VIRGINIA CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

a division of

Virginia Music Educators Association

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VCDA Business Meeting
Friday, April 17, 2026 at 2:00PM
Richmond, Virginia (GRCC Lecture Hall B10)

https://meet.google.com/svj-mhfx-nkb monitored by Joe Eveler

I. Call to Order – My-Van Nguyen
- a. Meeting called to order at 2:01 p.m.

II. Introduction of Officers – Officers
- a. Officers introduced themselves to the general membership.
- b. Bill Podolski requested volunteers to become Parliamentarian because he will become President-Elect on June 1, 2026.

III. Confirmation of Agenda – My-Van Nguyen
- **a.** Motions added to the agenda will be presented at letter VIII. e
  - i. Katie Seidemann moved to accept the agenda, Keri Staley seconded it.
  - ii. Agenda was approved unanimously when called to a vote by My-Van Nguyen.

IV. Review of Motion and Voting – Bill Podolski

VCDA Motion Request Form – monitored by Jordan Markwood

V. Roll Call by Districts – Jordan Markwood

1. 12
2. 7*
3. 10*
4. 8*
5. 8*
6. 10*
7. 12*
8. 7*
9. 12*
10. 10*
11. 6*
12. 10*
13. 9*
14. 7*
15. 13*
16. 16*

Agenda QR Code

VI. Reports
- **a.** Secretary's Report – **Jordan Markwood**
  - i. November 2025 VCDA Meeting Minutes
  - ii. Lydia Fisher Lasky made a motion to approve the April minutes and Brendon O'Donnell seconded.
  - iii. Meeting minutes passed unanimously when called for a vote by My-Van Nguyen.
- **b.** Treasurer's Report – **Sherri Matthews**
  - i. Account balance $71,341.80
    - a. VCDA Fees collected total $19,100
      - a. 515 schools paid the fee

b. 65 schools requested a waiver
b. Added $4,300 for supplemental instrumentalists this year
a. This allotted more for a string quartet this year and helps to enhance the musical performances.
b. $1,150 for them in 2025
c. $1,575 for them in 2024

VII. Old Business

a. All-Virginia Chorus 2026 - April 16-18, 2026 in Richmond

i. A HUGE thank you to the many volunteers who made this event possible. Mike Horanski (Site Chair), Steve Turner (Finance Chair), Darren Kirsch (VBODA Event Chair), Matt Rapach (Housing Chair), Dante Copeland and Nicole Houston (Event Services Chairs), Nigel Tangredi and Carl Copon (Logistics Chairs), DJ Godinez, Ajee Church & Bill Podolski (Assistant Ensemble Managers), Storm Burks (Professional Development coordinator)
a. My-Van discussed the distribution of labor to committee chairs and volunteers to help sustain large events like All-Virginia and this also helps maintain institutional knowledge when many officers change every two years.
ii. Thank you to all VCDA exec, district reps, and choral directors.
a. My-Van thanked teachers for all their hard work to help their students make it to the event and patience when challenges arise.
iii. Update of how All-Virginia is going
a. Collegiate Prescreening Auditions Update - Corbin Pinto
a. Students and college reprepresentatives provided positive feedback about the audition process. Students appreciated the opportunity to perform and grow through the process.
b. Professional Development - Storm Burks
a. Storm is excited to support the PD in future years so please provide feedback and any possible session suggestions or presenters.
c. Shuttle and hotel update
a. The sign-ups for hotels was a challenge. What has caused the biggest change is students moving away from quads to doubles and singles so we ran out and had to book hotels further from the convention center.
b. VMEA Leadership will plan for more rooms in the future but you may need to book quickly if you want to stay at the Marriott or Hilton similar to the VMEA Conference Hotel rooms.
i. A suggestion was made to wait longer to allow schools to book rooms as the results for all areas had not been released yet and schools that combine instrumental and choral rooms were not ready to book when they opened.
ii. A request was made to at least release the costs earlier so that teachers and families can plan but not necessarily book the hotel rooms.
c. Email Steve Turner directly with any questions or needs about housing and paying for them.
d. This year only we are asking for students staying at the hotels requiring shuttles possibly leave early from the social on Friday night to accommodate the number of seats available on the bus.

