

North Carolina Bandmasters Association Eastern District

Fall Meeting

August 16, 2008

ECU School of Music - Greenville

Minutes

- Before the official start to the meeting, there were workshops presented to the membership. Topics included the following: new director orientation, practical technology use in rehearsals, French horn essentials, concert festival preparation, scheduling band in middle and high school, and preparing percussionists for auditions.
- President Jorge Benitez called the meeting to order at 4:14 P.M.
- Motions were made, seconded, and approved to accept the minutes from the February 2008 meeting as well as the current Treasurers report.
 - Jorge thanked several directors and vendors for their logistical assistance and support during the retreat workshops. Jorge also recognized Dr. Scott Carter from the ECU School of Music.
 - Jorge recognized several new directors in attendance and encouraged everyone to reach out to directors not in attendance today.

Committee Reports

- All District Auditions - Jorge Benitez reported to the membership that judges will be served lunch on the day of auditions. Host schools will be paid \$200 by the district to help with this expense. Gwen Wilson will be the sole judging coordinator for middle school, 9/10, and 11/12 audition areas. All 3 audition chairs stressed the importance of following registration deadlines for this event - 30 days prior to auditions. Amy Hinson informed the membership that all district auditions will be online for this year. Directors must complete the registration form online, then submit a hard copy of the registration and payment to the appropriate audition chair or submit the payment via paypal. Jorge announced to the membership that all directors must be a member of MENC and the Eastern District for students to participate in any sanctioned event. The registration must be completed online via the web site and the deadline is Oct. 1. After Oct. 1, the late membership registration fee will be \$75.
- All District clinic - 2/6 and 2/7, 2009 - The conductors for the 2009 conference are confirmed (Brian Edmonds, Richard Saucedo, Perry Ditch, and William Malambri) as well as the clinic sites (ECU and Eppes MS). Richard Saucedo is still scheduled to compose a selection for the district and the piece will be performed at the clinic. The Thursday

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(2/5/09) night help clinics, sponsored by the district and ECU, will still focus towards students who are auditioning for Honors Band in March, 2009. The Saturday business meeting will begin earlier, probably at 9:30 AM, so directors may help supervise students during lunch. The Executive Board and clinician dinner will continue as in previous years on 2/6. There was a concern brought to Jorge concerning MS clinic percussion part assignments. The director in charge of percussion part assignments will receive conductors scores to assist in the assignment process. The clinic fee will be \$18 for all participating students. The concert schedule will remain in place also - the middle school concert begins at 6 PM and the high school concert at 7:30 PM. Students who play tuba, baritone, or baritone saxophones will be the only students allowed to leave an instrument case behind the Wright Auditorium stage this year. Parents may hold onto other instrument cases, but no cases should be in the aisles. Students will not be allowed to use Wright Auditorium restrooms to change into concert dress. Wright Auditorium staff will also be requested to help with traffic flow in between concerts.

- Concert Band Festivals - Both chairpersons discussed items relevant to their respective festivals. Debbie Davis told the membership that the middle school festival would again be held at West Craven HS in Vanceboro (3/4/2009 through 3/6/2009). Due to photographer miscommunication, there was no group pictures taken during the 2008 MS festival. Debbie asked directors to communicate their desires for or against having photo opportunities available during MS festival. Jorge asked for contact information for judges - there is a form on the website for directors to submit potential names of judges to the festival chairperson. Jorge Benitez announced that the high school festival would be held at Havelock HS from 3/17/2009 through 3/19/2009. Jorge told the membership that the official NCBA Concert Festival Repertoire list is available on the state web site. Repertoire lists from recent Concert Band festivals is available on the district web site for new directors to review. The registration fee for any participating band is \$175.
- Solo and Ensemble - Brad Staley told the membership that the date of the festival is 5/9/2009, at the ECU School of Music. There were 600 participating students at the 2008 festival - a significant increase. The registration deadline is 4/9/09 and the fee is \$10 per event.
- Fall Training - Jorge told the membership that the district is working towards writing a grant to NCMEA to help cover expenses for the 2009 fall retreat. Any ideas/suggestions for the retreat should be directed towards Amy Hinson.

