

3/7/19

WV-ASTA / Orchestra Directors Meeting

Before the meeting, a representative from NAFME came to encourage orchestra directors to submit their ensembles to be considered for honors ensembles during their annual in-service conference. Entry fee is only \$25. Since there was no orchestra, the spot went to another band. He talked about the scoring of submissions, and how he was revamping the scoring sheet (simplification of the sheet and comments). The scores can be found online. Questions and comments can be directed to ramfan101@comcast.net (also on the executive board page). The judges are trained to be fair to the ensembles they listen to.

Dr. Andrea Houde called the meeting to order

2018 String Day

Mr. Rihn presented on String Day 2018. The number of participants weren't as high as they liked, so they combined both skill groups, and used the fiddlers philharmonic series to play a bunch of fiddle tunes and had some jam sessions. It was productive. It was mostly Berkeley County kids because Musselman was hosting. It was kind of hard to do last minute, but they were able to make it work. He thanked those who helped out with it this year.

2019 String Day

To make this successful, we should probably keep it in the center of the state, like Morgantown, Bridgeport, or Charleston. After some discussion, Bridgeport seemed like it was the happy middle. Tricia Price volunteered to host this event. The discussion lead that the distances between programs was such that no matter where it's held at, someone will have to drive over 3 hours to get there. When the location is rotated, there's the danger of leaving a lot of programs out, like what happened at Musselman. A key to keeping this festival healthy is to get information about it out earlier because a lot happens in October (at least by August).

WV Orchestra Festival

Ms. Brock was not there to present. Dr. Houde said if anybody had any questions you could call her. The date is May 17th. Patty asked Dr. Houde to be a judge, and she said yes. A list of winners from last year needs to be sent to Jeannine for the history. During discussion, it was noted that the date of the festival is an issue because it conflicts with trips and testing. Can't move the date because it's tied to the Strawberry festival, and the kids enjoy going to that.

Professional Development Activities outside of the Conference

Dr. Houde asked for ideas and thoughts. She wanted ASTA to provide professional development. There was agreement that it was a good idea. A mini conference was proposed to develop single instrument pedagogy (like cello). Another idea was lesson exchange. Another idea was to use our online resources to have a videoconference for an instrument session or give a masterclass. There seemed to be

agreement with that idea. Other ideas for sessions were proposed such as having Dr. Ellis teach cello pedagogy, or getting a conductor like Dr. Selby to talk about conducting and rehearsal. Another idea was a session about what etudes to assign for certain situations. There was interest because it would provide proof of technology integration in such a way to not interfere with strings instruction. The middle school conductor from last year is a specialist with Essential Elements and has done presentations on integrating that technology into the classroom, so he might be someone to call back.

Mr. Jones proposed using ASTA funds to bring a clinician in during the WVMEA conference for 3-5 sessions. The issue is WVMEA is the same time as ASTA.

Newsletter

We need someone to take it over. Dr. Sturm has done an amazing job. Dr. Houde proposed calling someone personally to take that job over.

WVU Cello Day / Viola Day / Viola Bootcamp

Dr. Ellis was not there to present. Dr. Houde said neither day was penned down yet. She said she will be in touch about Viola Day. She asked if everyone gets her notices about it. She does have dates for Viola Bootcamp: 4 day event, open to all violists, \$250, 11 states were represented last year. The website for Viola Day has already been updated. There is housing, which is also really cheap (\$170-250). Also have camp counselors for minors. Dates are June 17-20 (3rd week of June). Age range is juniors and up, but can be talked into accepting sophomores. If a parent is willing to come supervisor their child, they'll allow that.

Treasurer's report

See separate document

Can't answer questions because Ms. Brock is not available, any questions would have to be written down and sent to her

All State Orchestra reports

Ms. Genberg reported on the All State Middle School Orchestra. She wanted everyone to encourage more applications for violin 1, because violin 1 auditions were down compared to violin 2. Also, when students are registered, she asked that the students' first and last names both be put down along with their instrument/section because when she makes the schedule it needs to be organized. In the future, they'll probably will not make any corrections the time of the audition.

Mr. Jones reported on the High School All State Orchestra. He reported both groups had smaller amounts this year. He's happy with how the high school group is going so far. For next year, the dates are January 4th for auditions. There was agreement that it was worth exploring adding Jan. 11th as an additional date. They don't have conductors for next year, but they do have recommendations

Annual awards

The deadline to nominate is April 15th. Descriptions were given in the itinerary

Future meeting dates

2020 WVMEA is March 5-7. Still waiting to hear about after 2020. Concerts will be held in the Clay Center next year. WV-ASTA elections will be held next year. We'll need a new president-elect next year.

New business

Mr. Jones met with the WVMEA representative about Solo and Ensemble, specifically about what could be done to get more strings to participate. Information is on the WVMEA website, and they are planning on redistricting regions. They also said they'd allow greater flexibility in which region to perform at, they can play in any region, but they can only go to one. One suggestion was to provide knowledge of who the judges were and if they were qualified to judge strings, and would judge to middle and high school level performances and not college. There was a great deal of agreement with the need to validate judges, because everyone wants it to be a positive experience. There were 7 total honor strings applications this year out of 133. Having recording on site would also be helpful to reduce the costs on the students. Another idea was to have training for judges. Another idea was to have people travel to other regions to judge.

Mr. Rihm proposed figuring out a time during the summer to go through the by-laws and see if there's anything needing changing. Dr. Sturm or Dr. Houde will email everyone with a couple of dates.

Dr. Houde adjourned the meeting