

VIRGINIA CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

a division of

Virginia Music Educators Association

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VCDA Business Meeting Friday, April 28, 2023 at 1:00PM Richmond, Virginia

<https://vbschools.zoom.us/j/82306681252?pwd=RFhCQVR1bkU2MU5iVitlTUZYyMy9mUT09>

Meeting ID: 823 0668 1252

Passcode: 707222

monitored by My-Van Nguyen

I. Call to Order – Corbin Pinto

- a. Meeting called to order at 1:02 p.m.

II. Introduction of Officers – Officers

Please note changes in leadership.

- a. Officers introduced themselves and we noted that Mandi Steele has stepped back into the Vice-President position after Dana VanSlyke assumed an administrative position at her school.

III. Confirmation of Agenda – Corbin Pinto

- a. Motions added to the agenda will be presented at letter VIII. h.
b. Agenda approved
i. My-Van Nguyen moved, Patrick Vaughn seconded
a. Agenda was approved unanimously

IV. Review of Motion and Voting – Bill Podolski

[VCDA Motion Request Form](#) – monitored by Jordan Markwood

- a. Corbin Pinto reviewed the voting rules in Bill Podolski's absence.

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

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

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VI. Reports

a. Secretary's Report – Jordan Markwood

i. [November 2022 meeting minutes](#)

- a. Helai Karim moved to approve the minutes and Nigel Tangredi seconded
 - Motion to approve minutes passed unanimously

b. Treasurer's Report – Amy El-Khoury

i. [April 2023 Treasurer's Report](#)

VII. Old Business

a. All-Virginia Chorus 2023

i. Mike Horanski and Steve Turner

Huge thanks to Mike and Steve as co-chairs of this event.

ii. VCDA officers, district reps, and choral directors

Thank you for stepping up when any assistance has been needed throughout the event.

iii. Teacher Professional Development - Evan Ayars emayars@fcps.edu

Evaluation form will be distributed after the event to provide feedback.

Email specific requests as well to Evan for future PD sessions.

b. Literature Manual Committee – My-Van Nguyen

i. Expansion Committee report

a. We are meeting quarterly to update the manual

- Review current manual and identify any double entries with differing grade levels, misspellings, as well as fix any other errors.
- Thoughtfully add pieces to the manual with specific areas of need. (SAB music is the most recent focus)
- Would like to work proactively with publishers to add new music.
- Establishing and posting cut off dates for quarterly submissions.

c. Choral Adjudicator Training - Mary-Hannah Klontz mhsongbird@gmail.com

i. Those who completed the adjudicator training this year, your projects are due June 1 to be on the list for next year's assessment season. For those who need more time, the Fall class projects are due November 15, 2023 and the Winter class projects are due by Feb. 12, 2024.

ii. Fall and a spring training next year dates coming soon

- a. Please contact Mary-Hannah with any questions and make sure to follow due dates listed above for trainees that still need to submit their final projects.

d. VCDA Operation Manual Committee Report – Bill Podolski

- i. District representative and event chairs – We greatly appreciate your service and leadership. Please read and adhere to the VCDA operations manual. If you have a question, reach out to the next in the VCDA chain of command. If

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you find an issue or contradiction, please send it to Corbin Pinto and Bill Podolski.

- a. The work of the committee was to review and update the manual to be current, working, functional and clear to support the work that we do.
- b. The committee hopes to present an updated version for review at the November VCDA meeting.

VIII. New Business

a. VMEA Honors Choir Report

- i. Audition Chairs: **Robin Duncan & Willis Rosenfeld**
 - a. Auditions are virtual
 - b. New accompaniment tracks will be provided for this year's auditions
 - c. Willis Rosenfeld is going to be a co-chair
- ii. Audition Piece: "I Attempt from Love's Sickness"
 - a. [Link for Senior Honors Choir 2023 Timeline](#)
- iii. Honors Choir Event Chair - **Joel Shapiro & Helai Karim**
 - a. Sat. November 18, 2023
 - Conductor: Dr. Amanda Quist (University of Miami - Frost School of Music)
 - Accompanist: Mr. Melvin Goodwyn
 - b. 2024 Conductor: Dr. Jeffery Redding, from University of Central Florida.
"We are looking forward to a great experience for our Virginia seniors!"

