VCDA District VII Choral Director’s Meeting

Saturday, August 24, 2013

Riverfront Restaurant

Chilhowie, VA

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm by Darren Goad, District Chairman.

The following members were present: Darren Goad, Raejean Harman, Robin Brickey, Carter Edmondson, Lynn Roberts, Terry Hall, Tina Wilcox, Chandra Harmon, Teresa Nale, Tim Woolwine, David Carroll, James Eggleston, Sue Spirup, Ashley McLaughlin, Jessica Snow, Marva Wheeler, Jim Spirup(Sub for Glenda Martin), Elizabeth Tinsley, Brandy Baxter.

The following was discussed:

* Honors Choir registration is due September 11 @ 4 pm. Paper copy is due on September 13. “If Music Be the Food of Love” – audition piece. Sight reading counts as 20% of the score. Send good sight readers. Auditions are held in Farmville on October 5. There are links for all info on the website.
* VMEA is at the Homestead on November 21-23. Terry Hall spoke to the alternate housing that is available since the Homestead is full. Registrations forms are on the VMEA website.
* Jr. All District Auditions are on November 2 at Coeburn Middle School, Shane Burke- Host. Registration begins at 9:00 am. Director’s Meeting at 9:30 am. Auditions will begin at 10:00 am. All directors must stay until the evening meeting is adjourned. Directors should bring chaperones to stay with students since each director will be assigned a specific duty that day and will not be with their students. Jr. High auditions are for grades 7-9 and students need to be enrolled in Chorus class for the entire school year. Jessica Snow, Jr. District Chair advised us that the Jr. High audition piece is “Washington” by Billings, not “Washington-Street” which was posted on the website. Chandra Harmon made a motion to take the audition piece down 1 step. Terry Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried. The correct piece with tempo & dynamic markings will be available on the website ASAP. Tim Woolwine will also make sound files available on the website as well.
* Sr. All District Auditions will be held on November 9 at Galax High School, Jessica Snow- Host. Registration begins at 9:00 am. Director’s Meeting at 9:30 am. Auditions will begin at 10:00 am. All directors must stay until the evening meeting is adjourned. Sr. High auditions are for grade 10-12 and students need to be enrolled in Chorus class for the entire school year or if on a 4x4 Block for 1 semester. The audition piece is “Cum Sancto Spiritu” Vivaldi arr. Martens in the key of D. The students will sing the following for their audition: **Sopranos –** Begin Page 3, measure 2 and continue to Page 7 measure 32. They need to take only 1 measure of rest at the bottom of page 5 to the top of page 6. **Altos, Tenors & Basses** – Begin Page 11 and sing to the end. Altos will begin on measure 56 and Tenors & Basses begin on measure 55. Tempo = 90. Soprano I, Alto I, Tenor I and Bass I will sing original key. Soprano II, Alto II, Tenor II and Bass II will sing 1 step lower.
* The Sr. High Event will be at Carroll County High School (Chandra Harmon- Host) on February 7-8, 2014. The snow date is February 14-15, 2014. The SATB Director is Keith Hampton and the SSA director (hopefully) will be Nancy Kline. We are waiting for a response from her.
* All Virginia Auditions will be held on February 7 at Carroll County during the event. Students must audition for the same voice part as their All District audition. The All Virginia Event will be on April 24-26, 2014 at Harrisonburg High School.
* The Jr. High Event will be at Abingdon High School (James Eggleston- Host) on March 7-8, 2014. SATB Director will be Dr. Randy Mader and the SSA Director will be Diane Covington.
* A report was given by the committee assigned to investigate the possibility of combining the Jr. & Sr. Events into one weekend. The Holiday Inn in Bristol, Virginia was contacted and the following was reported: Raejean Harman talked with the Holiday Inn and says it is doable. A rental price of $3,500 was quoted for the two days. This is subject to change due to this being a current price. There are rooms to house 4 choirs for rehearsals, 4 dressing rooms and a hospitality room for directors. The hotel has 1 studio piano and 1 spinet piano; however, both are in need of tuning. Raejean suggested borrowing clavinovas from the colleges that are nearby for rehearsals. The possibility of moving the concerts to Virginia High School or John Battle High School was suggested. The hotel will sell concessions and provide a hospitality room. No outside food may be brought into the hotel. We could invite local colleges and outside vendors to bring in information for the students. All Virginia auditions could be held by utilizing the hotel room after lunch. Each director would be responsible for feeding their students at a fast food restaurant. The rehearsal schedule could be adjusted to help with the mealtimes. A price of $89 per room was quoted and should be negotiable. Tim Woolwine said the band charges $22-$26 per student for their event. We need to let the Holiday Inn know as soon as possible if we want to book the event. A vote will be taken in February at our director’s meeting on Saturday. Email any concerns you may have to Raejean Harman or Tim Woolwine.
* Darren Goad and Terry Hall will attend the State VCDA meeting in two weeks. Tim Woolwine asked about the possibility of redistricting. Terry Hall spoke about the travel distances with districts. There is a possibility of adding a new district taking schools from Districts 6 & 7. Terry wants to know how we feel about this. There may be new formats for all districts. Schools can request to participate in events in another district. Sometimes they are given permission and sometimes they are not.
* The incorporation of sight singing into district auditions was discussed and will be discussed in detail at the meeting at the event. Ashley McLaughlin said that we could add the sight singing to the audition and not count it in the score. Terry Hall said we could count the score for Sr. High and not Jr. High. Terry suggested that we need to be positive in presenting the sight singing implementation to our students.
* Raejean Harman is a member of the state Sight reading committee and received an email about the meeting two days before the meeting was held this summer. Due to this she was unable to attend the meeting. She did receive a draft of the new guidelines. The proposal is to have choirs sight sing at Assessment only one level below the grade they are performing. She emailed her opposition to this suggesting that it be two levels below. It was felt that sight singing should be kept equal across the state. Raejean will forward any concerns you may have to the Committee. It is likely that a vote will be taken in November at the VMEA Conference.
* David Carroll at Patrick Henry High School will host District Assessment on March 21, 2014.
* James Eggleston made a motion and Raejean Harman seconded that we should ask directors who could not come to this year’s Jr. High event to come for the following year. Motion carried.
* The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin E. Brickey