

SCMEA Orchestra Division
September 8, 2007

Chris Selby, orchestra division president, called the meeting to order at 2:01 PM.

I. Welcome

- Chris Selby asked everyone to update their information membership book. Please update your information, as well as others who may have moved.
- Paul Buyer asked that everyone check off that they are present. New teachers need to fill out the new contact information form at the back of the book. The “members-only” section of the website does not have any significant material on there as of now. There have been too many e-mail changes to post information.
- Chris Selby asked that all new teachers write their names on slips of paper for the new teacher raffle. Whoever wins will get their SCMEA In-Service Conference fee and hotel room paid for!
 - a. New Teachers
 - Colleen Marcou introduced Laura Buff (elementary level), Jeff Watson (elementary level), and Vince Washington (Chapin Middle and High Schools).
 - Ginger Greer introduced Angela Rex.
 - Brad Stewart introduced Amber Autry in Spartanburg District 7.
 - Susan Baier welcomed Sharon Doyle into Spartanburg District 6.
 - Norman Neff introduced Laura Bessett in Greenville County.
 - Sarah Fitzgerald welcomed Paul Buyer as the new orchestra director at Summerville and Fort Dorchester High Schools.
 - Chris Cordé introduced Stacey Burnette, the new orchestra director at Blythewood Middle School. She took over when Alvera Butler moved to an elementary administrative position. He also introduced Sarah Lopes, the new orchestra director at E. L. Wright Middle School. Longleaf Middle School is the newest middle school in Richland District Two. Sarah Angeles is the new orchestra director at Longleaf Middle. Chris Selby mentioned that Sarah is the daughter of the legendary Dean Angeles.
 - Freddie Grade introduced Jessica Hankins at A.C. Flora High School, Gary Schweikert at Dreher High School, and Michael Mayo at Sanders Middle School.
 - Henry Anderson introduced himself as being a part of Spartanburg District 1.
 - Dr. Gail Barnes introduced her May 2008 graduates and the areas where they would like to teach. She emphasized that we need to keep these teachers in the state. Jennifer James (Masters) is getting married soon, and would like to stay in the Columbia area. Jonathan

DePriest (Baccalaureate) commutes from Aiken every day, and is looking to start a program in the Aiken area. Laura Cleverdon (Baccalaureate) and her fiancé would like to stay in the Columbia area. Stacy Wiley and her husband own a home, and would also like to stay in the Columbia area.

b. New Officers

- Chris Selby introduced the following new Orchestra Division officers: Stacey Burnette is Secretary, Amy Strahm is the President-Elect, and Christy Lewis is the new Member-at-Large.

c. Announcements

- Sharon Doyle made the following announcement from the SC Board of Education: an SC Arts Assessment program is coming up through the middle school level now. An arts assessment for 7th graders is currently being worked on. There are plenty of grants available (i.e. DAP grants). All teachers need to participate in this new arts assessment program. High school programs will be starting soon. Scott Hockman at the SC Department of Education and Sharon Doyle can both help with grant writing.
- Sharon Doyle announced that the arts have now been designated as an elective credit for college. Most students are college bound, but career clusters might not include arts. Teachers need to collaborate with the guidance departments to make sure that the fine arts are in their “majors” for career clusters. Arts are required for college.
- Sylvia Howell introduced herself as the Lake Murray Symphony manager. The LMS is always looking for string players. She has folders today if you are interested. The symphony rehearses on Tuesday evenings, and gives four concerts a year.
- Laura Cleverdon (USC undergraduate student) announced that this year’s SC Cello Choir event will be held on September 28-29 at USC. Sessions for All-State will take place, as well as master classes given by Anthony Elliot. Cellists can range in age from beginner (must have one year of experience) to professional level. Teachers are encouraged to come, even if cello isn’t their primary instrument!
- Sharon Doyle announced that *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) has been redrafted (485 pages). Core Curriculum Development is a new program implemented for financially-strapped school districts to promote the fine arts. Core Curriculum Development means more funding for the arts as well as more time during the day to teach the arts.
- Freddie Grace asked if anyone could take cello choir applications today. Paul Buyer announced that the cello choir application postmark deadline is this upcoming Monday.

