VIRGINIA CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

a division of

Virginia Music Educators Association

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VCDA Business Meeting
Friday, April 25, 2025 at 2:00PM
Richmond, Virginia (GRCC Lecture Hall B10)

https://meet.google.com/khp-njsr-cwv monitored by Joe Eveler

Agenda QR Code

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

II. Introduction of Officers – Officers

III. Confirmation of Agenda – My-Van Nguyen
- **a.** Motions added to the agenda will be presented at letter VIII. d
- **b.** Agenda approval
  - i. My-Van Nguyen moved, Pat Vaughn seconded
  - ii. The agenda was approved unanimously

IV. Review of Motion and Voting – Bill Podolski

VCDA Motion Request Form – monitored by Jordan Markwood

V. Roll Call by Districts – Jordan Markwood (* indicates District Rep. was present)

I - 11*	IX - 17*
II - 7*	X - 10*
III - 7	XI - 10
IV - 11*	XII - 9*
V - 12*	XIII - 7*
VI - 9*	XIV - 4*
VII - 9*	XV - 13*
VIII - 10	XVI - 18*

VI. Reports
- **a.** Secretary's Report – **Jordan Markwood**
  - i. November 2024 VCDA Meeting Minutes
    - a. Katie Seidemann motioned, Mary Somar seconded
    - b. Minutes were approved unanimously with a voice vote
- **b.** Treasurer's Report – **Sherri Matthews**
  - i. Account balance $78,385.23
    - a. Sherri Matthews shared that the balance would be lower after expenses from All-VA

VII. Old Business
- **a. All-Virginia Chorus 2025 - April 24-26, 2025 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 (Event Services Chair), Nigel Tangredi and Carl Copon (Logistics Chairs), DJ Godinez, Ajee Church & Lydia Fischer-Lasky (Assistant Ensemble Managers), Evan Ayers (Professional Development coordinator)
    a. If someone is looking to serve, Evan Ayars will be stepping down so we would love volunteers to help coordinate professional development.
  ii. Thank you to all VCDA exec, district reps, and choral directors.
  iii. Update of how All-Virginia is going

b. Virginia ACDA Middle School Honor Choir update - Annabelle Mills
  i. Philip Keirstead gave a brief report about how the MS honor choirs are going. Record number of auditions - over 1,300. Record number of teachers who submitted auditions too.
  ii. Renewed Mark Patterson All-VA audition piece for another year for $1,000
  iii. VA-ACDA will need to commission a new piece for the 2026-2027 school year.

c. Literature Manual Committee – Joe Eveler
  i. Added 76 pieces to the manual this winter. 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. We got a number of duplicate entries this year.
  v. There is a new interface on the website for the manual - much faster and easier to use!

d. Adjudicator Training - Annabelle Mills
  i. Thank you to everyone who attended adjudicator training in January. Reminder: June 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.

e. Virginia ACDA Updates - Meredith Bowen mbowen@vaacda.org
  i. Voices United - Check the website for information
    a. Collaboration between VA, MD, DC, and DE chapters of ACDA on the first weekend of August
    b. Felix Polendy spoke about the Children's Honor Choir and encouraged directors to have their students participate
  ii. Congratulations to VA-ACDA president-elect, Dr. Chris Hansen!

VIII. New Business

a. VMEA Honors Choir Report
  i. Audition Chair: **Robin Duncan & Willis Rosenfeld**
  Discussion of audition piece
    a. Use an excerpt from one of the songs from that year's repertoire
    b. Tracks would be provided for rehearsal and performance
    c. Email will go out to receive feedback from the state
  ii. Honors Choir Co-Event Chairs - **Helai Rutan** Helai.Rutan@lcps.org & **Caroline Player** cplayer@fcps.edu
    a. 2025 Conductor: Dr. Kristina MacMullen, Baylor University
    b. Accompanist: Ms. Jennifer Quinones
  iii. Performance Saturday, Nov 22nd at 1:00PM (Norfolk)
    a. Jotform will be used again for collecting information
    b. The deadlines are very tight so please do your best to make sure forms get completed quickly
    c. Caroline and Helai are open to feedback to make the experience better

b. VMEA Conference November 20-22, 2025 in Norfolk
  i. Hotel reservations now open
  ii. Session proposals and performing group applications are due May 1, 2025

a. When submitting a session proposal, indicate all areas that might be interested in selecting it.

