

SW KMEA Elementary & Middle School Choirs Festival
January 21, 2017
Dodge City Middle School
Directors Meeting
10:15am

1. Greetings and Introductions (name, location, and what they teach)
 - Brandon Wade, SWKMEA President welcomed the teachers of SW KMEA!
 - i. In attendance were Janet Bartel and Tom Rishel, who just retired from Garden City Schools!
 - There were 29 Music Teachers in attendance for this meeting.
2. Introduction of our Chair's.
 - Rachel Trombley – ELE Choir Chair (Matte Hanne, Clinician)
 - i. Emphasize that we are trying to reach out to all of our Elementary Music Teachers to get them involved.
 - ii. We have approximately 150 students in attendance. That is down from past years...Not sure why?
 1. We tried to limit numbers this year...that might have caused the lower numbers.
 2. Feel free to fill-in alternates as you enroll your students next year
 - iii. Not releasing elementary students until end of concert to avoid exodus.
 - Alexandra Rome- MS Choir Chair (Dr. Terry Crull, Clinician)
 - i. Alexandra Rome thanked everyone for having their children prepare.
 1. Questions with Festival Scores?
 - a. Jodi Reese asked that we make sure there is overlap on Festival Scores for uploads.
 - b. Discussion about Quality of the Group was great this year.
 - i. We can make it a larger group and even better quality with a few adjustments.
 - ii. We need to be careful that we don't let audition numbers get out of hand.
 1. There was concern over all schools being included.
 2. Brandon Wade gave an example how we do it in the HS and MS levels.
 3. Do we want Quality or Experience? A discussion was had about this topic. Many opinions were expressed, which was both inclusive and dealt with quality.
 - a. The Board will look at this and Vote on it this Summer in 2017.
 - ii. We need to be careful that we don't let audition numbers get out of hand.
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 - a. The Board will look at this and Vote on it this Summer in 2017.
 - 2. Recording for Festival Scores- It is very important to follow the instructions.
 - 3. Fees were discussed too. Concerns over fees Participation Fee vs. Audition Fee.

4. A discussion was brought up about the Date of the MS Choir Festival.
 5. This morning we have 33 participating students
 - a. Roughly 153 students in attendance
 - b. 45 Sopranos/45 Altos/33Tenors/30 Basses
 - c. 232 Students registered/206 Completed and Judged
3. Festival Scores
- What did you like? What did you not like?
 - i. Deadline – some said that they would like it to line up with the ML State Audition time.
 1. There was one week overlap this year.
 - ii. Not guaranteed one student for every part.
 - iii. Opening it up for more than 12 students per school to audition for MS Choir.
4. Making sure our new directors get set up with a mentor.
- We know it is an issue with new directors that migrate to our district being put on the correct email lists. Troy Johnson our webmaster and webmaster for most of KMEA hopes to implement a new system for next year.
 - Right now we rely on word of mouth to find the new directors. Every director is valued and we do not want any of them to feel like they are on an island by themselves.
5. Addition of district led clinicians at mini conventions.
- Looking for teachers to share in the trench tricks, etc.
6. SW District Bylaws are currently being revised. Be on the lookout for these on the SWKMEA website.
7. Addition of the SWKMEA MS Honor Orchestra. Second District in the State to add this honor group. NE District was the first.
8. Open for any topic that needs to be discussed.
9. Thanks for the opportunity to work with you!!

President's Talking Points – 2016-2017

10. Introduce Gretchen Bixler – KMEA President Elect- Choir teacher from Eisenhower High School
- President's Notes
 - i. Assured the teachers that KMEA never stops working!
 1. The KMEA Executive Council travels to Washington DC each year to fortify Government relations and promote Music Advocacy.

Greetings from Executive Council

- Executive Council always splits up to attend District Mini-Conventions in December: Martha – NC; Avian – NE; John – NW and SE; Gretchen – SW; Mike Quilling – SC
- We also attend KMEA District Elementary Choir Festivals if they are held on a separate day: Martha – SC, SE, and NC; Gretchen – SW

At the National/Regional Level

1. Tricia Kidd at ISW:

- NAFME SW Division President from Thornton Colorado where she teaches elementary general music
- Tricia will speak at the opening session and present a clinic on dance and movement in the elementary room
- Tricia will also speak at the NAFME Collegiate, New Teacher, and Retired Teacher banquets later in the conference.
- Tricia has great ties to Kansas, so please be sure to welcome her back!!

2. ESSA – Every Student Succeeds Act (Elementary and Secondary Education Act - replaced No Child Left Behind)

- Approved by Congress and signed by President Obama in December of 2015.
- New terminology – “Well Rounded Education” – vs “Core Academic Area” (as listed in NCLB)
- Music is listed as a stand along subject as a part of a *Well Rounded Education*
- Terminology that supports the need for consistent instruction in music – strongly discouraging pulling students out of music class for additional work in other content areas
- Additional funding opportunities – Title I (support for disadvantaged students), Title II (professional development), Title IV Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants – provide all students with access to a well-rounded education
- Ronny Lau, from NAFME will be presenting a session on ESSA along with several other Advocacy clinic sessions at the ISW in February.