- Chris Selby announced that Paul Buyer wants all region applications and checks to be put in the box he has provided.
- Theresa Jenkins-Russ announced that the Carolina Cool Jazz Orchestra is sponsoring a free alternative styles workshop on Sunday, September 16. The workshop will be lead by Philadelphia native John Blake. The event is going to be held at Spartanburg High School, from 2:00-4:00 PM. Flyers are available today if you are interested.

II. Officer Reports

- Approval of Minutes, Stacey Burnette
 - Stacey Burnette asked if everyone received a copy of the minutes.
 - Chris Selby reminded everyone to announce their name before speaking. He also asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 24, 2007 meeting.
 - Norman Neff made a motion, and Freddie Grace seconded the motion. The minutes from the February 24, 2007 were approved.
- Treasurer's Report, Sharon Doyle
 - The current balance as of 9/8 is \$32,567.63.
 - Looking at the 2006/2007 financial statement, you'll notice that there we suffered a loss of \$7000-don't panic!
 - We are having difficulty with concert festival funding. As a result, the proposed budget for 2007-2008 shows a purposed fee increase of \$10 per group. The fee increase will actually be raised to \$100 per group (in effect for next year: 2008-2009). We also need to look at consistency with concert festival. Some regions are having great experiences, while others are not. A committee will be set up by Chris Selby to addresses these issues.
 - Sharon received bills for solo and ensemble in late July. Those expenses did not go on this year's tax report. Please turn in all forms, summary reports, and monies immediately.
 - New checks will say void after 30 days. Cash checks immediately. Some checks have been a year old. Encourage judges/clinicians to cash checks quickly.
 - Sharon is still getting bounced checks. Do not pay for students' money with a personal check that you think might bounce. This can get you into unwanted trouble!
 - John Kvasnicka made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Susan Baier seconded the motion.
- Conference, Amy Strahm

- This year's In-Service Conference will be held Thursday, February 7-Saturday, February 9, 2008 at the North Charleston Convention Center.
 - Thursday: Exhibits will open on Thursday night (new event this year) from 6:00-8:00 PM. There will be live entertainment, free food, and a cash bar!
 - Friday: Orchestra Session 1 (8:00-9:15 AM) will be committee meetings. These meetings will be done a little different than last year, with each committee having their own space to meet. Breakfast will be provided by Bernhardt's House of Violins. Kirk Moss from the University of Minnesota is the guest clinician/speaker for the Orchestra Division. Orchestra Session 2 (9:30-10:45 AM) is entitled "Keep the 'Fun' in the Fundamentals." The keynote speaker for the opening General Session (11:00 AM-12:45 PM) will be Bob DeGraff ("Bob" from Sesame Street). The Lexington High School Wind Ensemble will also be performing in the Ballroom during this time. Orchestra Session 3 (2:00-3:15 PM) is entitled "Beyond Good: Making Your String Program the Best." Orchestra Session 4 (3:30-4:45 PM) will feature the Lexington Two District Orchestra (Andy Preston, Director) as well as the Charleston School of the Arts High School Orchestra (Sarah Fitzgerald, Director). Both performances will be held in the Ballroom. Orchestra Session 5 (5:30-6:45 PM) is an instrument repair session that will feature the Huthmakers. The session is entitled "Do I Use Duct Tape or Take it to The Violin Repair Shop?"
 - Saturday: Orchestra Session 6 (8:00-9:15 AM) will be a middle school reading session, led by Jennifer Diehn. High school teachers need to visit the exhibits during this time. Orchestra Session 7 (9:30-10:45 AM) will be a high school reading session, led by Johanna Pollock. Middle school teachers need to visit the exhibits during this time. Orchestra Session 8 (1:30-2:45 PM) will be an instrument selection session sponsored by Bernhardt's House of Violins.
- Please make time to come to this conference. These sessions will get us energized, and are great networking opportunities.
- Chris Selby read an announcement from Ann Cheek encouraging all teachers to please bring a new teacher to this conference. New teachers are leaving after only 5 years because of burnout. We need to fix this attrition rate.
- Chris Selby reminded everyone that Region Orchestra, Concert Festival, and Solo and Ensemble chairpersons need to have better communication. Please come to the committee meetings on Friday morning (8:00-9:15 AM).
- Chris Selby reminded everyone about the new form being used this year for all submissions. There is now a cover letter that will be used, which can be found on p.

104 on your handbook. This is only one form that requires a principal's signature and teacher membership card info. You must send in this form with every submission.

