

KMEA NW District Choir Director's Meeting

Saturday December 13th, 2014

KMEA NW District HS Choir chairman Tamra Cochran called the meeting to order.

Tamra thanked those that helped judge entries for the HS honor choir in November.

There were 196 auditions and 132 selected for honor choir. There were 54 cancellations. There were 6 no shows in the choir today.

Tamra asked KMEA Webmaster Troy Johnson about when a student can change the part they are trying out for in district live auditions. The answer is the choir registration deadline. There were students changing voice assignments for tryouts the day of the November live auditions. This caused some students to be incorrectly labeled in their voicing for today's choir.

Discussion was brought up regarding if we should continue having a set schedule for HS choir audition times at the November convention. Tamra spent many hours setting the schedule for the day and then the day of the November convention, auditions are way off schedule. One factor in scheduling issues is there are many students that register to audition but not all of them make it to the live auditions, thus throwing off the original schedule. There was discussion about trying to set up blocks of time where groups of students will be scheduled to audition as opposed to individual audition times. It was brought up by Troy that most districts do their auditions via a block of time instead of individual audition times. Craig Manteuffel recommends that we are very careful in our wording of audition rules regarding blocks of time for auditions. It is recommended that students will be scheduled a block of time but if there is an issue with auditioning at an individual student's scheduled time, the director should contact the district chairman to discuss the scheduling. Also, if there is a block of time reserved for a particular school (for example, Ellis) and they have a couple of no shows and the judges are waiting for someone to audition, if there is a student from another school ready to go, judges can let them in to audition. However, once an Ellis student arrives to audition, they have precedence over all other auditioning students since it is Ellis' block of time. Susan Nelson thinks we should give the idea of a block scheduling a try for high school choir auditions. Hopefully, it will make scheduling easier for the choir chairman. Judging duties will remain the same—three judges per room.

If we have trouble finding judges to help with choir auditions, Dr. Terry Crull offered to have one FHSU choral major to assist in each room of judges. Craig Manteuffel recommends we require all teachers with students auditioning for the honor choir to assist with auditions in some way—just like they do at the state level band auditions. And if the director does not assist, the school will be fined for lack of participation by the director.

After a lengthy discussion, we will use blocks of time for high school honor choir scheduling starting with next year's 2015 KMEA NW District Choir.

Tamra was approached with the question "Can we sort out the judge's score sheets and give them to the teachers?" The reason the question came up is because sometimes a student wants to know why

they didn't make it into the choir. The answer directly from KMEA is "No" because at the state level, according to KMEA lawyers, a lawsuit could occur if those sheets got out to the public. At music contests, rating sheets for each student to give them feedback on their performance is acceptable but giving out score sheets from auditions could set us up for legal troubles.

Dr. Foley is doing a good job with rehearsing today's honor choir students.

Bill Schick introduced himself as the advocacy chairman. If you need anything, give Bill a call.

Starting this year, the choir will be down in the "wings" of the Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center for "Over the Rainbow."

Student attendance will be taken as choir students leave at the end of the concert. Any student that leaves early or if their nametags are not collected, will be disqualified from participating in the All-State Choir in February.

Four year choir participants were read. There are 15 students.

Meeting adjourned 10:35 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeremy Lee Wetter
Substitute KMEA NW District Secretary