b. VMEA Conference Nov 16-18, 2023 - <https://www.vmea.com/vmeaconference2023>

- i. Headliner: Dr. Madlen Batchvarova – Hanover College
 - a. Specializes in classical and multicultural music. Grammy award winner!
- ii. Hotel Reservations - now accepting reservations
 - a. Conference will be held in Richmond, visit www.vmea.com to reserve a room
- iii. Clinician Submission Application - due May 1
- iv. Performance Application - due May 1

c. All-Virginia Chorus 2024

- i. [Audition piece](#): Blow, blow, Thou Winter Wind
- ii. Conductors:
 - a. SATB – Jason Max Ferdinand, University of Maryland, College Park
Commission by: Jason Max Ferdinand
 - b. SSAA - Dr. Pearl Shangkuan, Calvin University
Commission by: Tracy Wong

d. Virginia ACDA Updates – Amy Moir (Presented by Laura Lazarevich)

- i. We are accepting applications for interest sessions for Voices United through April 30th. Here is the web link.

<https://acdavoicesunited.wordpress.com/interest-session-proposals/>

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- ii. Voices United is at the Hylton Performing Arts Center in Manassas, VA August 4 & 5, 2023. Registration is due to open any day now. A conducting seminar is available on August 3 from 1 - 4 PM with Mary & Tucker Biddlecombe as well. Space is limited.
 - iii. Children's Honor chorus is accepting auditions through May 12th. <https://acdavoicesunited.wordpress.com/childrenshonorchorus/>. The conductor is Jason Holmes Alexander.
 - iv. The Community Honor Chorus registration will open soon. Mary & Tucker Biddlecombe are the co-conductors and conference clinicians.
- e. All-VA Audition Piece committee - Joel Shapiro (Presented by Jordan Markwood)**
- i. **Nature's Song - [All keys and accompaniment tracks](#)**
 - a. New commissioned song was presented and sung through by the membership.
 - b. A motion was made by Joe Eveler to accept Nature's Song as a new piece in the All-VA Chorus Audition Rotation and seconded by Keri Staley.
 - c. Discussion:
 - A question was asked about the length of the piece.
 - It is similar to the length of current songs in the rotation.
 - Concern was brought up about the level of difficulty and ability to teach it to students
 - Model vocal tracks will be presented to alleviate some of these concerns
 - Suggestions for modifications to the piece:
 - Add more in the accompaniment for the rests or long notes to assist singers
 - Finish the phrase on the first page if possible to make the page turn easier.
 - c. Call to question by Dustin Brandt, seconded by Nigel Tangredi.
 - In Favor - 63, Opposed - 38
 - Motion failed
- f. Choral Assessment Sight Reading committee creation – [submit your application here](#)**
- i. [Choral Assessment Sight Reading feedback link](#)
 - a. Reconvening this committee to see if updates need to be made.
 - b. If interested in joining the committee, please complete the application using the link listed above.
- g. Motion - A committee will be appointed to review and potentially revise the current stage assessment form to provide greater clarity and more targeted feedback.**
- i. Motion made by Mary-Hannah Klontz and seconded by Laura Lazarevich
 - a. **Motion was not required**
- h. Motion - I hereby move to return auditions for the All-Virginia Chorus to an in-person event for the 2023-2024 school year and beyond.**

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- i. Motion made by Bradley Fore and seconded by Sara Smith
 - a. Motion was withdrawn

- i. **Motion** - I move to have all voice parts read in C major for All-Virginia Chorus Auditions

- i. Motion made by Emilio Pesante and seconded by Wanda Mitchell
 - a. CJ Liotta offered to make tracks for all districts to use that combine the song and sight-reading to avoid judges playing the wrong track for sight reading
 - b. Call to question by Bethany Houff, seconded by Patrick Vaughn
 - a. Call to question was unanimously
 - i. Motion failed

- j. **Motion** - I motion that choral directors must first have completed a minimum of five years of teaching the choral classroom before participating in Choral Adjudicator Training.

- i. Motion made by Valarie Acors and seconded by Shannon Forry
 - a. Motion was not needed as this is not in our By-Laws
 - b. Mary-Hannah will not include names of teachers on the list of trained adjudicators if they have not completed a minimum of five years of teaching.

IX. Closing Remarks

- a. [VMEA dates](#) for upcoming years – If your district is not adhering to these dates, reach out to VCDA president at the beginning of the school year.
- b. Special thanks to Amy W. El-Khoury who has been our VCDA Treasurer. She will be stepping down at the end of the school year from this position. If you are interested in being the next VCDA Treasurer, please [submit your application here](#).

X. Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by CJ Redden-Liotta and seconded by Lynn Ballou.

- a. Motion was approved unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 2:08 p.m.