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

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

Jordan Markwood, *Secretary*
Rock Ridge High School
43460 Loudoun Reserve Dr.
Ashburn, VA 20148
(703) 996-2104 Work
vcdasecretary@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 22, 2024 at 4:30PM

Norfolk, Virginia **(York/Stratford room, Sheraton)**

https://meet.google.com/bhn-pqri-hgq monitored by Joe Eveler

I. Call to Order – My-Van Nguyen
- a. Meeting called to order at 4:30 p.m.

II. Introduction of Officers – Officers
- a. Officers introduced themselves
- b. Note the following changes that are now in effect:
  - i. My-Van Nguyen, President
  - ii. Corbin Pinto, Vice President
  - iii. Joe Eveler, President-Elect

Agenda QR Code

III. Confirmation of Agenda – My-Van Nguyen
- **a.** Motions added to the agenda will be presented at letter VIII. c
  - i. Agenda approved unanimously when called for a vote by My-Van Nguyen.

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.

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

1. 17*
2. 13*
3. 8*
4. 11*
5. 8*
6. 12*
7. 6*
8. 18*
9. 21*
10. 10*
11. 10*
12. 6*
13. 7*
14. 6*
15. 13*
16. 15*

VIRGINIA CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

a division of

Virginia Music Educators Association

VI. Reports

- **a.** Secretary's Report – **Jordan Markwood**
  - i. April 2024 VCDA Meeting Minutes
  - ii. Meeting Minutes Pass Unanimously when called for a vote by My-Van Nguyen.
- **b.** Treasurer's Report – **Sherri Matthews**
  - i. Account balance is currently $ 87,881.99

VII. Old Business

- **a. VMEA Conference Nov 21-23, 2024 -** https://www.vmea.com/vmeaconference2024
  - i. Thank you to all presenters and performers!
  - ii. VCDA reception at 6:30 PM in the Sheraton Hotel Claremont room
- **b. VCDA Assessment Committee** by Mary-Hannah Klontz mhsongbird@gmail.com and Annabelle Mills
  - i. Committee met to address the motion made in April to clarify scoring on the rubric. Rubric was revised based on member and adjudicator feedback.
  - ii. Choral Adjudicator Training will be held via zoom on Mon. Jan 20, 3-6 pm. More information can be found on our website.
- **c. Literature Manual Committee – Joe Eveler**
  - i. Transitioned to jotform to collect literature manual submissions
  - ii. Committee met last night to grade and we will add over 130 pieces to the manual
    - a. Joe Eveler recognized and thanked the individuals that served on the Literature Manual Committee
  - **iii. FINAL DEADLINE FOR ASSESSMENT GRADING: January 31, 2025.**
    - a. 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. Audition Piece: "If Music Be the Food of Love"
    - b. Audition Chairs will send a survey to get feedback on auditions to improve the process for teachers and students moving forward.
  - ii. Honors Choir Co-Event Chairs - **Helai Rutan** Helai.Rutan@lcps.org & **Caroline Player**
    - a. Thank you for signing up as rehearsal monitors and helping to facilitate the solo auditions.
    - b. 2024 Conductor: Dr. Jeffery Redding from University of Central Florida,
    - c. 2024 Accompanist: Ms. Jennifer Quinones
    - d. Performance Saturday, Nov 23rd at 1:00PM
  - iii. 2025 Conductor: Dr. Kristina MacMullen, Baylor University
- **e. All-Virginia Chorus 2025 - April 24-26, 2025 in Richmond**
  - i. Audition piece: Nature's Song
    - a. Obtaining practice tracks from www.ChoralTracks.com for teachers to use.
  - ii. Conductors:
    - a. SATB - Dr. Brandon Boyd, Missouri State University Commission by Casey Wood
    - b. SSAA - Dr. Kari Adams, Missouri State University Commission by Faith Zimmer
  - iii. In an effort to improve the overall quality and experience, All-Virginia delegates will be asked to come with 2 of the pieces memorized.

iv. New governing structure in collaboration with VBODA. Thank you to all volunteer committee chairs - more information coming post conference.
v. Teacher Professional Development - **Evan Ayars** emayars@fcps.edu
    a. All-VA Chorus Professional Development Submit proposals by Feb. 10
    b. Please submit a proposal or encourage peers and organizations that you would like to hear from submit proposals in order to have quality sessions at All-VA.

