

**NW KMEA BUSINESS MEETING**  
**December 7, 2024**  
**1:00 p.m.**

President Alex Underwood called the business meeting to order.

Alex welcomed everyone and introduced the Northwest District officers and chair people. He also had all directors introduce themselves.

**I. Minutes-Connie Reishus-Executive Director**

Connie stated all minutes from the November and December 2023 band director, choir director, business meeting and the 2024 summer board meeting have been posted on the NW District website. To get to those minutes go to the Northwest District Website. On the top bar, click on the heading titled ABOUT. Then click on the subtitle minutes. They are listed by year.

**II. Treasurer's report-Connie Reishus-Executive Director**

1. Connie stated she hopes by the end of February she will try to have the Northwest District Handbook update. There are three sections to the Handbook which are: Bylaws, Officers job descriptions and Policies. The Policy section is especially important as it tells about fees and items that pertain to our Northwest District.
2. Treasures Report-Balance as of November 30, 2024 on the checking account is \$17,926.20. This amount includes a lot of the deposits from audition and registration fees not only for the November Convention groups but also December. All bills for the November convention have been paid. The expenses for the December Convention are quite a bit more than the November so this amount will change. The board voted at the summer board meeting to award four \$400.00 Julie Groom Memorial Scholarships to a junior or senior in college majoring in Music Education. There are a lot of expenses we accrue for conventions that have increase. Therefore, raising the audition and participation fees have helped to offset these expenses.
3. The Northwest board voted at the summer board meeting to decrease the late registration fees for high school honor

choir to \$10, \$20, and \$30. The cost for people to attend the concerts will remain at \$5.00 per adult. The state sets the high school choir registration date. If a teacher registers their students by the date set by the state, there is no registration fee.

4. The northwest board voted at the summer meeting to increase the amount paid to Troy (webmaster) for festival scores. The increase went from \$3.00 per completed audition to \$5.00 per audition. This is for Junior High Band, High School Jazz Band, High School Concert Band and High School Orchestra.
5. Connie stated she received a few checks without an invoice. Please remind whoever makes out the checks for your district to include the invoice to let her know what is being paid.

### **III. Reports from Chairpersons**

#### **A. Junior High Choir-Annie Adams**

1. Assistant-Megan Reiner
2. Clinician-Gabe Lewis O'Conner-Lawrence Children's Choir
3. Accompanist-Maggie McKain
4. Concert Information
  - a. Students registered-186
  - b. Students in attendance-179
  - c. Schools-25(2023 Totals: 159 registered  
140 total actual participation)
5. Numbers show a nice increase from 2023. Teachers did a nice job of sending a balanced and well behaved group.
6. Rehearsed from bleachers and that worked well, but kids were pretty tired by afternoon.
7. A little too much free time in the afternoon. It would be Good to close the door between Gym A and B for dress rehearsals in the gym, but perhaps the rehearsal schedule will change if we are at the new high school next year.
8. Capping numbers at 70 per section total 210 but did not reach that number.
9. Kathy Conway to took over the choir meeting to discuss allowing 6<sup>th</sup> graders as an option into the junior high

choir. There are some schools who have 6<sup>th</sup> grade in with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> and therefore are questioning if they can entered their students in the junior high honor choir. Low on numbers in junior high school so this would help.

**\*\*MOTION:**

**Barb Elbracht made the motion that 6<sup>th</sup> graders could participate in either the Junior High Honor Choir or the Elementary Honor Choir based on the teacher's recommendation. But they can not participate in both. Megan seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**B. Junior High Band-Vesta Jo Still**

**1. Clinician-Christopher Teichter**

He chose four pieces but cut one (his own) due to lack of preparation and time.

