

**NJAJE Executive Board Meeting**  
**Omega Diner, North Brunswick, NJ**  
**Monday, October 11, 2016, 5:00 PM**

**Call to order – Mike Anzuini - 5:22pm**

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

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

**Secretary Report – Joe Verderese**

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

**CURRENT BALANCES:** Balances are about the same as they usually are at this time

- **PNC Checking - \$2,194.83**
- **PNC Money Market Savings - \$60.71**
- **PNC Certificate of Deposit - \$14,839.75**

**DETAILED EXPENSES:**

- **Distributed to executive board for review**

**Motion to accept amended Treasurer report – Mike Anzuini**

- **Seconded – Joe Verderese**
  - **All in favor**
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**President Report – Mike Anzuini**

- **Jersey Jazzer Status** – At this point, we will make a move from a newsletter to a Social Media concept instead. Meredith Foreman will become the Social Media Chair.
- **All State Jazz Ensemble Update** -
  - First rehearsal was 2 weeks ago.
  - Mr. Lesser serves as guest conductor for rehearsals while Mark Taylor is in Florida.
  - Band and choir had very successful first rehearsal and has very balanced sections throughout both band and choir
  - Discussion regarding bringing in a clinician to work with the rhythm section for the Vocal Jazz group rehearsal.
    - Potential names can be forwarded to Steve Bishop to make contact
  - NJMEA has asked NJAJE to pay for the rental of a piano for our Atlantic City concert
    - Jeff Lesser will reach out to NJMEA to come to an agreement regarding the issue.
    - Motion for Mike Anzuini and Jeff Lesser to negotiate the best agreement possible with NJMEA based on our discussion at the meeting. (John Maiello)
      - Second – Jeff Haas
      - All in Favor
  - All-State Concerts will change in 2017
    - NJPAC concert will be reformatted to help NJPAC and NJMEA avoid a net loss for the event
    - Band and Choir will be the 1<sup>st</sup> half of their own concert which will feature a “big name” feature artist
    - This year’s concert at NJPAC is moved to the “Chase Room”
    - NJPAC has arranged for Jon Faddis to perform with the All State Band this year
    - The combined piece will only be performed in Atlantic City starting in 2017
- **Region Jazz Dates 2018**
  - Preliminary discussion regarding dates. The calendar will get set in the next few months.
- **All Eastern 2017/Region Dates 2017**

- April 5-8, 2017 in Atlantic City
  - Mike Anzuini has offered to manage. They are looking for 1 more manager.
  - Reading session, led by Jeff Haas has been accepted
  - **All State Conductors List 2017**
    - Executive board narrowed our list down to a top 4 who will be contacted regarding conducting.
  - **Nominations**
    - Jeff Lesser and Jeff Kunkel will serve as nominating committee for this year's NJAJE elections
  - **Jazz Educator Award**
    - Joel Perry has been nominated for this year's award
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## **Vice President Report – Jeff Haas**

- **November Conference update**
    - Dennis Mackerel is confirmed as clinician
    - Prices have not changed this year.
    - Same rooms and lunch
    - Breakfast from Bruce Rickert – Peak Performance
    - Montclair State will send students to be the clinic band
    - We will pay the student's meals after the clinic
    - 1 night of hotel for Dennis – the night before
    - Vocal session will be a roundtable discussion.
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## **Executive Director Report – Jeff Lesser**

- **Membership Status and State Festival Enrollment**
  - Membership Report + State Festival enrollment was handed out at meeting
    - Membership is currently around 50.

