



Tennessee Music Education Association
Council Minutes
November 19, 2023

In Attendance:

TMEA Board of Directors

- Executive Director Michael Chester
- President Dr. Ryan Fisher
- President-Elect Joel Denton
- SMTE/Research Chair Dr. Loneka Wilkinson Battiste
- Choral Chair Elicia Garcia Curry
- Orchestra Chair Cynthia Wright
- Communications Manager & Editor, *Tennessee Musician* Anna Laura Williams
- TMEA Secretary Dian Eddleman
- Absent: Immediate Past-President Alexis Yatzis-Derryberry, Advocacy and Government Relations Chair Dr. Christopher Dye, Band Chair Dr. Ollie Liddell, NAFME Collegiate Chair Dr. Michael Chandler, Higher Education Chair Lauren Ramey, General Music Chair Ben Torres

TMEA Project Chairs

- Webmaster Mr. John Womack
- TRI-M Pam Wilensky
- Guitar Education (Modern Band) Michael Parsons
- Retired Teachers Deb Gouge
- Jazz Education Policy Frank Zimmerer
- Music Merchants Industry Scott Lane
- Equity in Music Committee Co-Chair Roland Wilson
- Absent: Music In Our Schools Month Lisa Crunk, Equity in Music Committee Co-Chair Jasmine Fripp, Music Advocacy Task Force Committee Chair Dru Davison

TMEA Conference and All-State Management Team

- TMEA Conference Performance Chair Justin Scott
- TMEA Assistant Conference Coordinator Debbie Burton
- Absent: TN All-State Choral Chair Dr. Brian Russell, TN All-State Instrumental Chair Carter Noblin, TN Treble Honor Choir Chair Tiffany Barton, TN All-State Jazz Band

Chair Cord Martin, TMEA Conference Performance Choral Chair Susan Kelly, TMEA Conference Registration Chair Mark Garey

TMEA Council (Regional Leaders)

- WTGMEA President-Elect Allen Moody
- WTSBOA President Benjamin Martin
- MTGMEA President Abbi Miller
- MTSBOA President Stacy Jernigan
- MTSBOA President Elect Chris Seger
- ETVA President Elect William Brimer
- ETSBOA President Jim Burton
- ETSBOA President-Elect Megan Christian
- Absent: WTGMEA President Marie Millikin, WTVMEA President Adrian Maclin, WTVMEA President-Elect Reachel Hudgins, MTGMEA President Elect Christina Stuible, WTSBOA President Elect Chelsea Subick, ETGMEA President Hannah Strong, ETVA President Kristen Wiram, MTVA President Lorna Pyka, MTVA President Elect TJ McLaughlin

NAfME Collegiate Presidents

- East Tennessee Jaydon Headrick
- West Tennessee Ben Shaffer
- Absent Middle Tennessee Conner Primm

I. Call to Order

President Dr. Ryan Fisher called the meeting to order at 3:03pm November 19, 2023.

II. Roll Call and Introductions

III. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Benjamin Martin, seconded by Jim Burton and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the TMEA Council meeting August 13, 2023.

IV. Executive Director Report/Membership Update

Executive Director Michael Chester reported the current balance of the TMEA checking account is \$168,316.56 and the current savings account balance is \$40,032.35. Total Assets are currently \$208,348.91. The higher amount of the checking account is due to regional dues.

Membership Update: Preliminary membership numbers are as follows:

Higher Ed: 20

Collegiate: 159

ETGMEA: 26

MTGMEA: 16

WTGMEA: 34

WTVMEA: 85

MTVA: 164

ETVA: 127

WTSBOA: 191

MTSBOA: 344

ETSBOA: 269

Membership Grand Total (Preliminary): 1,435

President Fisher reminded Collegiate Presidents to prepare their region membership regarding upcoming renewals.

MTGMEA President Abbi Miller expressed the concerns of conflicting dates with TMEA and their regional dates. Tri M Chair Pam Wilensky expressed the concern of school districts not meeting the deadline, which in turn results in dues arriving late to regional associations.

ETVA President Elect William Brimer stated the membership process worked well in their region.