**2. 84 auditions: percussion was 2 entries-mallets and then snare/timpani**

**3. 66 students selected**

**4. 21 schools represented**

**5. Horn section used an alternate. One teacher contacted Vesta shortly after the roster was posted and indicated that their student F horn chair 1, would not be attending. Vesta sent the alternate the music. About a week before the event the same teacher contacted Vesta again and said their student could attend. Vesta let that student back in and kept the alternate.**

**6. Clarinet section is growing. There were 10 auditions. There were no tenor sax auditions, 10 alto sax auditions. It was decided to ask directors of the also players to see if any of their students could and would be willing to switch to tenor sax. Two did.**

**7. Vesta felt the band was a little under prepared as not all notes and rhythms were learned correctly. The students were attentive and it was a good day.**

**\*\*MOTION**

**Hector Hernandez made the motion to change the Junior High audition music to excerpts from Essential elements Technique (3<sup>rd</sup> Book). Alex Crowley seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**C. High School Jazz Band-Brad Persinger**

1. Assistant-Allen Brockmeier
2. Clinician-Jake Montoya-Kansas Wesleyan
3. Students audition-12
4. Students selected-9
5. Students recommended by instructors
6. total Jazz band members-16
7. College student from Kansas Wesleyan
8. Schools represented-8
9. Brad stated numbers were up. Continue to encourage more students to audition.
10. At the band directors meeting earlier it was voted that Students that were recommended by directors and accepted into the Jazz band will need to pay the \$15.00 participation fee.

**D. High School Choir-Joey Nickols**

1. Assistant-Lisa Johnson
1. Clinician-Troy Robertson
2. Accompanist-Pam McGowen-Hays

**High School Honor Choir results-**

1. Auditions held November 2, 2024
2. Registered to audition-192
3. 42 cancellations
4. Selected for choir- 130
5. Schools represented -25
6. Followed the same policy of 25 per section provided they earned a score over 20; a student was added to the roster as the exception to the max 25 rule to allow each school one representative in the choir.
7. Actual attendance: 120
8. Used Festival Auditions for the auditions this year.  
Bluetooth speakers were used again for auditions.
9. Cancellations affect our potential total number of Octets and

quartets within the state equation.

10. Joey stated Dr. Robertson was very pleased with the choir And felt they were very well prepared. There was a 30 minute sectional in the morning and mistakes were fixed.

### **Paper “Auditions” Recommendations**

1. A Google form survey was sent out to all choir directors via Email regarding using paper auditions.
2. The responses varied on some of the questions. However, when it came down to the question regarding if the respondents would be in “favor of paper auditions to fill the voices to balance the honor choir” ,the response was 100% yes.
  - a. Some of the concerns ranged from “low ability students”, “lack of auditions, and teachers not being honest with their students capabilities.
  - b. Some positives mentioned were:
    1. More schools and students involved
    2. Exposes students that are on the fence auditioning to the KMEA honor choir. If they have a positive experience maybe that would give them the push to audition for future years.
    3. Strong singers that cannot get past the live audition portion due to nerves and anxiety.
  - c. The barriers that were given in the questionnaire have been mentioned before.
    1. Athletic schedules
    2. low interest
    3. too difficult of music for time teachers have with students
    4. Live auditions

Discussion was held regarding using paper auditions. After many questions asked Joey called for a motion.

### **MOTION:**

**Annie Adams made the following motion to implement paper auditions to fill the gaps in the High School Honor Choir.**

- 1. To keep in line with the live auditions, it was recommended it be up to the instructor to rate their students according to the same 8 criteria as the live auditions. The instructors should be trusted to recommend only students who are capable of performing the music as well as are responsible to adhere to the requirements set forth by KMEA for eligibility as well as staying for all rehearsals and throughout the entirety of the concert.**
  - 2. The form would be through a Google form, at this time, which would give a timestamp. The same total score rating would be applied to these paper recommendations as it is to the live auditions. The combination of the total score and the timestamp would be used as signifiers to determine which students could be selected to fill the remaining spots in the choir. Should a tie occur, the soonest timestamp will take precedence over the remaining ties.**
  - 3. The form would be made available the day after the live auditions roster is posted. The recommendations would be due 48 hours (2 days) after the live audition list was posted on the [nwkmea.org](http://nwkmea.org) Website.**
  - 3. If a student is selected they would be responsible for the \$15.00 Participation fee.**
  - 4. If students audition live and were not chosen, they would not be eligible for the paper audition.**
- Gary DeKler seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

### **\*\*KSHSAA and Mini-Convention 1**

Joey stated NW KMEA should be proactive about this. Other districts held meeting to have a plan in place for what happened this year with volleyball and cross country. This will happen again. Joey stated a couple of recommendations that should be considered. After much discussion the following motions were made.

