VIRGINIA CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

a division of

Virginia Music Educators Association

Joe Eveler, *President-Elect*
Stafford High School
63 Stafford Indian Ln.
Fredericksburg, VA 22405
(540) 845-5266 Cell
vcdapresident-elect@vmea.com

Jordan Markwood, *Secretary*
Rock Ridge High School
43460 Loudoun Reserve Dr.
Ashburn, VA 20148
(703) 996-2104 Work
vcdasecretary@vmea.com

My-Van Nguyen, *President*
Dominion High School
21326 Augusta Dr.
Sterling, VA 20164
(303) 522-1247 Cell
vcdapresident@vmea.com

Sherri Matthews, *Treasurer*
Glen Allen High School
10700 Staples Mill Road
Glen Allen, VA 23060
(804) 938-1611 Cell
vcdatreasurer@vmea.com

Corbin Pinto, *Vice President*
Salem High School
1993 SunDevil Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23464
(757) 409-2274 Cell
vcdavice-president@vmea.com

VCDA Business Meeting
Friday, November 21, 2025 at 4:45PM
Norfolk, Virginia (Merrimac room, Sheraton)

https://meet.google.com/nau-wair-frz monitored by Joe Eveler

I. Call to Order – My-Van Nguyen
- a. Meeting called to order at 4:46 p.m.

II. Confirmation of Agenda – My-Van Nguyen
- **a.** Motions added to the agenda will be presented at letter VIII. c
  - i. Tiffany Carr moved to accept the minutes, Ajee Church seconded
  - ii. Agenda was approved unanimously when called to a vote by My-Van Nugyen

III. Introduction of Officers – Officers
- a. Officers introduced themselves and Bill's attempt at a joke failed.

IV. Review of Motion and Voting – Bill Podolski

VCDA Motion Request Form – monitored by Jordan Markwood
- Bill reviewed the eligibility and procedures for making a motion and voting. VCDA follows the Roberts Rules of Order.

V. Roll Call by Districts – Jordan Markwood

1. 14
2. 13*
3. 11*
4. 11*
5. 10*
6. 14*
7. 4*
8. 13*
9. 18*
10. 8*
11. 9*
12. 9*
13. 6*
14. 8*
15. 14*
16. 13*

VI. Reports
- **a.** Secretary's Report – **Jordan Markwood**
  - i. April 2025 VCDA Meeting Minutes
  - ii. Katie Seidemann made a motion to approve the April minutes and DJ Godinez seconded.
  - iii. Meeting minutes passed unanimously when called for a vote by My-Van Nguyen.
- **b.** Treasurer's Report – **Sherri Matthews**
  - i. Account balance $83,783.25
  - ii. Update on new fees

a. Sherri thanked everyone for their patience as we have worked through the best ways to collect and report the new VCDA fee. There were some difficulties with school firewalls blocking credit card payments, but Steve Turner, VMEA CFO, was incredibly helpful and patient in working through all of these issues, and VCDA was able to address all of the concerns.
b. Sherri shared that VCDA has collected over $18,000 from 487 schools, with 66 schools requesting Waivers. The only person who sees the waiver info form results is the VCDA Treasurer. We are not tracking data or sharing it with anyone. The VCDA Treasurer notes who has filled out the form on our spreadsheet just so VCDA can tell District Reps when asked who has not paid the fee.
c. VCDA learned a lot in the process this year, and we hope this will make next year's fee collection even easier. Thank you for your emails with suggestions on how to make things clearer in the future, and thank you all for helping to make VCDA financially healthy and able to provide wonderful opportunities for our choral students.

VII. Old Business

a. VMEA Conference Nov 20-22, 2025

i. Thank you to all presenters and performers!
   a. The performances have been inspiring and many of the presenters have been from the Commonwealth, which is awesome!
ii. Big thank you to JW Pepper for creating our reading session packets.
   a. Musical Source notified VCDA that it was going out of business so we appreciate the new partner in providing scores for the reading sessions. For clarification, they have since reopened under new management.
iii. VOCTAVE performance this evening at 7:30 PM
   a. The performance committee has been working very hard for years to bring a choral headliner to VMEA. Please make every effort to attend the concert to show them how grateful we are to have a choral performance.

b. VCDA Assessment Committee by Annabelle Mills

i. Updated rubric can be found here ("source" has been removed since we are no longer using the TX and NY manuals)
   a. This can now be found on the VCDA website.
ii. Our most recent adjudicator training was held via Zoom on October 13th, thank you to everyone who participated. If you are interested in receiving information about the next adjudicator training, you can register on the VCDA website.
iii. If you are hosting or chairing Assessment, please consider printing the rubric on legal size paper for your judges—it gives them more room for comments
iv. Friendly reminder that if you are chairing Assessment for your District in the future, there is a list of trained adjudicators on the VCDA website. It is strongly recommended that your adjudication panel have at least one trained adjudicator on it.

c. Literature Manual Committee – Joe Eveler

i. We met as a committee last night and graded a large quantity of music - thank you to everyone who helped grade, and to everyone who submitted repertoire.
   a. 96 pieces of music were graded at the Literature Manual Committee meeting last night and will be added to the VCDA Literature Manual.
   b. If you forgot to submit for this session, please submit it by January 31 and it will be graded before Assessment season.
   c. You may appeal a grade if you disagree with the current grade listed in the manual.
ii. FINAL DEADLINE FOR ASSESSMENT GRADING: January 31, 2026. Remember that all groups must perform at least one piece from the VA, ~~NY or TX~~ manual. Blue Ribbon must perform 2 graded pieces.

d. VMEA Honors Choir Report

i. Audition Chair: **Robin Duncan & Willis Rosenfeld**

a. Overview of this year's auditions and any feedback for next year.

