

**NJAJE Executive Board Meeting**  
**Omega Diner, North Brunswick, NJ**  
**Monday, October 12, 2015, 5:00 PM**

**Call to order – Mike Anzuini - 5:32pm**

**Attendance:** Jeff Kunkel, Meredith Foreman, Mike Anzuini, Jeff Lesser, Joe Verderese, Joe Bongiovi, Jeff Brown, John Maiello, Jeff Haas, Dave Demsey

**Meeting Procedures:** Robert's Rules should be followed.

**Secretary Report – Joe Verderese**

- Motion to accept amended minutes from last meeting – Jeff Kunkel
    - Seconded – Joe Bongiovi
    - All in favor
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**Treasurer Report – Joe Bongiovi**

**CURRENT BALANCES:**

- PNC Checking - \$4,675.73
- PNC Money Market Savings - \$2,692.68
- PNC Certificate of Deposit - \$14, 692.11

**DETAILED EXPENSES:**

- Itemized listing of all expenses since the last meeting was handed out to the group
  - Motion to accept amended minutes from last meeting – Jeff Lesser
    - Seconded – John Maiello
    - All in favor
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## **Jersey Jazzer**

- Meredith sent a template to the executive board with a rough draft of the Jersey Jazzer
  - Article contributions are welcome at this point – due by Sunday, 10/18/25
  - Where are they now section:
    - Adam Blackstone
    - Derrick Hodge
  - Downbeat Magazine subscription is now a benefit of membership
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## **President Report – Mike Anzuini**

- **All State Jazz Ensemble Update**
  - First rehearsal has happened.
  - Conrad Herwig is conducting
  - Doug Barber is managing
  - Concert in Atlantic City - Claridge – 8:30pm
    - Combo for the choir will play the pre-show
    - Jazz Choir
    - Jazz Ensemble
    - Combined Number
      - Free Concert
  - Concert in NJPAC – begins at 7:00pm
    - Paid admission
- **NJMEA Update**
  - President of NJAJE now holds a seat on the NJMEA Board of Directors
- **Executive Director**
  - NJMEA's Job description handed out as a sample. We need to create our own job description. Here are some recommendations
    - Executive director would oversee and assist all of the other officer positions that are already in place
    - Membership
    - Jazz Festival

- Fundamental operations – insurance renewals, booking travel, non-profit status, etc.
  - Since it is a change to our by-laws, Mike Anzuini will put together a description and email it to us for a vote
- **Score Audit/Audition procedures**
  - Region II scores for piano auditions were checked by all members of the executive board. No errors were found.
  - At auditions, parents and friends should remain in a separate area from auditions. Site hosts should work to accommodate this request.
  - Equipment can all be moved into the room before auditions begin.
    - Amps and drum sets should stay in rooms until the conclusion of auditions. Family and friends can assist with the moves before and after auditions.
- **All Eastern 2017/Region Dates 2017**
  - April 5-8, 2017 in Atlantic City
  - Let's start thinking about presentations
  - There will be no 2017 February conference due to this festival
  - Can we apply for ensemble approval with intercollegiate bands and other ensembles from NJ?
  - Region Jazz experience will need to be condensed in 2017
    - March 6-10 could be the state festival
    - March 13 – auditions
    - March 20 – rehearsal
    - Concert – last weekend in march/First weekend in April
- **NJMEA Conference – February 2016**
  - We do not have details regarding the Thursday academies. Here are our ideas
    - Bill Thoman has offered to do a simple bass line construction clinic
    - Possibility of having a full rhythm section academy
  - Intercollegiate Jazz Band will perform on Thursday night
- **All State Conductors List**
  - Start thinking about conductors for next year so we can make initial contact.
  - Jeff Haas received a curriculum Vitae and program from Earl McDonald showing interest in conducting All-State Jazz.