### **\*\*MOTION**

**Michael Karnes made the motion to continue to allow recorded auditions as are now in place (the full recording). However, the students SHOULD be allowed to be considered for State Honor Choir if they are on the ACTIVE ROSTER for the state**

**participating teams. Otherwise, they can be considered for district only. Gary DeKler seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Joey stated this would give us the opportunity to research and implement a new policy for such a thing that happens approximately every five year.

### **\*\*MOTION**

**Rachelle Lumpkins made the motion to have the High School Choir Chair and the Assistant contact the East Central district to see how they implemented and ran their Alternate Audition day for those students who are actively involved in the state competitions. There would be a central place to audition on the music cuts with a KMEA teacher and judges. In finding this information out the information would be sent out to all Northwest Choir teachers to be voted on and hopefully put into effect for the fall of 2025. Janet Seehafer seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

All **Auditions** are an automatic \$5.00 audition fee. This is the price you pay when you meet the first deadline. Afterwards the late fees are an addition to the \$5.00 fee. This means if you register after the first deadline you are paying the \$5.00 audition fee and the \$10.00 late fee. 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline \$5.00 audition fee and \$20.00 late fee. 3<sup>rd</sup> deadline \$5.00 audition fee and \$30.00 late fee.

### **\*\*Voice part changes:**

Troy reached out to Joey in October regarding what the Northwest does about changing of voice registrations for auditions. Currently NW is one of three districts that does “advance the timestamp”. This means there would be a late fee assessed if it occurs after the regular registration deadline. NW, NE, and EC are the three that advance the timestamp. What this means is NW, as a district, pays a fee to the webmaster who has to go in and change everything. This year NW had approximately 12 voice changes (mostly guys) of the total 192 registered auditions. Joey stated it is not a large amount if Northwest decides to change to not advancing the timestamp and the district would “eat” the fees.

**\*\*MOTION**

**Julianne Samuelson made the motion that the Northwest District not advance the timestamp when changing voice registrations for district auditions. The district would pay for the fees charged. Hayden Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Joey reminded teachers that all students must attend all rehearsals and the entirety of the 3:30 concert. The students were all issued cards they must turn in to Lisa Johnson or Joey Nickols at the conclusion of the concert.

**E. High School Band-Max Befort**

**1. Assistant-Alex Crowley**

**A. Clinician-Marc Webster-Great Bend**

**B. 117 signed up, 110 completed auditions**

**C. 73 selected**

**D. 26 schools**

**E. Troy sent out audition numbers for the last two years.**

**Auditions are up.**

**2016-135**

**2017-99**

**2018-99**

**2019-109**

**2020-41**

**2021-72**

**2022-78**

**2023-103**

**2024-110**

**F. .Need more double reeds and clarinets**

**G. Barb Elbracht- Mankato, expressed concern about the percussion audition numbers across the state. She researched and there are only 4 students from 12A schools who auditioned last year. This negatively affects the 12A Honor Band**



**\*\*MOTION-**

**Barb made the motion to replace the state rudimental excerpt with a snare line from a grade 3-4 piece for the district snare auditions only. The audition would be recorded using a metronome. Kelli Burris seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Barb will get a committee together and choose the new snare audition 3-4 piece.