VIII. New Business

a. Virginia ACDA Updates - Meredith Bowen mbowen@vaacda.org
i. Check the website for information about Middle School All VA 2025 and Voices United
ii. Philip Keirstead gave an update on the MS All-Virginia Auditions
    a. Audition materials are now available on the VAACDA website.
    b. This is the last year we are able to use the Mark Patterson commissioned piece for auditions.
    c. VCDA will be commissioning another piece to start using in 2026.
iii. Conductors for the 2025 MS All-VA Honor Choirs are Jamie Hillman (Treble) and Evan Powers (Mixed).

b. Fall 2024 Motions
i. Refer to this document to see motions that were submitted before the meeting.
ii. All-Virginia TTBB Proposal - My-Van Nguyen
    a. My-Van Nguyen shared the following information about the motion:
        - Adding this ensemble would be a powerful opportunity to validate TB singers by adding this ensemble.
        - Some students are discouraged from auditioning because we currently only select 2 from each voice part.
        - We are voting on creating the committee
    b. Discussion from other members
        - Dustin Brandt expressed concern over the clarity of the language of how we select the Tenors and Basses for the two choirs.
        - Hunter Williams offered support for this motion to provide more opportunities for our singers.
    c. The motion was voted upon and passed unanimously.
iii. Choral Assessment Rubric Committee - Mary-Hannah Klontz & Annabelle Mills
    a. Mary-Hannah Klontz proposed adopting and implementing the updated VCDA Stage Assessment rubric for the Spring 2025 District Choral Assessments.
    b. The motion was seconded by Annabelle Mills
    c. There was no discussion.
    d. The motion passed unanimously.
iv. Choral Assessment Sight Reading Committee- CJ Redden-Liotta cjreddenliot@fcps.edu
    a. CJ Redden-Liotta presented his motion on VCDA Assessment Sight Reading to the general body and was seconded by Holly Hoey-Johnson
    b. Discussion from the general membership
        - Bradley Fore mentioned a concern about being able to select lower level of sight reading levels for choirs that are not Blue Ribbon ensembles.

- Mary Somar had a question regarding the rubric. Could they include a place on the rubric to list the procedural infraction and if it was made?

c. Amendment made by Mary Somar to split the current sight reading motion into four separate votes and was seconded by Bradley Fore.
   - Here were the four separate areas to address and vote:
     i. The Adjusted Script
     ii. The Adjusted Levels
     iii. The Adjusted Rubric
     iv. Requirement of having to sight read at 1 level below
   - The amendment passed unanimously

d. The VCDA Sight Reading Committee moves to approve the updated rubric by Liz Ferrara
   - Discussion from the general membership
     i. Sara was concerned that judges would have to notate too much information that they might miss something when listening.
     ii. Mary Somar suggests that the committee goes back to add the infraction details on the rubric.
     iii. Lynn Balou asked about dynamic contrast for sight reading.
     iv. Amy Moir has concerns about the visual presentation of the rubric.
     v. Lydia Fischer-Laskie encourages everyone to trust the committee and adjust after using it once.
     vi. Devonte Lucas raised concerns about explaining the scoring of missed elements such as rhythm problems.
     vii. Dom Izzo asked for clarification between the scoring on the first and second attempt.
     viii. Robin Duncan raised concerns about the judges being too busy to look up and witness collaboration.
     ix. Call to Question by Bill Podolski, Caelyn Davis seconded
         1. The Call to Question passed unanimously
   - Motion was restated and voting followed
     i. Yay – 45
     ii. Nay – More than 45
   - The motion failed