- Due to a glitch in the registration form, Jeff Lesser will send an email reminding people to sign up or check to make sure their registration has gone through.
- **State Jazz Festival Changes**
  - Sight reading is required and is scored as 15% of the total score in the preliminary round. In 2017, Improvisation is also required as part of the sight reading chart, and is one of the new components of the sight reading adjudication sheet. (This applies to finals also.)
  - A New Jersey State Jazz Ensemble Gala will feature the top three bands from each division. This is a non-competitive concert with special awards for soloists and sections. This will take place on May 13.
    - This gala can also include the top scoring vocal group.
  - Admission price has risen to \$10 for adults and lowered to \$5 for students and seniors.
  - Improvisation is incorporated into the sight reading adjudication sheet utilizing the changes in the sight reading chart. Directors may pass the solos around the band regardless of where the solos changes are written.
  - The order of performance at finals will be drawn by grouping the placement of bands into three tiers: Bands scoring 7,8,9 in preliminaries will perform 1<sup>st</sup>,2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> (as chosen by the drawing.) Bands scoring 4,5,6 will perform 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> and bands scoring 1,2 or 3 will perform 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> (all as chosen by the drawing.)
  - The new rubric was handed out for review. Judges have opportunities to judge to the tenth of a point.
- **Communications**
  - Vocal Jazz Membership was added this year
  - Can we get the NJMEA mailing list to help reach out to Middle school and choral directors?
  - Mike Anzuini will follow up with Bill McDevitt
- **Payment Issue from 2016 Festival**
  - Camden-Creative Arts has not responded regarding payment for prelims and finals from 2015-2016. They will not be able to register this year until they pay their bill.
  - Metuchen has not paid for finals. Jeff Lesser will reach out to receive that payment.

- **Website items needed**

- Regional Ensembles Application – will be looked at tonight
- **Locations** – need to be confirmed
- **Solos** – are already posted on the website
- **Philly Pops Meeting** – Held a contest with the prize being for members of the Philly Pops perform with your ensemble. Jeff Lesser was invited for a meeting in regards to the program. They are looking for us to help them identify school districts that need music help to reach out to. “The Voices of the Pops” may be available to help us out on the vocal end. Maybe they can be a part of the gala.

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### **Region I report – (John Maiello)**

- Auditions at Ridgewood
- Festival location is not set

### **Region II report – Randy White**

- All dates will be at Rahway.
- Dress rehearsal will be moved to the evening.
- Rahway will also host All State Auditions
- Joe Bongiovi will be audition chair
- Recording company did not come to concert last year. They will not charge us this year.
- Tim Brent will likely conduct the choir.
- Miguel Bolivar will conduct the middle school band
- Jeff Kunkel will conduct the high school band
- Festival hosted at Hopewell

### **Region III report**

- No report

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### **Vocal Jazz Report – Steve Bishop**

- Region I – There are a few options available for conductors that are being discussed
  - Discussion regarding potential for revamp in auditions and concept for vocal jazz at the region level.
    - There will be an audition format this year. Steve Bishop will create a plan of attack for these auditions.
  - Discussion about how to adjust the timing to make region vocal jazz work for more students.
  - There was a lot of interest, but the timing did not work out for many
  - During rehearsals, there will need to be 2 rooms so the rhythm section has an opportunity to work together while the choir is rehearsing their vocal parts
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### **Higher Ed Report – (Dave Demsey and Jeff Kunkel)**

- Since there is no NJMEA this year, the intercollegiate band has nowhere to perform. The opportunity to apply for All-Eastern is not there because there is no recording of the band from their concerts.
  - Jeff Kunkel and Dave Demsey have applied and been accepted to do a clinic with the students of the intercollegiate band.
    - Concert will include music that is affiliated with New Jersey composers
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### **State Auditions Chair Report – (Jeff Brown)**

- Jot forms is working well.
- All submissions from the past are deleted.
- Jeff needs all rehearsal/performance dates/times from the presidents of each region.
- **Order of placement**
  - 9<sup>th</sup> grade winds – If qualified for both bands, they will be placed in the high school group
  - Rhythm Section – Bands will be filled in the following order: HS Band, MS Band, Vocal Jazz

- Saxophones – Students have a choice of seating based on their preference of instrument or seating.
  - Discussion regarding issue of students typing in their director's names incorrectly. If this happens, the director may not know that there is a student planning to audition
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## **Old Business**

- Alumni Big Band
  - Press Release Template
    - Sent by Joe Verderese. Approved.
  - Website submissions (Conductors, Clinicians, etc)
  - Combo Clinics
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## **New Business**

- **Middle School Jazz**
    - Discussion regarding creating more outreach opportunities for students/teachers and schools at the middle school level
    - Is there an opportunity for a festival/gala for middle school
    - Possibility of putting together clinics for teachers at the NJMEA convention
    - April 21 as a possible date for this event, discussion about it being later in May once PARCC is over.
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## **For the Good of the Order**

- Next meeting – January 16 – 8:30am
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## **Motion to adjourn – Jeff Haas**

## **Second – Jeff Lesser**

## **Adjourned – 9:08**