

SJMEA Spring Meeting Minutes – May 7, 2015

Additions made June 10, 2015

President Steve Menefee (Ferndale H.S. Bands) opened the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

Suggested Dates for next year, the agenda, and the minutes from the fall meeting were all available.

Steve then had introductions of everyone present.

Steve thanked Jacob Scherr (Mt. Vernon Bands) for hosting and providing a wonderful barbecue dinner.

Steve then started the agenda with reports from the following officers:

President Steve encouraged us to send in information about our groups and/or programs to the Voice magazine to be published. He also encouraged us to purchase Music Matters License Plates.

Secretary Linda Short (Bellingham H.S. Choirs and Elem. Gen. Music) gave her report and handed out the Fall Minutes to those who did not pick them up.

Treasurer, Mitch DeGrace (Meridian H.S. Bands and Choirs) gave his treasurer's report including the registration and payment dates for next year. Discussion continued about invoice numbers. Mitch suggested we make up numbers based on our school, category, and event for our invoices. These numbers were located on the spreadsheet he handed out.

Junior Events Chair, Jarid Norman (Lynden Middle School Bands)

Jarid suggested we think about having judges record comments over the Large Band and Orchestra Festivals. It was brought up that it might not work as well for choirs.

Senior Events Chair, Kirstin Doud (Sehome Orchestras) did not attend the meeting, but Kay Reilly (Squalicum Bands) filled in for her. Kirstin suggests we leave the Orchestra Large Group Festival on the Friday before the 'regular' WWU Spring Break. She also suggested we move the bands to Monday and Tuesday and the choir to Wednesday and Thursday. Chris Bianco (WWU Bands) said there may be a conflict with a WWU class final on that specific Friday. He will look into it, but we scheduled moving the orchestra to the earlier Friday again this year.

Elementary Events Chair, Charlene Sutton (Mt. Baker Elementary Music) summarized the Elementary Choir Festival. Trisha Norman (Wade King Elementary Music) gave a BIG thanks to Andy Marshall (Squalicum H.S.) for taking on hosting the Elementary Choir Festival at the last minute.

New Business

Doug Sutton (Mt. Baker H.S. Bands), who has continued to be in charge of handling the email lists and sending out emails for all of us has said he would really like to give that position up. Steve asked if anyone would be interested in taking this on. Please respond to Steve if you are willing to handle the email connections with the members of the group.

Members then went to break out sessions to confirm the suggested dates.

Senior Break-Out Minutes:

Fall Meeting with start at 6:00 on Wednesday, Sept. 2nd in the Bellingham H.S. Choir Room.

We decided to move Honor Festival to Veteran's Day instead of the date listed. Plan A is to use WWU. Plan B is to use Blaine if they are willing to host again. Plan C is to use McIntyre Hall and increase the admissions fee. Kay Reilly will organize the Band and Pamela Wright will organize the Orchestra. Does anyone want to organize the Choir? Rehearsal will be on Monday, Nov. 2nd.

It was decided that Senior Jazz Festival will be moved to Tuesday, March 1st instead of having it in November so more groups can prepare and participate.

Senior Solo/Ensemble is confirmed for Saturday, Jan. 30, 2016 at Bellingham High School.

It was suggested that Men's Choral Festival not be held on the same day as the Junior Solo/Ensemble. Most people would like to move it to earlier in the year. It was decided that the Men's Choral Festival would be held on Friday, Feb. 5th. because that is when Male Ensemble Northwest is available.

The Band Festival held at WWU will be held on Saturday, March 5th.

Next it was decided that Senior Large Group Orchestra Festival will be held on Monday, March 23rd, Large Group Band will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 24-25, and Large Group Choirs will be held on Thursday and Friday, March 26th and 27th.

State Solo/Ensemble Contest will be held on Friday and Saturday, April 29th and 30th, 2016

Junior Break-Out Minutes: (Thank you Jarid Norman.)

Kyler proposed adding master classes taught by the adjudicators to the schedule at Junior S/E. This was well received by those in attendance. J.J. is going to see about WindWorks offering door prizes such as pencils, folders, reeds, cleaning supplies, etc... for those students who attend a master class in hopes of further enticing students to participate. Penny will work with J.J. to see about scheduling the master class and providing the space for each to occur i.e. staggering master classes in the gym. We thought it would be great if the adjudicator would start each master class by playing an excerpt of their choice for the kids to hear. **Some ideas to be decided upon in the fall include:**

1. Music for master class – The all-state material was mentioned as it is already available and has a variety of exercises for the adjudicator to choose from (www.wmea.org [student events: all-state/all-northwest: 2016 audition material].) Andrea is going to work on finding simple duets/trios to scan and upload to the website pending fall meeting approval. Adjudicators are welcome to bring their own supplemental material.
2. How many master classes – One (mid-afternoon) or two (one morning, one afternoon)

Couple of reminders: piano solos must be memorized and the school music teacher must register students for Solo/Ensemble, NOT the private teacher.