V. Communications Manager Report

Communications Director Anna Laura Williams reported the 75th issue of the state journal is in preparation. In addition to that, the November TMEA Newsletter is ready for final distribution. The Newsletters are posted on the TMEA Website. Other communication items included social media updates. Numerous TMEA members are receiving recognition throughout our state and are spotlighted on our social media page. Ms. Williams stated TMEA would like to feature our regional association events in the last state journal at the end of the year. She asked regional leaders to be prepared to showcase some outstanding activities in your region.

VI. Conference Update

All State/Honor Choir concert admission fee reminder/update

President Fisher stated we still have not received the grid from Gaylord to basically assign session rooms and finish conference planning. Conference performance groups have been selected. Executive Director Michael Chester stated the goal of February 1 is set to open conference and all state registration. Plans include using the WHOVA app.

Student credentials will be picked up from ensemble chairs at the first All State rehearsal.

Directors will pick up registration materials during the Wednesday registration process.

Conference Direct is working to increase room blocks at Gaylord Opryland.

President Fisher discussed the new all state admission fees and reminded the Council this information was sent to them last July.

Executive Director Michael Chester reported TMEA will be using the GoFan app for admission to All State concerts. All of this information will be disseminated to those students and parents.

President Fisher asked regional Presidents to be sure this information is shared with their regional associations. All State Director fees will NOT go through regional associations. Only student all state registrations will go through the regional associations. Directors can register at any time but this registration will be separate from all state student registrations. All State directors need to be aware of the tiered registration process.

VII. Modern Band Auditions

Modern Band Chair Michael Parsons reported the Modern Band event will be hosted at Battle Ground Academy in Nashville. Steven Potaczek, Commercial Music Director, from Samford University will be serving as the clinician. Mr. Parsons has secured Gastro One to serve as the sponsor of this event in the amount of \$1500.00. Auditions will open December 15 and close January 12. Results will be posted January 19. Mr. Parsons asked directors to be sure this information and audition information be sent to students. This information will be in the

newsletter. President Fisher reminded Mr. Parsons to send information to Communications Director Anna Laura Williams in order to include this information in the upcoming TMEA newsletter.

Executive Director Michael Chester asked that the audition fee of \$20 be included in the budget as well as communication. Mr. Parsons also added the association for Popular Music Education is impressed with our state and the standard being set in this area with the inclusion of the modern band ensemble.

VIII. Call for Award Nominations/President Elect Nominations

President Fisher discussed the November TMEA newsletter which includes a call for award nominations and the inclusion of additional new award categories.

He also thanked the regional officers for the President-Elect nominations received from their associations. President Fisher also stated the board has been asked to submit nominees as well. Discussion included the process of this utilizing a third-party ballot system.

IX. Equity in Music Report

Chair Roland Wilson reported concerning the Table Top series featured on the TMEA-Equity in Music Facebook page. Frank Zimmerer leads us in this week's Table Talks: "Equity Across the Board: East, Middle, West Tennessee.

Mr. Wilson also stated Sharon Cho, Senior Account Executive with Edelman, a large PR firm in New York that specializes in equity in Fortune 500 companies will be featured in the upcoming Table Talks. December 10 the Table Talks will feature Karen Howard Professor of Music at the University of St Thomas in St Paul Minnesota. She is author of the book Realizing Diversity An Equity Framework for Music Education.

X. Future Conference Task Force

Executive Director Michael Chester reported the Conference Task force has been launched and met concerning the planning of a future conference contract beginning in 2027. Discussion has included the dates possibly moving out of the testing window as well as future conference location possibilities.

XI. Regional Membership Options for Retirees

President Fisher discussed the various membership categories within the TMEA association. He noted that the regional associations that do not have a retired membership category to consider amending their regional association bylaws and add a retiree category.

He also reminded the council that additional council meetings have been set.

(Amended January 28, 2024)

XII. Adjournment

It was moved by Ben Martin, seconded by Debbie Burton and carried unanimously to adjourn the TMEA Council meeting at 3:50pm.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Dian Eddleman