- Sharon Doyle announced that if you are a new teacher, and missed this new form for your Region Orchestra applications, send it in anyway. Paul Buyer will accept it late this time.
 - Paul Buyer reminded teachers not to send more than one cover letter. The deadline is on Monday, September 10. He asked teachers to provide all required information, so he can distribute it to the various chairpersons. Don't worry-primary e-mail and home addresses are being sent to chairpersons only-they are not being put in the web site.
 - Chris Selby reminded everyone that it is ok for you to put your home information on the cover letter, because students are not going to see it this year.
- Concert Festival, Ginger Greer
 - Concert Festival will be held on the following days: March 26-28 or April 3-4.
 - Event for Region 1 will be on March 26-28, hosted by Tammy King at Chapman High School.
 - Event for Region 2 will be on April 3-4, hosted by Ann Matthews at Greenville High School.
 - Event for Region 3 will be on April 3-4, chaired by Chris Selby, and hosted by Freddie Grace at Keenan High School.
 - Information for Region 4 will be announced as soon as possible.
 - The fee per group is still \$85 for this year. We are implementing a new judges' form. One page of the form is in your handbook, and on the web site. It is a draft, but is similar to the one you will see at Concert Festival. January 19, 2008 is the deadline. All forms and fees need to be sent to Ginger Greer.
 - Solo and Ensemble, Christine Hallett
 - Solo and Ensemble will be held on May 2-3, but districts can choose other dates. If you want to choose another date, please notify Christine Hallett as soon as possible. March 5, 2008 is the deadline for the May 2-3 event. All forms and fees need to be sent to Christine Hallett.
 - Event for Spartanburg Districts 2, 5, 6, and Rock Hill will be on May 2-3, hosted by Ann Buttimer at Dorman High School.
 - Event for Lexington Districts 1 and 2 will be on May 2-3, hosted by Johanna Pollock at Lexington High School.

- Event for Lexington District 5 will be held on May 2-3, hosted by Colleen Marcou at Irmo High School.
 - Paul Buyer thanked Colleen Marcou for hosting today and Kathy Robinson for coordinating the ASTA reading session.
 - Event for Charleston and Florence Districts will be on May 2-3 (date will be confirmed), host and host site will be announced as soon as possible.
 - Event for Myrtle Beach will be on May 2-3, possibly hosted by Lynn Auman. Host site will be announced as soon as possible.
 - Event for Richland Districts 1 and 2 will be on May 2-3, chaired by Phillip Pagal, and hosted by Brent Wilson at Dent Middle School.
 - Event for Greenville County will be on January 25-26. Registration deadline is November 8. Event will be hosted by Kathy Robinson at Beck Academy.
 - Event for Anderson/Oconee/Pickens Counties will be March 7-8. Registration deadline is January 10. Event will be hosted by Joyce Parvin at Seneca Middle School.
 - Remember to fill out and include the new cover form. You can send Christine an email with student information. Don't make out the check to her, but rather SCMEA Orchestra Division. Make sure that your membership card information is on there.
 - Sharon Doyle reminded everyone to include "Orchestra Division" on the check. She has received Choral Division checks before!
 - Remember to meet all deadlines. Christine's email address is incorrect in the handbook. (the correction is @greenville...). We made modifications to the judges' form (i.e. judges will have the opportunity to ask the performers about private lesson involvement), as well as adding an incentive (certificate) for students who receive a "good" (III) rating. The new judges' form will be put on the web site.
 - Colleen Marcou remarked that she is happy with the new form, because it will cut down on the problem of having too many superior ratings.
 - Ann Buttimer announced that her email address has recently been changed. Her new address is as follows: buttimam@spart6.org. All mail should forward to this address from her old one, but let her know if it does not.
- Region Orchestra, Johanna Pollock
 - She needs conductor information from chairpersons.
 - The budget is the same. If you need to go over, you must get approval from Sharon Doyle. Site fees may apply, and may not be covered.