e. CJ Redden-Liotta presented the motion to approve the updated script proposed by the VCDA Sight Reading Committee and was seconded by Mary Somar
   - Discussion from the general membership
     i. Lara Brittain asked for clarification on discrepancies between what an ensemble can do on their own versus what the director can lead.
     ii. Motion Passed by vocal vote

f. CJ Redden-Liotta presented the motion to approve the updated Sight Reading Levels for the 2026 Assessment season, not 2025.
   - Discussion from the general membership
     i. Bradley Fore mentioned concern about the le
     ii. Lynn German asked questions about the tonality of the examples and what key could be selected for ensembles.
   - Vocal Vote
     i. Motion passed with some dissent

g. CJ Redden-Liotta presented a motion to approve the updated language of the sight reading requirement that ensembles must read at either the same level or one level lower for their sight reading at assessment.
    - Discussion from the general membership
        i. Kelly Holowecki noted that VBODA is two levels below, not one.
        ii. Jacob Devol suggested that we leave things the same and allow the director to select what is best for their ensemble.
        iii. Missy Legge Mauck mentioned concerns brought up from judges at District Choral Assessment saying that too many groups are sight reading lower than their literature level.
        iv. Dom Izzo brought up a concern that sight reading can be intimidating to the students and the director should be able to select what is best for their students.
    - Motion was withdrawn by the committee to be addressed again at the April meeting. CJ Redden-Liotta thanked everyone for their input but emphasized the need for teachers to provide feedback to the committee when requested in between general VCDA meetings. Very few teachers responded to a request for feedback prior to this meeting and concerns or issues being brought up today could have been addressed if feedback had been received prior to the meeting.

v. Proposal to amend data collection for District Choral Assessment - Luke Frels
    a. Discussion from the general membership
        - Mary-Hannah Klontz asked for clarification for the purpose of adding the new information so they can adjust training as needed.
        - Lara Brittain expressed concerns with listing whether the ensemble is auditioned or not auditioned.
        - Brian Kelly expressed concerns about “excuse sheets” as directors should select repertoire that is appropriate for their performance level regardless of being auditioned or not.
    b. Amendment by Brian Kelly and seconded by Victoria Kerper to only include the ensemble voicing of Luke Frels
        - Vocal Vote taken
            i. Motion passed with a little dissent

vi. Proposal to publish assessment results - Luke Frels
    a. Discussion from the general membership
        - Caelyn Davis asked for clarification about the purpose of posting the results.
        - CJ Redden-Liotta expressed concerns about students looking up results and comparing their program to others.
        - Mary-Hannah Klontz expressed that VCDA does not need to mirror VBODA in all things.
        - Willis Rosenfeld noted that VCDA could collect the information without reporting it on the VCDA website.
        - Victoria Kerper asked if we could offer a password protected portion of the VCDA website where we could review the data as directors but it would not be open to the public for viewing.

b. Amendment from Victoria Kerper to post the assessment results on the VCDA website in a password protected section that can only be accessed by VCDA members.
   - Vocal vote taken
     i. Amendment passes with some dissent
   - Discussion
     i. Pam McDermott mentioned that new directors could confer with other local teachers.
     ii. Bradley Fore mentioned that the more data we have, the better we can do at making improvements in the future.
   - Call to Question by Elise Krepco
     i. Yay Vote by Hands – 66
     ii. Nay Vote by Hands – 67
     iii. Motion fails

c. **Other Motions** - There were no additional motions other than those previously listed on the agenda.

IX. Point of Discussion

a. Discussion to change District Choral Assessment levels - Luke Frels (Details here)
   i. Luke Frels encouraged the membership to review the proposed rubric that better aligns with current educational assessment language.
   ii. There was a short discussion with an intent to revisit this proposal at the April 2025 VCDA meeting.

X. Closing Remarks - My-Van Nguyen

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.
b. Our commonwealth only progresses with the collective action of our membership so thank you for your work and discussions today.

X. Adjournment

a. Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Brian Kelly
   i. The motion was seconded by Philip Kierstead
b. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.