11. 2016 NAFME National In-Service Conference

- Grapevine, TX from November 10-13.
- Very proud of our 25 students from Kansas who performed in the All-National Honor Ensembles during this conference.
- Make sure to encourage your 10th and 11th grade students who make one of our All-State Ensembles this year to submit an audition application and recording in the spring.

12. NAFME SW Division President-Elect Candidates (SW Division = Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas)

- Mackie Spradley – Texas
- Mike Quilling – Kansas
- Bios on the NAFME website along with information on voting

13. U.S Army All-American Marching Band

- Congratulations to our 2 Kansas students who were selected to perform with this group on January 7 at the U.S. Army All-American Bowl in San Antonio, TX
- Ben Heueisen, Olathe North High School
- Andrew Wray, Olathe East High School

At the State Level

1. ISW Highlights

- Our schedule is shaping up - featuring 43 performing groups, over 100 clinic sessions, and of course our All-State Ensembles.
- KMEA All-State Elementary Choir – first performance last year, now (thanks to a vote by the KMEA board this past summer) a permanent part of the KMEA All-State Ensembles!!!
- Kansas State Music Standards – standards training and curriculum development training continues – clinic sessions by Martha Gabel, Dee Hansen, and Julie Linville.
- Street Corner Symphony – President’s Concert. Will also be giving a clinic for teachers as well as spending some time with the All-State Choir and our Tri-M members
- New home for Exhibits - Expo Hall!!!
- Once again this year, our new music educators will receive a green ribbon to wear during this ISW. If you see any of our newest music educators, please take a few moments and welcome them to our organization. Also, be sure to let your first year teachers know about our First Year Teacher Luncheon on Saturday, February 25 at 11:30 AM.
- Back by popular demand...we will be offering 3 clinic sessions specifically for building and district administrators on Thursday afternoon of the ISW. Information on these session topics and registration will be available on the KMEA website. Help us pass the word along and remember – administrators register at NO COST!
- Please note that we are moving the Opening Session (1:00 – Thursday, Feb. 23) and the General Session & Awards (10:00 am – Saturday, Feb 25) from Mary Jane Teale Theater to the Hyatt Ballrooms D&E. This new venue will give us easier access to technology and a little more flexibility for our speakers and presenters. Signs will be posted to help everyone remember this new location.
- Online voting, open to all KMEA members rather than just those present at ISW, needs to be done before Saturday morning. Includes bylaws revisions at state level as well as president-elect.

2. ISW Registration and Schedule

- a. Pre-registration is now open on the KMEA website for the 2017 ISW and will continue to be open through February 11.
- b. Online, on-site registration will be available at the ISW in February. Please note that Registration will be located in Expo Hall this year instead of the Connecting Lobby.
- c. The ISW schedule will be available online in mid to late January. This can be viewed from your desktop computer, tablet, or mobile device.
- d. College credit will be available for attending the ISW once again this year. Information on registering will be available online in February.
- e. Ticket for the All-State concerts are available during the registration process (1 ticket per concert at no additional cost for registered attendees) and can either be held for pick up or mailed. Tickets are \$7 each.

3. KMEA President-Elect Candidates

- a. Gae Phillips – Band Director in the Columbus school district, former SE District President
- b. Lynn Unruh – 4-12 Vocal Music Director in the Cimarron school district, former SW District President
- c. Bios and additional information can be found on KMEA website
- d. Online voting is open now and ends on the Saturday AM of the ISW

4. KMEA Bylaws Revision

- a. Membership will vote on a proposed Bylaw revision in February. The majority of the changes involve general updates as well as updated information related to adding an additional KMEA district (NE District Split)
- b. Difference between Practices (the general way we do business, but open for changes as needed), Policies (voted on by the KMEA Board and not open to change without an additional vote by the Board, Bylaws (voted on by membership, overall organizational structure)

5. Live Instrumental Auditions

- Scheduled for Saturday, January 7, weather contingency date – January 14
- Please note the new location: Salina-Lakewood Middle School

6. KMEA All-State Choir

- a. A committee was formed to identify options for adding additional opportunities for choral students to participate in All-State groups. A representative from each KMEA District along with a KCDA representative make up this committee.
- b. A survey has been developed to get additional information and feedback from choral teachers. A link to access the survey was recently emailed out to choral teachers. Please note that the survey will close at midnight on December 11.
- c. (please see All-State Choir Survey Information)

7. New KMR Launched

- a. Moved to web based model in 2011
- b. New, dynamic model is on-going news and articles updated about every 2 weeks.
- c. Email notification when new articles available
- d. Very forward thinking – Kansas is the only MEA to offer their state journal in this manner!!
- e. Congratulations to our KMR team: Steve Oare, Editor, Bob Lee, Advertising Manager, Troy Johnson, Web & Technology Manager

8. 2017 Kansas Teacher of the Year

- a. Congratulation to Jason Sickle, for being named as the 2017 Kansas Teacher of the Year. Jason is the choral director at Blue Valley North High School.
- b. We very proud to have Jason not only represent the teachers of Kansas, but the MUSIC TEACHERS of Kansas as well!!

At the Local Level

Advocating at Home

- c. Be your own advocate in your town – let your groups be seen and heard in the community and MAKE your groups and your program an ESSENTIAL part of the community.
- d. Empower your students to be advocates for music education. Encourage them to tell their stories about how music impacts their lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the music educators of Kansas!! ~ Martha