
 - Handed out recap sheet at finals, but it was requested to get results from ALL divisions
 - Discussion:
 - Transparency is a good thing in terms of scores being released
 - Outcome: Scores can be released to all bands of bands from all divisions
- Payments for prelims and finals – almost done with finals.
 - Is sometimes tough to get money from some of the groups
 - Thought: host schools would not get charged to host finals
- Format and Divisions:
 - Camden Creative Arts is in division I based on drawing from larger schools
 - Newark Academy is in Division III a private school drawing from the entire state
 - Divisions are generally set by school size, but can we give schools the option of moving to a different division for finals

- Maybe there needs to be a committee that can sit down and meet to review regarding any changes to the festival. It needs to be done leading into the beginning of the year.
- Jeff Lesser and Joe Bongiovi– appointed committee chairs
 - Joe and Jeff will come up with a date and set it up.
 - General Membership invited to be a part of the committee
 - Invite someone who can represent each division’s finals who is not a part of the board
 - Any of these changes will take effect in 2016-2017
- Can we add an improvisational component to a separate private room in the competition along with the sightreading
 - Choose 3 soloists to improvise, picking a card out of 3 keys and chord changes, OR be a part of the sightreading piece.
- Judges should arrive earlier to go over the rubrics before judging
- Festival sites for almost completely confirmed for next year
 - Division III is back to Overbrook this coming year
 - Burlington in 2014
- Membership application
 - Shooting for July 1 to have it ready
 - Jeff will send an email about membership forms being ready by July 1 including info about all conference clinicians/etc
- Magazine subscriptions have not been delivered to everyone
 - Jeff Kunkel will contact Downbeat to see if we can work out something with them instead of Jazz Inside.
- Website
 - No major changes made at this point
 - It is ambiguous where things are “supposed” to be posted. Things get posted in multiple places because we are not sure which places to put things.
 - Jeff Lesser asking permission to neaten in up
 - Also to put up a google calendar on the website
- Election results
 - All officials have been elected

President’s Report – Dave May

- **There are positions that need to be filled**
 - **Doug Barber stepping down as Region III president but accepted all state manager position**
 - **President-Elect – NJAJE - Mike Anzuini becomes president**
 - **Time to take nominations at the September meeting**
- **Executive director position – large workload**
 - **State Jazz festival, membership, website, moderate conference help, etc.**
 - **NJMEA has gone to the format of having executive director**
 - **How do we go about making this change? Is there a certain time that we have to do this? Can we vote at November meeting and make the position retroactive to this summer?**
 - **Mike Anzuini will draft a proposal to make a general membership vote to make this change. Mike can find this information under ARTICLE 5 on the website.**
- **Jeff Brown report – absorbed into Dave May’s report**
 - **This information will be attached to the minutes**
 - **Most directors like the new procedures for all state**
 - **Students need to be informed sooner if they are eligible to audition for all-state**
 - **Statement on the region form stating that you must fulfill the requirements of region jazz band in order to audition for all-state**
 - **New online registration system will likely be ‘jot-form.’**
 - **Can integrate payment tools**
 - **Scores entered during auditions could be efficient with network capable laptops**
 - **Paper worksheets still needed as backup**
 - **Should directors be able to judge in rooms that their kids are auditioning in?**
 - **Difficult to find judges for all instruments**
 - **On the director application form – maybe put checkboxes for instruments that they are comfortable playing**
 - **Should have a judge in each room on the primary instrument, whenever possible**
 - **What happens if a director is not able to make it, but their students show up? Directors will be held responsible for**

being there OR making up the time, in the case of an emergency

- Can we get a couple of directors to volunteer
- Nothing changing at this point, but we need to reinforce what we already have in place
- We must make sure that our web-master takes down the old etudes immediately and post the new ones more efficiently.
- Video clips of the etudes could be posted on website with “mini-lesson”
 - Video clips about jazz etudes in general, things to look for
 - Webinar? - Live online clinic/question and answer session which can be then posted to youtube for those who could not make it
- Conference for kids?
- Can one of the officers be the “educational coordinator” to take care of some of these things? Maybe the President-elect or the executive director.
- How can we coordinate better on the business end of our festivals to get money deposited sooner
- Thank you to the following;
 - Jeff Brown – technology integration
 - Steve Bishop – Vocal Jazz audition stuff
 - Group of guys who helped with jazz vocal auditions (didn’t catch all the names)
 - Doug Barber – region III president stuff
 - Thanks to the board for everything over the past 2 years.