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- Technology - Amy Hinson informed the membership that a great deal of information is available on the district web site, including festival lists, previous performed works, message boards, membership rosters, etc. Directors must register online for membership into the district this year. Paypal is also available for payment of dues/fees/etc. Amy asked the members not to share passwords with parents, students, etc., so we may keep password protected areas secure.

State Committee Reports

- Jazz - Jorge Benitez told the membership that Jazz is an officially recognized section in NCMEA and is separate from NCBA. Beginning this year, there will be three geographic regions for jazz. East Region Jazz Band auditions will be on Saturday, Jan. 24 at West Carteret HS. The Region Jazz Clinic will be held on Feb. 20 & 21 at ECU. The East Jazz Festival will be held on May 1 - site TBA. There will also be a separate audition for students who place into the Region Jazz Bands for the Honors Jazz Band. This audition will be held on the same date/location as the Honors Band auditions. There will be an Honors Jazz Band Clinic - date and location TBA. Beginning with the Fall 2008, middle school students may audition for a middle school jazz ensemble at the regional level.
- Marching Band Committee - Jim Boyce and Jorge Benitez told the membership that starting in the fall of 2009, the state executive board as agreed to recognize 3 locations in the state (east, central, west) as competitions that will also have a festival judging panel. The goal is to create a marching band festival similar to concert band festival and allow groups to perhaps achieve an "honor band" award - Virginia uses this type of system.
- Honors Band Auditions - Ashley Wright is the current 11/12 Honors Band Auditions chairperson. The membership was reminded about the importance of attending all meetings during the honors band clinic. In 2008, several directors attempted to remove significant compositions from the concert festival lists and Richard Holmes (NCBA President Elect) has restored those selections to the festival lists.
- Festival Committee - David Stroud and Craig Everett are the district representatives to this committee and reported to the membership. The committee established a mission statement to better define their committee and also put a timeline in place for further development and definition. The committee is working on establishing criteria to determine where a selection gets placed on the NC Concert Festival lists. In addition, the committee is working on a rubric that will be printed on the back of the adjudication sheets to assist judges during the performances.

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New Business

General Announcements

- Jorge announced that the 2009 Honors Band clinic would be held at UNC-Greensboro and the 2010 clinic at UNC-Chapel Hill. The NCBA Executive Board asked Jorge to receive input from the district about the NCSA site used for the 2008 clinic. The results were mixed and Jorge will report that back to the state board.
- The ECU School of Music faculty has recorded all of the district solos - a cd is in the process of being completed and will be mailed to all directors in the district.
- Reimbursement guidelines for Officers and chairpersons will be posted on the district website.
- At the spring meeting the membership will have to vote for a new President Elect and Treasurer. Perry Ditch will also be stepping down as State Secretary and Jorge encouraged members to consider serving in this post.
- Jorge made a motion for the Eastern District to use the defined percussion suggested performance study guides as a district resource for all district auditions. The motion received a second and was approved.

Announcements from the floor

- Jorge informed the membership about a link on the website for directors concerning local marching band contests.
- A motion was made to adjourn, received a second, and was passed. The meeting adjourned at 5:25 P. M.

Members/guests present: Amanda Avery, Laura Avery, Alice Aldredge, Gary Alsup, Allen Amos, Kim Barclift, Jason Barclift, Randy Barham, Jorge Benitez, Jim Boyce, Ana Bulluck, Donna Buttrum, Jerry Buttrum, Charlie Caldwell, Jodi Campbell, Bryant Copeland, Lynn Dale, Debbie Davis, Perry Ditch, Brian Edmonds, Craig Everett, James Fleming, Beverly Goehring, Cindy Grant, Keith Green, Amy Hinson, Chris Howard, Karen Johnson, Larry Keeler, Patti Knauf, Russell Knight, Amanda Landis, Brad Langhans, Cory Lipsky, Mike Lopez, Mark Lorek, Alan Mason, Jonathan Matthews, Maurice Medley, Dan Miner, Richard Montoya, Charlene Outland, Mike Palmer, Crystal Saulter, Travis Savage, Adam Schultz, Chris Serina, David Shaw, Greg Shreckengost, Brad Staley, Michelle Staley, David Stroud, Rose Taylor, Altrovis Terry, Sharon Voss, Brooke Wagner, Bonnie Weaver, Matt Weingarten, Chris Whitehurst, Gwen Wilson, Andy Wright.