

NW KMEA CHOIR DIRECTOR'S MEETING
December 7, 2024
10:00 a.m.

Joey Nickols called the meeting to order.

- I. High School Honor Choir
 - A. Assistant-Lisa Johnson
 - B. Clinician-Troy Robertson
 - C. 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.

II. Paper "Auditions" Recommendations

1. A google form survey was sent out to all choir directors via email.
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 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 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.

III. **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. 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.

2nd deadline \$5.00 audition fee and \$20.00 late fee. 3rd deadline \$5.00 audition fee and \$30.00 late fee.

IV. 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.

Ticket takers are also need at both entry points of the Beach Schmidt.

V. JUNIOR HIGH CHOIR-Annie Adams

- A. Assistant-Megan Reiner
- B. Clinician-Gabe Lewis O’Conner-Lawrence Children’s Choir
- C. Accompanist-Maggie McKain
- D. Concert Information
 - 1. Students registered-186
 - 2. Students in attendance-179
 - 3. Schools-25

(2023 Totals: 159 registered

140 total actual participation

- 1. Numbers show a nice increase from 2023. Teachers did a nice job of sending a balanced and well behaved group.

2. Rehearsed from bleachers and that worked well, but kids were pretty tired by afternoon.
3. 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.
4. Capping numbers at 70 per section total 210 but did not reach that number.

Joey then turned the meeting over to Kathy Conway to discuss allowing 6th graders as an option into the junior high choir. There are some schools who have 6th grade in with 7th and 8th 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 6th 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.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Reishus
Northwest KMEA Executive Director