- At your region event, teachers need to choose next year's chairpersons. Give the new names to Johanna at the end of the Friday morning meeting at the conference. Please let her know if you have ideas on conductors for next year. Please provide her with the conductor's contact information.
 - Region 1: Auditions will be held at Dorman High School; the event will take place at Boiling Springs High School. Ginger Greer and Chris Cordé are the conductors, and both events will be hosted by Norman Neff.
 - Region 2: Auditions will be held at the Fine Arts Center; the event will take place at Mauldin High School.
 - Region 3: Auditions will be held at Irmo High School (Colleen Marcou); the event will take place at Lexington High School (Plan B: if LHS's new auditorium isn't ready by then, the event will be hosted by Freddie Grace at Keenan High School).
 - Region 4: Auditions will be held at the Charleston School of the Arts (Sarah Fitzgerald); the event will take place in Hilton Head (Dominique Geer). More information is in the minutes from the last meeting (February 24, 2007).
 - Chris Selby asked to see a show of hands to see all region orchestra chairpersons. He warned that all chairpersons need to have competent people to be in charge of tabulation, and some kind of back-up in case of a computer glitch. Region 4 is covered with tabulation equipment, and Chris Selby has the tabulation equipment for Region 1-3. The tabulation training session is on Saturday, September 22 at Lexington High School. Johanna Pollock will give maps/directions to these chairpersons.
- All-State Orchestra, Melissa Martin & Chris Corde
 - All-State event will be held on February 23-25 at Clemson University. William Hofeldt will be conducting the Junior All-State Orchestra (Grades 6-8), Robert Gillespie will be conducting the Senior All-State Orchestra (Grades 9-10), and Thomas Joiner will be conducting the Senior Honors All-State Orchestra (Grades 11-12). William Hofeldt is writing a piece for the Junior String Orchestra to perform entitled *Palmetto Suite*.
 - We will have ballots for everyone to vote for next year's conductors.
 - Melissa is going to ask/appoint someone to help her with all-state librarian duties. It is way too much work for one person to handle, and she needs some help!
 - Chris Cordé remarked that the band students are really getting "on board" with All-State orchestra. Band directors are also supportive of our all-state program. A list of band directors can be found online on the SCBDA's web site (www.bandlink.org). You don't have to sponsor the wind/brass students if they are from your school. It would be good for you to go

- meet the band students who might be participating, understanding that they might be coming from your schools. Collaborating with your band directors will also help build positive, strong working relationships when all-state orchestra approaches every year.
- Joyce Parvin asked how do the band students get chosen for all-state? Chris Cordé answered that he calls the band students who make all-state Band, and offers them positions in all-state Orchestra.
 - All-State Auditions, Paul Buyer
 - He has some new responsibilities with all-state auditions. He will be frequently corresponding with Gail Barnes.
 - He thanked Gail Barnes and Chris Selby for organizing the logistics for last year's all-state auditions. Participation is expected from everyone at the audition. If you sponsor a student, make sure you know what you're committing to.
 - All SCMEA Orchestra Division officers have "name@scorchestra.com" suffixes on email addresses. They will be re-routed to personal email addresses. Members-at-large do not have an email address from the website.
 - Be aware that some people will be traveling back to Columbia on Saturday, September 22 for the scantron system training. He is the only one who knows how to use the system. Young teachers are going to have to get trained to use this system. We need tabulators for region, but not too many...we still need judges to listen to the students!
 - Paul reminded everyone that if your pencil strikes the score card, it will affect the score. Even if marks are erased completely, this will still mess up the score card. Keep the pencil away from the score card. Don't change your mind! Judges will be required to sign the back of the card.
 - We might look at doing online registration in the future. We will still need to have principal's signatures on the forms, and payments to come through the mail, but this possibility might help cut down on the amount of paper used.

III. New Business

- Freddie Grace asked why wasn't our dedication was not put at the top of Richard Meyer's commissioned work for SC *Carpe Diem*? Paul Buyer commented that it is not spelled out in the contract. The commissioned work last year cost \$1500. He's going to request that William Hofeldt put our dedication on *Palmetto Suite* for this year.
- Sharon Doyle announced that she has a new email address. You can send email directly to her at doyles@spart6.org, or you can send mail to sdoyle@scorchestra.com, which will then be re-routed to her new email address.

- Paul Buyer also announced that he has a new email address. You can send email directly to him at paulbuyer@sc.rr.com, or you can send mail to pbuyer@scorchestra.com, which will then be re-routed to his new email address.

