



**Tennessee Music Education Association
Virtual Meeting
Board Minutes**

Sunday July 9, 2023

In Attendance:

TMEA Board

- President Dr. Ryan Fisher
- President-Elect Joel Denton
- Executive Director Michael Chester
- Immediate Past President Alexis Yatuzis-Derryberry
- Orchestra Chair Cynthia Wright
- General Music Chair Ben Torres
- Choral Chair Demetrius Robinson
- Government Relations Chair Dr. Christopher Dye
- Band Chair Dr. Ollie Liddell
- Higher Education Chair Lauren Ramey
- SMTE/Research Chair Dr. Loneka Wilkinson-Battiste
- TMEA Publications Managing Editor and Communications Anna Laura Williams
- Absent: NAFME Collegiate Chair Dr. Michael Chandler, Secretary Dian Eddleman

- I. Call to Order** –President Fisher called the meeting to order at 2:05pm Sunday July 9, 2023.
- II. Roll Call and Welcome**
See above.
- III. Approval of 4/19/2023 Minutes**– President Fisher
The motion was made by Alexis Yatuzis-Derryberry, seconded by Ollie Liddell and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2023 TMEA Board Meeting Minutes.
- IV. Executive Director Report-TMEA Executive Michael Chester**
Executive Director Michael Chester reported the current balance of the TMEA checking account is \$44,082.88, current Savings Account Balance is \$32,819.24 with total assets, as of July 9, 2023, in the amount of \$76,902.12. Mr. Chester asked that the discussion concerning the budget for the upcoming fiscal year be tabled. A full financial report along with budgets vs. actual will be released to the executive committee and then

reported to the board. The Gaylord Opryland total bill for the TMEA Music Education Conference was \$118,209.72. This does not include other outstanding expenses. President Elect Joel Denton asked Mr. Chester to clarify these. Mr. Chester stated these additional expenses include all state clinician and accompanist costs, piano rentals, equipment costs and volunteer expenses.

V. Membership Dues and Deadlines

Attached to these minutes is the full executive director report and financial summary as of 07/09/2023. Discussion from this report included the proposed \$5.00 increase of membership dues, late fee penalties, and the increase of regional association dues. Motions and discussion for each item are stated below:

- A motion to accept the membership rate increase of \$5.00 was made by Joel Denton, seconded by Alexis Yatuzis-Derryberry and carried unanimously. Discussion did include the past history of TMEA not raising dues in the past ten years, as well as the justification for the incremental raise of the membership dues. At the request of President Fisher, Mr. Chester shared the final total snapshot of 1322 members in TMEA.
- The motion was made by Dr. Loneka Battiste, seconded by Ben Torres and carried unanimously to adopt the join membership deadline of October 1. Dr. Ollie Liddell shared the concern of teachers joining after of the Oct 1 deadline, if they are not in their current position as of Oct 1. President Fisher and Executive Director Michael Chester reported the regional associations will be handling those circumstances and those members will not be penalized.
- The motion was made to change the late fee penalty for joining TMEA to \$100, after the October 1 deadline, by Dr. Ollie Liddell, seconded by Dr. Battiste and carried unanimously. Dr. Christopher Dye expressed the concern of late fees paid by members that do not join regional associations. Discussion ensued concerning the direct communication of this deadline.
- The motion was made to create a regional late fee penalty, for dues and membership rosters received after October 1 in the amount of \$1,000, by Alexis Yatuzis-Derryberry, and seconded by Dr. Loneka Battiste. The motion carried nine to one.
- The TMEA Executive Committee put forth the following increase for Regional Association Dues (rates not increased since 2012) • Instrumental: \$1,500 (\$300 increase from FY 2023) • Vocal: \$1,200 (\$200 increase from FY2023) • General Music: \$150 (\$50 increase from FY2023) The motion was made to increase the regional association dues as stated by Joel Denton, seconded by Alexis Yatuzis-Derryberry and carried unanimously.

VI. Conference Review

President Fisher asked the board to review and discuss the TMEA 2023 Professional Development Conference. Positive reflections included General Music Chair Ben Torres commending the movement of rooms to accommodate the larger number of general music attendees, Orchestra Chair Cynthia Wright commented on the excellent string sessions, Choral Chair Demetrius Robinson mentioned the outstanding choral performances as well as the headliner Derrick Fox, and Band Chair Ollie Liddell reminded the board of the

outstanding Jazz Band Jam Session. Discussion of improvement included the conference space and registration check in procedures.

VII. 2024 Conference Rates Proposals/All State Concert Admission Fee Proposal

Executive Director Michael Chester led the discussion regarding improvement and changes to the registration process and exhibitor procedures for the 2024 conference.

Mr. Chester also led the report concerning the TMEA Conference Dues. He proposed the following:

- 3 tiers based on registration timeline
- No checks accepted for conference/banquet/meal cards after March 15, 2024
- Directors with All-State /Treble Students will pay TMEA directly for their registration fees and NOT their regional associations.

Fees will follow the pricing below.

Early Bird Rate (Feb. 1-29)

- Full Active \$110
- Retired \$85
- Collegiate \$55
- Add \$50.00 for Non-Members Standard Rate

(March 1-31)

- Full Active \$130
- Retired \$120
- Collegiate \$65.00
- Add \$60.00 for Non-Members Onsite Rate

(April 1-13)

- Full Active \$150
- Retired \$140
- Collegiate \$65.00
- Non-Members Banquet Ticket Price \$70.00

The motion of the change in conference rates over the three tiers was made by Ben Torres, seconded by Demetrius Robinson and passed unanimously. This motion did not include the timeline. President Fisher asked the board to approve that the executive committee handle the timeline of those tiered rates.

President Fisher reported there would be no change to the conference banquet tickets, All State meal cards, and All State/Treble Choir student ensemble registration.

The motion was made by Ollie Liddell, seconded by Alexis Yatuzis-Derryberry and passed unanimously to increase the All-State Modern Band audition fee to \$20.00.

President Fisher led the discussion regarding the proposal of All-State Concert Tickets. The proposal included the following:

- \$10.00 per seat and per concert (18 and up)
- Children 17 and under are free.
- Anyone with a conference badge is admitted free (directors/teachers, etc)
- Exploring GoFan as the online ticketing platform

President Elect Joel Denton made the motion, seconded by Alexis Yatuzis-Derryberry, for the executive committee to create a plan to charge an admission

fee, per day, for no more than \$10 to all state concerts. The motion was passed nine to one.

VIII. All State Handbook Revisions for Jazz

President Fisher asked the board to review the proposal. Ollie Liddell made the motion, seconded by Alexis Yatuzis-Derryberry, to accept the All State Handbook Revisions for Jazz Band. The motion was passed unanimously.

IX. 9th Grade All State Choir Participation Proposal

Choral Chair Demetrius Robinson reported on the 9th Grade All State Choir Participation Proposal.

The motion for 9th grade students to participate in TMEA All State Choral Ensembles, beginning in 2024-2025, passed unanimously.

X. Caucus Reports

Caucus reports were presented by each TMEA Board Chair.

XI. Communications Manager Report

TMEA Publications Managing Editor and Communications Anna Laura Williams presented the Communications Manager report which included the FY 23 Print Publications report. The following are the [Links for Communications Items \(Newsletter, Social Media\)](#)

XII. TMEA Future Conference Task Force Membership

The motion to approve the TMEA Future Conference Task Force Membership was passed unanimously.

XIII. Conference Session Proposals Review

The meeting closed with the final review of conference proposals for acceptance and rejections.

XIV. Adjournment

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dian Eddleman