Vice President Report – Jeff Haas

- November conference has been set early
- Jim Snidero - \$1000 minus Selmer’s portion
 - Would like a hotel room the evening before his presentation
 - Not sure about need for a demo group
 - First call would be to Montclair State this year
- NJMEA Conference – time to start thinking about this
- Request for space has been put in
- Region I audition space is booked for Ridgewood
- Kerry Marsh is signed for educator conference as well as conducting all state

- Made a “boiler-plate” contract. Could we take a look over it to make sure nothing is missing or incorrect?
- Contract includes everything that is expected of the conductor
- Can we do pins or medals for Region Jazz?
 - Vote on this in October
- Nominations and discussion about jazz education achievement award
 - Brian Height – nominated by Jeff Kunkel, seconded by Steve Bishop
 - Joel Perry – nominated by Jeff Haas, seconded by Dave May
 - Vote for award taken – Brian Height

President Elect report – Mike Anzuini

- April 4-8, 2017 – Atlantic City to host All-Eastern
- All-State Jazz will be hosted at Claridge for the next 4 years
- Conrad Herwig was approved by NJMEA to conduct all state jazz band
- All info for the newsletter needs to get in
- NJEA sessions needed to be submitted by May 15
 - Still looking for sessions
- NJMEA conference – forms are up already, deadline is September 15, 2015
 - Strong middle school band director – to teach non-“jazz-people” how to teach kids to swing
 - College professors from different universities
 - Jazz etude session
 - Rhythm section
- Project Trio is the Friday night concert at NJMEA
- Reading band on Saturday by Jeff Haas

State Festival and Membership Chair Report - Jeff Lesser

- No notes

Honors Jazz Choir Report – Steve Bishop

- Double response from last year
- Upgraded from 4 schools to 16 schools submitting auditions
- Students accepted from 12 different schools
- If we have any thoughts about this year’s new process, let Steve know

- “how-to’s” were online
- Can we try to do these auditions a little earlier?
- Will try to have everything ready by October
- Will include that “Video quality is not judged”
- No technological glitches
- All videos were checked for safety and privacy
- Song submissions are in – all arrangements of Kerry Marsh
- Still discussing possibility of combined piece with the jazz band
- How can we get a larger database of directors to email?
 - Can get a spreadsheet sent over from Tom. Mike A will try to get a hold of an updated list
- Steve B is teaching the 2 days of rehearsal prior to Atlantic City

Past President Report - Jeff Kunkel

- Last meeting as past president – we will need to find someone to take over finding adjudicators
- Jeff K will share his database of people to contact directly with the person who is taking the job
- Jeff K is interested in staying on board to help Dave Demsey with collegiate end

Jersey Jazzer Report - Meredith Foreman –

- No news

Higher Education Report – Dave Demsey

- No news

Region I report – John Maiello

- no news

Region II report – Randy White

- thanks to everyone for all their contributions this year
- Everything went well at Rahway
- Region ensembles, all state, etc was smooth

Region III report – Doug Barber

- no news

Old Business –

- Calendar is set up that states what needs to be done before each meeting to be passed down from president to president to make sure nothing gets missed

New Business –

- Alumni All State big band –
 - Need to get lists from all the past years
 - Fundraiser?
- Can we create a template for a press release that goes out to students who make our groups that can be submitted to the student's local papers to help promote their achievements and our programs
- Can we add a place for people to list themselves as clinicians on our website?
- Email from Earl McDonald – director of jazz studies at University of Connecticut – interested in being on list of potential candidates to guest conduct Regions or All State
- Is there a way for people to submit application to conduct honors groups?
- Steve Bishop interested in starting a vocal jazz reading session clinic
 - Get people together and show them that they CAN do this!

For the good of the order -

- none

Adjourned – 9:32pm

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