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

i. Conductors:
   a. SATB: Sydney Guillaume
   b. SSAA: Cindy Ellis, Miami Arts Studio
   c. TTBB: Details coming soon!

ii. Audition piece: "Deep River" Please take notes on how this piece works for your singers as the All-Virginia Song Committee will meet to review its efficacy and appropriateness after All-Virginia auditions. Would you like to serve on this committee? Email Jordan Markwood (vcdasecretary@vmea.com)
   a. Concerns about the vocal range of a 13th and 3 fermatas that are challenging for our singers.

d. Spring 2025 Motions

i. VCDA Annual Program Participation Fee (Sherri Matthews)
   a. Context: In previous years, we have maintained a balance of $85,000 in the VCDA account. In August of 2024, the balance in the VCDA account had fallen to below $80,000. It would have been lower except for the $17,000 in overages for VCDA events. We cannot rely on overages to maintain a healthy balance and costs continue to increase each year.
      a. Sherri Matthews provided insight onto the balance trends from the past few years
      b. My-Van Nguyen made a few points:
         i. We can't rely on overages each year to maintain a healthy budget
         ii. In order to provide the best opportunities for our students, it costs money
         iii. VBODA cost per student is $-9.00 and VCDA cost per student is $50.00
         iv. Headliners used to be paid for by Musical Source and that is no longer the case. VCDA would be responsible for covering the cost of a headliner.
         v. VMEA really wants to provide high quality choral performances for Conference
   b. Philosophical background: VCDA would like to serve our membership in more robust ways, including increased financial support for All-Virginia, more commissioned compositions, higher quality, vocal headliners at VMEA Conference, and improving the VCDA website.
   c. In order to provide these benefits and maintain financial health, we move to institute a VCDA Annual Program Participation Fee, to be paid by each choral program. The middle school choral program fee would be $25 each per year, the high school choral program fee would be $50 per year. Fees would be due before participation in your first VCDA event of the year, but not later than November 1. There will be an application process for fee exemption based on school need.
      a. Motion by My-Van Nguyen and second by Corbin Pinto
      b. Discussion
         i. Clarification was asked about schools that have both HS and MS students. Those schools would only pay the HS fee. If a teacher is itinerant at multiple schools, the fee would be paid by each of those separate schools.
         ii. Concerns were raised about schools with extremely limited funding and potentially causing conflict between teachers and administration or taking away important funding from other opportunities.

iii. Suggestion was made to have a per student fee instead to make the cost for smaller schools more equitable.
iv. Suggestion was made to have VMEA bill each school for all VBODA and VCDA participation fees at the same time.
v. The exact application has not been set for exemption. The goal is to document fees, not punish any particular schools.

c. Joe Jessie motioned to table the discussion, Brandy Baxter seconded the motion to table the discussion.
i. The motion failed by a voice vote

d. Matt Rapach called to question, Kim Ness seconded the call to question to end discussion and move to vote
i. 83 In Favor
ii. 36 Opposed
iii. The call to question passed by 2/3 vote

e. Voice vote was unclear
i. 98 were in favor of the motion
ii. 22 were opposed
iii. The motion passed by 2/3 vote

d. This is similar to fees levied by VHSL and VBODA.

ii. Removal of NY and TX Literature Manuals for Assessment Eligibility (Joe Eveler)

a. We move that the operations manual be changed to read:
"Choral groups – each choral group will perform two selections, one of which must be chosen from ~~one of the following: (a) T~~the VCDA Choral Literature Manual graded music list, current edition. ~~(b) The Texas Music Educators Choral Literature Manual (c) The NYSSMA Manual~~

b. The current literature grading process in Virginia makes it simple to add pieces to the VA Manual. Our manual has grown in size drastically over the past decade. The NYSSMA Manual must be purchased every two years, and TX uses a different rubric than VA (they only grade levels 1-5, with 6 being reserved for extended works only).
a. Motioned by Joe Eveler, seconded by Caelyn Davis
b. Note - We would need to change the VCDA Stage Assessment Rubric
c. Directors are welcome to reference Texas list and submit a piece to be graded that is in Texas's manual but not in Virginia's.
d. Jotform has a spot for comments. Directors could add as justification what level the song is graded in other manuals.

c. Voice Vote
a. Motion passed unanimously

e. Other Motions -

IX. Closing Remarks

a. Thank you to everyone for their contributions to the state. If you are interested in serving, there are various opportunities available to you through VCDA. No one is too young or inexperienced!

X. Adjournment

a. Motion to adjourn by Andrew Miller and then seconded by Maggie Rabe
b. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.