Jr. Large Group Band Festival – It was decided we should limit it to 2 bands per school and 15 minute time slots in order for there to be less downtime between groups and in the hopes more schools will stay to listen. Ian would appreciate it if everyone used photocopied scores so he doesn't have to mail originals back to you and alternatively can recycle the photocopies. **Plaques – Ian proposed going to banners, like the high school, as they make more of a statement when hung in the music rooms. We will decide this in the fall meeting.**

Lastly, in 2017 Brodniak Hall will be getting renovated, so we need someone to step in and host Large Group Band and Choir that year. We are a ways out but be thinking if it would work at your school.

When nominating students for the Jr. Honor Festival, the student you nominate first is your best student, the second student you nominate is your second best, so on and so forth. Do not list them in score order.

There was a question about choir nominations for Jr. Honor Festival Choirs, Carole and Olivia, will you remind us in the fall about this discussion? I didn't get a chance to write it down.

Ian proposed the following suggestions for next year: Adding more specific descriptors for each instrument nominated, similar to the way the percussion was done this year. This was well received and **we will visit each criteria for each instrument in the fall and get them on the website.** Ian proposed a built in sectional time as part of the day, for example from 11-12pm, space and the guest conductors preference needs to be taken into account. **We will decide on this in the fall.** Ian also proposed we encourage the audience to help put away chairs.

The Last Items to be Discussed were:

The Spring Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 12th.

Our last decision was to look into the purchase of digital recorders to be used at all group adjudicated events, including choir. Jacob Scherr will do the searching and our goal is to purchase 10 devices to allow them to be traded in and out during events. Choir teachers suggested the judges be asked to consider how quiet a section of music was supposed to be before commenting out loud about the choir's performance

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Short
SJMEA Secretary

Event Dates for SJMEA 2015-2016

Date	Event	Site/Site Host(s)	Coordinator
Weds., Sept. 3, 2015	Fall General Meeting	Bellingham HS Music Dept.	Steve Menefee
Mon., Nov. 2, 2015	H.S. Honor Fest. Rehearsal Band/Choir	Mt. Vernon HS-Jacob Scherr	Kay Reilly/Band ??/Choir
Mon., Nov. 2, 2015	H.S. Honor Fest. Rehearsal Orchestra	Sehome HS-Kirstin Doud	Pamela Wright/Orch
Weds., Nov. 11, 2015	HS Honor Festival	WWU-Chris Bianco	see above
Sat., Jan. 30, 2016	Senior Solo/Ensemble	Bellingham HS Music Dept.	Allison George
Feb. 5, 2016	MEN's Choral Festival	WWU-Tim Fitzpatrick	Ryan Smit
Feb. 6, 2016	Jr. Solo/Ensemble	Kulshan MS/Penny Rosen	J.J. Cully
Feb. 12-14, 2016	All-State Conference	Yakima, WA	
Tues., March 1, 2016	SJMEA Jazz Festival	Mt. Vernon HS?-Jacob Scherr	Poul Brask
Mon., March 21, 2016	Senior Lg. Gr. Orch. Fest.	WWU	Kirstin Doud
Tues.-Wed March 22-23, 2016	Sen. Lg. Gr. Band Fest	WWU	Brad Henry/Clark Colby
Tues., March 22, 2016	Jr. Large Group Orch. Fest.	Whatcom MS/Kathy Diaz	Kathy Diaz
Thurs-Fri., March 24-25, 2016	Sen. Lg. Gr. Choir Fest.	WWU	Linda Moore/Jessica Schlichting
Sat., March 26	Elementary Choir Festival	Whatcom County?	???
Sat., April 16, 2016	Percussion Clinic	WWU-Pat Roulet	Zach Smith
Tues., April 19, 2016	Jr. Large Group Band Fest.	Anacortes HS./Ian Simensen	Ian Simensen
Weds., April 20, 2016	Jr. Large Group Choir Fest.	Anacortes HS/Carole Leander	Carole Leander
Fri.-Sat., April 29-30, 2016	State Solo/Ensemble	CWU	
Sat., May 7, 2016	Jr. Honor Festival	Mt. Baker MS/Mt. Vernon/Rober Pitzer	Andrea Brannman
Tuesday, May 10, 2016	Spring SJMEA Meeting	Mt. Vernon HS/??	Steve Menefee