**F. Elementary Choir-Paulette Wildeman**

1. Assistant- Jenny Tally
2. Clinician-Shana Lander-Manhattan
3. Accompanist-Kayla Wombacher
4. Student registered -136
5. Students in attendance today-133
6. Schools represented -25
7. 36 fewer students, 6 fewer schools
8. Jenny Tally will serve as chair for 2025-2027.
9. Seeking an assistant to serve with Jenny
10. Musical numbers for the concert were increased from four to five this year.

**G. NW/SW Orchestra-Julia McMains**

1. Assistant-Brayden Smith
2. Clinician-Creston Herron-University of Kansas
3. Students auditioned-79
4. Students selected-55
5. Numbers of schools-7
6. KU received a grant so they can come out to western Kansas.

**H. Advocacy/Mentoring-Joey Nickols**

Advocacy-Joey stated to check on the KMEA website as Kelly Knedler has a site called Advo Angle which has a lot of Ideas for Advocacy. It has power points and little audio blurbs to help promote music in your community.

Mentor-

Joey stated there was a meeting held in September in Quinter. At the meeting Joey went over information that is valuable to new teachers. Joey is working hard to get mentors to new teachers in the District. There are a lot of new teachers this year.

### **I. Honored Educators-Joey Nickols**

Outstanding Educators for Northwest District

1. Elementary Educator-There was no elementary this year.
2. Middle Level Educator-Barb Elbracht-Rock Hills
3. High School Educator-Alan Brockmeir-Plainville  
High School Educator-Randy Sauer-Wakeeney-  
Randy Sauer was chosen as the State representative from the Northwest District.

**\*\*SPECIAL NOTE- Randy Sauer was chosen as KANSAS STATE MUSIC EDUCATOR OF 2024-25. He will be honored at a special assembly at Wakeeney High School on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and at State Inservice in Wichita February 26-28, 2025.**

4. College Educator-Dr. Timothy Rolls-Fort Hays State Univ.
5. Honored Administrator-Tom Albers-Hays Middle School

### **J. Julie Groom Memorial Scholarships-Joey Nickols**

1. Emil Benavides-Bethel College
2. Garrett Cole-FHSU
3. Zoe Dinklage-University of Kansas
4. Jaida Wright-FHSU

Joey stressed to teachers if they know of students that have graduated from their high school and have gone on to major in music education nominate them for the **Julie Groom Memorial Scholarship**.

Joey also mentioned the **William (Bill) Schick Memorial Scholarship** where if you are a first year teacher, Northwest will pay your NAFNE dues the first year of teaching in the Northwest District. A first year teacher will need to contact the Executive Director.

### **IV Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

## V. New Business

Alex Underwood introduced Craig Manteuffel-State Executive Director.

### A. State News:

1. Craig stated he was happy to be back in Northwest District as Craig is from this area and went to Hays High School. He served in many capacities while in Northwest District.
3. Craig retired from KSHSAA November 1, 2024 to work and now works full time as State KMEA Executive Director.
4. John Taylor-long time State Executive Director now lives in Cincinnati with his wife Holly. They live close to their daughter who is a professional Bassoon player and are able to care for their grandchildren.
5. Craig asks for everyone's patience while he gets familiar with his new job.
6. Craig brings greetings from the State Executive Board: President-Jamie Mimmeman, President-elect-Damien Johnson and Past President-Mark Gard.
7. Two names for President Elect are posted on the State website along with the Southwestern Division nominees. Craig encouraged everyone to go online and vote.
8. Please if there are surveys from District or State sent out to you we are needing everyone to please fill them out.
9. **KSHSAA is data driven. We need to take data back to them as they have put 2A & 3A Sub-state basketball on top of ISW dates. So make sure the surveys are filled out.**
10. 1-2 A band, 1,2,3,4 A band and choir will be affected by the Sub state basketball this year. It is going to be an issue. Craig stated the KMEA board put some exceptions in for those students this year and advised teachers to go in and read about them. The KMEA board will be meeting with KSHSAA this year so make sure those surveys are filled out especially if they affected your students. Craig advised teachers to talk to students ahead of time if they are involved in these activities.
11. Craig thanked Alex, Maggie, Joey and Connie for all they do for the district as the Executive Committee..
12. ISW met yesterday with Century II and everything is ready for the State KMEA Convention in February.