- Recommendation was made about possibly hiring a guest artist as opposed to or in addition to a guest conductor.
  - Dave Demsey will share his list of potential candidates
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## **Vice President Report – Jeff Haas**

- **November Conference update**
    - Selmer will pay half of Jim Snidero's fee. Total fee is \$1,000. Selmer pays \$500.
    - NJPAC is paid
    - Kerry Marsh's Airline Tickets have been purchased
    - Hotel has not yet been booked – 2 nights for Kerry Marsh, 1 for Jim Snidero.
    - Price for Luncheon should stay the same.
    - Jim Snidero will use a guest combo from Nutley High School
    - Lunch is not included in the student price for membership since their membership was much cheaper in the past. With our new subscription to Downbeat and the savings of money, the students will be included for the meal this year
    - Added Jalen Jazz as a publisher sponsor for charts
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## **Membership Chair Report - Jeff Lesser**

- **Membership Report**
  - Membership updates and information has been emailed to us.
  - 72 members in a variety of categories
  - Jazz Inside Magazine has been replaced by Downbeat Magazine as our subscription for a substantial financial savings.
  - We will add a \$40 retired membership option
- **Website**
  - Questions have been raised about the font and background of the website. Jeff will work on getting more contrast to make the font jump out more.

- Updates have been made so that information is in only one spot now.
  - **State Jazz Festival 2016**
    - 35 bands are currently registered
      - West Orange is filled
      - Cherokee is filled
      - Steinert has 5 bands
      - Bridgewater-Raritan has 8 bands
      - Jackson Liberty – Friday night - has only 3 bands.
      - Set a deadline of October 31 for signing up.
  - **Jazz Festival 2016-2017**
    - Summer committee meeting with Earl Phillips, Scott Katona and Brian Height to discuss and propose changes to the festival. Here are ideas that have been brought up.
    - Discussion continued regarding all of these suggestions. Below are the decisions that were made:
    - **This year's changes** – Sight-reading will count in prelims
    - **Next year's changes** – Improvisation can be added to competition.
      - Improvisation can be used **this year** as an *optional* portion as a test run to see if we want to add it next year
        - During prelims, use Aebersold recording
        - During Finals, use live rhythm section and solo within the sight-reading chart
    - **MOTION TO APPROVE THE ABOVE CHANGES: JOE VERDERESE**
      - **SECOND - JEFF BROWN**
      - **ALL IN FAVOR**
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### **Region I report – (John Maiello)**

- There is a list of names for conductors
- Scheduling has become difficult for this year's festival due to varying Spring Breaks between schools

### **Region II report – Randy White (via Mike Anzuini)**

- HS Band Conductor – Jeff Lesser
- Rehearsals and concert - Rahway HS

### **Region III report – Dave May (Vacant position)**

- No Report
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### **Vocal Jazz Report – Steve Bishop (Via Mike Anzuini)**

- First rehearsal went well for Jazz Choir
  - Kerry Marsh will be in Atlantic City
  - One more rehearsal in the end of October
  - Planning to use the same audition procedure as last year
  - Looking for someone to conduct choir for Region III
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### **Higher Ed Report – (Dave Demsey and Jeff Kunkel)**

- Anthony Branker will likely be the conductor for Intercollegiate Band
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## **State Auditions Chair Report – (Jeff Brown)**

- Would like to see if there could be a more unified form from the 3 regions – including information and format. Jeff will make a form to be sent out to the three presidents
- Results for who is eligible for All-State auditions will be taken care of quicker this year.
- All State Applications will go live on March 21 and close on April 18. Directors application will close on April 25.
- Someone on the Executive Board will be at Auditions to collect the forms and checks
- January 25 – Open online applications for Regions and close on February 22. Director applications submitted on February 29. Postmarked on March 4. Auditions – March 14
- We can purchase the silver version of Jot-Forms which allows up to 10 users. This will cost \$319 for the year.
  - **MOTION TO PURCHASE THE SILVER LEVEL – Jeff brown**
  - **SECOND – Jeff Haas**
  - **ALL IN FAVOR**

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## **Old Business**

- **Alumni Big Band**
  - **Tabled until next meeting**
- **Press Release Template**
  - **Joe Verderese will come up with a press release template to send to all directors who have students accepted into groups**
- **All State Conductor Lists**
  - **Dave Demsey sent us via email**
- **Website submissions (Conductors, Clinicians, etc)**
  - **No new information**

- **Combo Festival**

- In lieu of a festival, we can offer up clinicians to come to the school and work with your small group on site. We could create a combo clinic sign-up for this. This will come at the same \$100 fee that the combo festival used to be. The fee would be turned over to the clinician who is coming to the school.

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**New Business**

- All paperwork procedures on the vocal end need to be the same as the instrumental end.

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**For the Good of the Order**

- n/a

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**Motion to adjourn – Jeff Lesser.****Second – Joe Bongiovi.****Adjourned – 9:02pm**