IV. Old Business

- Chris Selby announced that the membership needed to revisit the vote of proxy proposal. Here's the proposal to be added:
 - When a vote will be held at a meeting, members in good standing can request an absentee ballot. Request must be submitted to the president no later than three weeks prior to the scheduled meeting. Completed ballot needs to be returned to president no later than one week prior to meeting, in order to be counted in the final vote.
 - Paul Buyer asked what kinds of votes we are talking about. (i.e. Handbook changes, significant changes).
 - Norman Neff commented that we need to specify in the statement to make it clearer.
 - Paul Buyer commented that we need to amend this proposal and other proposals that have been carried over from previous discussions.
 - Ann Buttimer commented that when three readings are done, that is the vote that is the proxy vote. Chris Selby commented that the person wanting to cast an absentee ballot must read the minutes.
 - Chris Selby clarified the statement to the following: When voting for a handbook change, members in good standing will be required to send in an absentee ballot.
 - Freddie Grace asked if it is that big of a deal for the proxy vote?
 - Norman Neff asked if we put an amendment in handbook, do we need three additional readings. No.
 - Johanna Pollock remarked that All-State and the Conference are less than three weeks apart from each other. The person requesting the absentee ballot will have to request it earlier than those events.
 - Susan Baier said that these revisions would be going against the SCMEA regulations and our orchestra regulations (See handbook- p. 8).
 - Sarah Fitzgerald commented that if people don't come to the meetings, there would be no minutes to be read!
 - Chris Selby asked how we vote on it if it goes against state regulations. He called for a vote. We are voting to approve or not to approve the addition to our

(Orchestra Division) rules. If you vote yes, you are going against SCMEA. If you vote no, you are not going against SCMEA.

- One person voted in favor of the proxy proposal, approximately 50 people voted against the proxy proposal. Majority rules: the proposal fails.
- John Kvasnicka made a motion for dismissal. We can't dismiss yet!
- Paul Buyer announced that Johanna Pollock needs to meet with all people involved in the September 22 training session.
- Paul Buyer reminded everyone to turn in their region orchestra forms, if they had them here today. Put them in the brown box.
- Norman Neff announced that he needs to meet with all Region 1 teachers.
- Freddie Grace said that the membership book hasn't made it all the way around the room yet. He also thanked our host for the day-Colleen Marcou!
- Theresa Jenkins-Russ announced that SC ASTA is looking for an orchestra representative. Let her know if you are interested.
- Ann Buttimer commented that the membership needs to keep reviewing region excerpts. Chris Selby suggested that the Friday 8:00 AM meeting at the conference would be a great time to revisit/review these excerpts. Ann Buttimer is the violin excerpt chairperson.
- Vince Washington won the new teacher raffle. He will get his conference fee and hotel room paid for. Congratulations Vince!
- Amy Evers announced that on October 27, Dr. Constance Gee at USC is sponsoring a Suzuki-inspired "Every Child Can Class." Credit will be offered, and if you want to ever teach Suzuki in the future, you have to take this class. Dr. Gee was unable to stay until the end of the meeting today, but she left flyers about this event. Contact Amy Evers or Dr. Gee (cgee@mozart.sc.edu) for more information.
- Chris Selby asked if you have new teachers in your area, take some extra handbooks (SC Musician).
- John Kvasnicka made a motion to end the meeting. Freddie Grace seconded the motion to end the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted:

Stacey M. Burnette

Members in Attendance

Diane Atkins
Amber Autry
Susan Baier
Gail Barnes
Laura Buff
Stacey Burnette
Ann Buttimer
Paul Buyer
Haley Calore
Chris Cordé
Jennifer Diehn
Sharon Doyle
Amelia Evers
Sarah Fitzgerald
Brian Gencarelli
Christopher Gladman
Freddie Grace
Ginger Greer
Marsha Gross
Kristy Gwyn
Christine Hallett
Jessica Hanken
Dottie Hanlin
Pamela Hayes
Amy Herin
Andrea Hodges
Janice Hutton
Darby Innerst
Theresa Jenkins-Russ
James Johnston

John Kvasnicka
Kimberly Le
Christi Lewis
Colleen Marcou
Melissa Martin
Brian McCants
March Moody
Norman Neff
Phillip Pagal
Janine Parnell
Joyce Parvin
Kathy Perry
Katherine Pollock
Johanna Pollock
Andy Preston
Kenneth Pruitt
Angela Rex
Kathleen Robinson
Christopher Selby
Pam Speas
Brad Stewart
Amy Strahm
Jolene Walter
Michelle Warber
David Warlick
Vincent Washington
Adrienne Wells
Erica Wells
Christian Williams
Brent Wilson