13. There is a breakfast for first year teachers.
14. Craig advised teachers to get involved and stated there are many people in the room that are available to help.
15. Special guest at ISW this year.
  - a. Martha Gable-past president-Keynote speaker
  - b. Chris Sprague-small schools
  - c. Dr. Weaver-copy write specialist
  - d. Greg Gilpin
  - e. Amadeus-President's concert  
Women's vocal group from Romania
16. Elementary and Middle level state choirs-Summer board meeting voted to increase numbers to 20 voices for both Elementary and Middle level choirs. Jill Nickols is the state chair and has done an excellent job to advocate increasing the numbers.
17. Craig talked about the Middle Level Survey that Joey Nickols has worked on. He stated that if teachers had not filled it out they need to do so today. It has to do with having Middle Schools participate in state festivals. Need 50% to take to KSHSAA.
18. Regional and State piano festivals have a new rubric beginning 2025.
19. Duets for Regional and State Music Contests are available beginning 2025. Specific things for small schools and specific things for large schools. He advised teachers to go into the Manuel and read what pertains to your size school. It is so important to know the Manuel rules to alleviate problems.
20. Small schools help line has been set up-Vesta Jo Still
21. New Board member-Recruitment and Retention Chair-Mary Jo Harper-get students in the elementary to recognize they can be a music teacher. Carry it through into high school and through college. Talk to young children. Little snippets or a small lesson plan will be sent to music teachers from the state.
22. Job Portal-Superintendents and principals can go in and put their job vacancies and on the collegiate site students can go in and put their information and it will match them with the job openings where there are interested in.

22. DEI-two people from state who are great resource people and are doing great things in the music world to draw all kids into music. DEI means inclusion, everyone should have access to music.
23. KMEA Coda grants-\$300 are available-Deadline Oct. 1  
Need something for classroom apply-form online
24. Jeff Jordan Composition Competition-May 19.
25. KMR-new editor-Emily Russell-If teachers are doing cool things in the classroom or community please send them in.
26. Craig has been working with Band America to fill music vacant music jobs. It is a program titled "MUSIC FOR ALL". This program will send retired teachers to a school that does not have a teacher so as to keep the music program from dying. They would be there to bridge the gap until someone could be hired. If you hear of a superintendant has a vacancy have them contact Craig director.

**B. January Inservice-Vesta Jo Still**

Music Teacher inservice in Phillipsburg K-12 music teachers

January 20th

Price \$40

Features Shawn Knopp

**C. Alex Underwood-stated need help setting up for concert.**

**D. Registration and Upload Deadlines for 2025 need approved through Troy. Tentative deadline. Please meet deadlines.**

**2025-2026 School year**

1. Junior High Band Audition Upload Deadline-Wednesday, October 1, 2025 11:59 p.m.
2. High School Jazz Band Audition Upload Deadline-Thursday, October 2, 2025 11:59 p.m.
3. Junior High Choir Registration Deadline-Thursday, Oct. 9, 2025 11:59 p.m.
4. High School Choir-Sunday -October 12th, 2025
5. Elementary Choir Registration Deadline-Thursday, Oct. 23, 2025 11:59 p.m.
6. High School Band Upload Deadline-Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2025 11:59 p.m.
7. High School Orchestra Upload Deadline-Thursday October 30, 2025 11:59 p.m.

- A. Choir Late deadline #1-October 26, 2025**
- B. Choir Late deadline #2-November 7, 2025**
- C. Choir Late deadline #3-November 8, 2025**
- A. Mini-Convention I--Saturday November 8th, 2025. (JH Honor Choir, JH Honor Band and HS Honor Jazz Band.)**
- B. Mini-Convention II-Fort Hays State University-Saturday, December 6th, 2025. (HS Choir, HS Band, and Elementary Choir) Orchestra will be in Southwest District.**

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Reishus  
Northwest Executive Director