b. Virginia ACDA Middle School Honor Choir update - Annabelle Mills

i. Maggie Rabe will be the event chair for next year
a. Please attend the concerts, which are now on Friday night.
a. Treble choir at 6 p.m. and Mixed choir at 6:45 p.m.
b. Governor Spanberger wrote letters to each singer, directors should pick the letters up for their students after the meeting.
a. HS teachers should pick up their letters in the individual rehearsal spaces.

c. Literature Manual Committee – Joe Eveler
- **i.** Added 132 pieces to the manual this winter, as well as changed the grade on 6 pieces. Many thanks to the literature grading committee!
- ii. Please submit actual pdfs, not JW Pepper links. There are free tools online to compress PDF files if they are too large. (Adobe Acrobat has a free online tool for this.)
- iii. Submissions will open again in August.
- iv. **PLEASE** double check the manual before you submit.
    - a. Joe thanked all of the members that assisted

d. Audition Song Committee - Jordan Markwood
- i. Feedback on "Deep River"
    - a. We have received 47 pieces of feedback, thank you to everyone that submitted!
    - b. The committee will now meet to discuss the songs in rotation for All-Virginia auditions and come back with an update and recommendations for any potential changes.

e. District Choral Assessment
- i. Thank you for all your hard work and congratulations on all your performances!
- ii. Thank you to Districts 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 for submitting your scores!

f. Sightreading Committee - CJ Redden-Liotta
- i. Feedback on new sightreading levels
- ii. The Committee acknowledges there is some clarification needed on a couple of levels and will present those at the November meeting after receiving additional feedback.
    - a. Please submit feedback so the committee can make the most informed decisions.

g. Adjudicator Training - Annabelle Mills & Jordan Markwood
- i. Thank you to everyone who attended adjudicator training in February. Reminder: August 1 is the deadline to submit your final projects.
- ii. If you are interested in participating in a future training session, fill out this form to be added to our email list.

h. Virginia ACDA Updates - Benjamin Bergey bbergey@vaacda.org
- i. Voices United - Check the website for information
    - a. The conference will be held in the District of Columbia this year during the first weekend of August.
    - b. Clinicians include people like Brandon Boyd and Maria Ellis.

VIII. New Business

a. VMEA Honors Choir Report
- i. Audition Chair: **Robin Duncan (robin.duncan@cpschools.com) & Willis Rosenfeld (William.rosenfeld@lcps.org)**
    - a. Survey feedback was still very much in favor of keeping auditions online
        - a. Between 140-150 responses so thank you for the feedback!
    - b. Transitioning to a new online platform–SNAP Auditions
    - c. Audition song will be "Swifter Than Flame" by Elaine Hagenberg
        - a. The sheet music will only be available during the audition window. The excerpt will be the last three pages of "Swifter Than Flame". If you would like to prepare the audition music in advance, you will need to purchase scores or borrow from a choral library of a colleague.
    - d. Working with Sightreading Factory to get audition criteria set up
    - e. Detailed Information Available here: Honors Audition Changes Presentation
        - a. Some wording of the rubric has been changed.
            - i. For example, 10 points for rhythm and 10 points for pitch.
        - b. Pre-record the song instead of live recording the song.
            - i. Some of this has to do with internet stability at schools.
        - c. Sightreading will still be live.
        - d. Just one audition portal window, no registration window and then submission window.

e. Check payments must be in hand to the audition chairs by the first day of adjudication of the auditions.

ii. Honors Choir Co-Event Chairs - **Helai Rutan** Helai.Rutan@lcps.org & **Caroline Player** cplayer@fcps.edu
2026 Conductor: Dr. Deanna Joseph
Accompanist: Ms. Jennifer Quinones

iii. Performance: Saturday, Nov 21st at 1:00PM (Richmond)

iv. Missing information - A spreadsheet will be shared with all directors indicating what information is missing so you can take action where needed.

v. Alternates will be called up if payment for the event is not received on time.

vi. Payment must arrive on October 30 to Lightridge HS. Results will be announced October 7.

vii. Make sure to book your room for the VMEA conference if you are unsure if you plan to attend. You can always cancel later but getting a room later is extremely challenging.

viii. Matthew Rapach will be taking on housing for the event and questions about housing.