- We have received positive feedback on using a choral score for the audition excerpt and plan to do that moving forward.
- The Audition Committee will be sending out a survey to provide feedback to the committee about any comments or concerns you may have about the auditions.
- The Committee is open to having in-person auditions but reminded the general body about equity issues with traveling to the auditions.
- Brian Kelly brought up a concern about when the survey would be distributed. Willis Rosenfeld said that a survey would go out in the next couple of weeks.

ii. Honors Choir Co-Event Chairs - **Helai Rutan** Helai.Rutan@lcps.org & **Caroline Player** cplayer@fcps.edu

- 2025 Conductor: Dr. Kristina MacMullen from Baylor University
- Accompanist: Ms. Jennifer Quinones
- Performance Saturday, Nov 22nd at 1:00PM

iii. 2026 Conductor: TBD

iv. Deadlines are tight and the event chairs greatly appreciate the quick response from teachers, students and parents.

v. Conducting Masterclass on Wednesday night was a success and hope more conference attendees will participate in the future.

e. Sightreading Committee - CJ Redden-Liotta

i. The Sight Reading committee will convene in the Spring to further discuss new rubric options. Our new sight reading levels using the unified chart will be in effect for this year's assessments. SightReadingFactory is currently working on updating the levels and should have those live in Early December for your schools to use.

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

i. Audition piece: Deep River

a. The All-VA Audition Song committee will be requesting feedback on the song throughout this year's audition season. Provide your "Deep River" feedback here.

ii. Conductors:

a. SATB -Sydney Guillaume

a. He is revoicing some of his music for this performance

b. SSAA - Cindy Ellis, MAS Vocal

c. TTBB - Eugene Rogers, University of Michigan

a. Inaugural year for this Honor Choir

b. Focused on a lot of local composers

iii. Packets will be mailed to District Reps in February

a. Music that comes from independent sellers will be sent separately from the packets by My-Van Nguyen.

iv. In an effort to improve the overall quality and experience, All-Virginia delegates will be asked to come with 3 of the pieces memorized.

a. This move has been based on feedback from previous clinicians.

v. Introducing a new opportunity for all junior All-VA delegates to audition for VA college programs.

a. Corbin Pinto will be leading this opportunity. Please inform your juniors of this opportunity.

b. Specifically designed for Juniors but may be made available to undecided Seniors.

c. There will be pre-registration slots for students who are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity.

vi. Be on the lookout for more information about how to be involved with All-Virginia. There will be opportunities to help with planning and present professional development.

vii. Please follow the procedures in the VCDA manual about how to assign students to the separate SSAA, SATB and TTBB All-Virginia Honor Choirs.

VIII. New Business

a. Virginia ACDA Updates - Benjamin Bergey

i. Newsletters and Emails from District Representatives
   a. Be on the lookout for information found in those sources

ii. ACDA Southern Division Conference is March 4-7, 2026

iii. Check the website for information about Middle School All VA 2026 and Voices United
   a. July 31-August 1 at George Mason University

iv. Philip Keirstead and Annabelle Mills - All-VA Middle School Honor Choir
   a. Audition info
      - Available on the VA-ACDA website
      - Two choirs available (Treble and SATB)
      - Please use discretion when selecting which students to audition.
   b. April 16–17, 2026
      - New format of 2-day event with concerts on Friday night.
   c. This year's clinicians are Robert T. Gibson (Mixed) and Morgan Luttig (Treble)
   d. Last year using the Mark Patterson audition piece, "A Song that Surrounds Us"

b. Fall 2025 Motions

i. No new motions were presented

c. Other Motions

i. There was a question from the floor about having a session with a choir to sing a song and receive feedback from a clinician and then present the song at the end of the session. That could be a proposed session but currently VMEA does not allow teachers to bring their own choirs for a demo choir.

ii. There was a question for clarification about the ensemble SightReadingFactory levels for Assessment. The levels are not currently in line with the new Sight-Reading levels that will be implemented for Assessment in 2026 but should be updated by December.

IX. Closing Remarks

a. District Representatives - Thank you for your assistance throughout the year, for being room chairs at this event, ~~and for picking up your All-VA music packets after this meeting.~~

X. Adjournment

a. Elise Krepcho made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Bradley Fore seconded.

b. The motion passed unanimously and My-Van Nguyen adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m.