b. VMEA Conference November 19-21, 2026 in Richmond

i. Hotel reservations now open

ii. Consider coming on Wednesday for our Wednesday masterclasses and social events!

iii. Session proposals and performing group applications are due May 1, 2026

a. Please consider submitting as we would love to spotlight teachers and ensembles throughout our state!

c. All-Virginia Chorus - April 22-24, 2027 in Richmond

i. Conductors:

a. SATB: Dr. Christopher Aspaas, Texas Christian University

b. SSAA: Dr. Brittney Boykin, Georgia Tech

c. TTBB: Dr. Jeffery Redding, University of Central Florida

ii. Audition piece: "Where'er You Walk"

a. The VCDA website will be updated soon but the audition materials are available at the bottom of the All-Virginia Audition page of the website.

d. Spring 2026 Motions

i. Manual Updates (Joe Eveler)

a. I move to adopt updates to the VCDA Manual to include:

a. adding the TTBB choir for All-VA

b. removing NY/TX lists from assessment

c. adding the yearly participation fee

d. officer listing updates

e. date updates

f. Adding a homeschool eligibility statement for VCDA events in accordance with the new VMEA Homeschool Policy

b. All of which has been previously voted on and approved by VCDA Membership or is a VMEA adopted policy.

a. Motion by Joe Eveler and seconded by Corbin Pinto.

i. Clarification was provided that the VMEA Homeschool Policy has already been voted on and established and we are just placing that approved language in our manual.

b. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

e. Other Motions -

i. Motion to Remove Voice-Part Restriction for All-Virginia Auditions

a. Regarding All-Virginia auditions, I propose that we remove the requirement that students must audition for the same voice part for which they are selected for District Chorus

a. "(13) Students must audition in the voice part for which they were selected to the All-District Chorus."

i. Motion from Juliana Woodill and seconded by Luke Frels

1. Discussion was had about whether the director's approval should be made to change voice parts or not. Concern was expressed about playing the "numbers" game.
    a. Corbin Pinto called to question, Katie Seidelmann seconded.
    b. Call to question was approved unanimously by voice vote.
2. Motion was reread
    a. Motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

ii. Motion to Remove Qualitative Judgment Labels from State Assessment Standards
    a. I propose removing the language of "superior, excellent, good, fair, poor" from our state assessment standards.
        a. Motion from Juliana Woodill and seconded by Luke Frels
            i. Discussion was held about how all areas of VMEA utilize this language so if we change this, there could be discrepancies with some areas still using this language and others not. Some directors like the language when discussing how choirs that receive an "Excellent" rating is still a positive rating. Students will potentially use the language even after we remove it. Comparison to NY was brough up with the Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Gold with distinction.
                1. Willis Rosenfeld called the motion to question, seconded by Anola Douglas.
            ii. Motion was reread
                1. Motion failed by voice vote with some dissension.

iii. Motion to Revise Sight Reading Rubric Language to Reflect Student-Led Rhythmic Preparation
    a. I make a motion to move the following phrase from the VCDA Sight Reading rubric under {The director may}.. "Allow the ensemble to chant through rhythm in the example (using a counting system or solfege) in its entirety, but only once. There is to be no stopping during the chanting, nor is there to be group chanting of only select measures. This is included in your study period time" to {The students may} changing the wording to "STUDENT LEADERS MAY lead the ensemble to chant through rhythms in the example (using a counting system or solfege) in its entirety, but only once. There is to be no stopping during the chanting, nor is there to be group chanting of only select measures. This is included in your study period time"
        a. Motion from Shannon Forry and seconded by Molly Spangenberg
            i. Point of information was brought that this should be addressed through the sightreading committee feedback form and it is not something that the general body can vote on.

IX. Closing Remarks

a. President remarks and passing the gavel

b. My-Van thanked the Executive Board for all their support.
    i. She acknowledged the two members of the board leaving their positions:
        a. Corbin Pinto leaving as Vice-President - 6 years of service
        b. Jordan Markwood leaving as Secretary - 4 years of service

c. Joe Eveler

X. Adjournment

a. Elise Krepcho made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jordan Satterfield seconded.
b. The motion passed unanimously and My-Van Nguyen adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.