

NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

2009 MUSIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 10, 2009

Lincoln, Nebraska

The 2009 Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) Music Advisory Committee met on June 10, 2009, at the NSAA offices in Lincoln, Nebraska, with six coordinators present:

District I - Jim Kucera, Waverly Public Schools
District II - Doran Johnson, Omaha Westside High School
District III - Tim Gansebom, Norfolk High School
District IV – Teresa Rotert, Hershey Public Schools
District V- Paula Deisley, Arapahoe High School
District VI - Sharon Hoffman, Bayard High School
NSAA – Bud Dahlstrom, NSAA Assistant Director

NSAA Assistant Director Bud Dahlstrom called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The purpose of this 2009 NSAA District Music Coordinators Committee meeting was to evaluate the District Music Contests that were held April 19-25, 2009 and to plan for the 2010 Contests. Reports and discussion on the District Music Contests comprised most of the meeting.

The following were the major items that were reported on and discussed:

1. Reports from each of the 2008-2009 NSAA District Music Coordinators:

A. Overview of 2009 District Music Contests at each site:

1. Each of the District Coordinators reported that the 2009 District Music Contests went well.
2. District I reported that their transition to digital voice recorders from cassette tape recorders used for recording adjudicator's comments during large ensemble performances was underway. Some problems were encountered with DVR function without proper wind screen attachments during the contest.
3. District I reported schools are assigned to contest sites based on geographic location and the need to balance schools between sites with similar classifications. The committee confirmed that schools cannot select their own sites within their district but may opt out to another district if NSAA provisions are met.
4. District II reported on the five sites used for this year's contests. Some judge inconsistencies were noted and discussed by the committee.
5. District II reported that a contest site for next year had not been secured for the AA schools in the Omaha Metro area due to the reluctance of larger schools to give up school time to host the music contest. A plan for hosting contest on a rotational basis and several other options were discussed during the meeting.
6. District II reported on the trial run of the Outstanding Performance Award program for solos and small ensembles. 93 Awards were presented at District II sites for Outstanding Performances or Honorable Mention to students representing 40 schools. It was suggested by the committee to post the award information on the NSAA website this year and in future years.
7. District III reported that all contests went well and expressed appreciation to the contest hosts. The current agreement and good cooperation by schools in District III was noted for their contest site hosting plan covering future years.

8. The District III Coordinator stated that a meeting held for contest site workers conducted the evening before the event proved to be very valuable and enhanced the operation of the Norfolk High School contest.
9. District III reported a situation involving a school needing additional props for performance at contest and requesting the host school provide and/or set-up the equipment. It was noted that any equipment not available from contest hosts should be provided by the attending school itself and is their responsibility to secure and set-up within the required time limits.
10. District IV reported that a site for students in Classes AA, A and B schools 2010 contest had not been found to date.
11. District IV discussed the result of balancing the number of schools attending contest at two sites and an option to address the large number of students attending one of the Class C/D sites.
12. District V has selected a new music coordinator, Paula Deisley of Arapahoe High School. Holdrege will no longer be the site for the District V East Large Ensemble contest and a new host school has not yet been determined.
13. District VI reported that balancing the number of schools between the Scottsbluff and Chadron sites had worked well and that the new fee schedule had been well received by member schools.

B. Number of schools and individuals participating at each site:

There was an increase in the numbers of schools and students participating at District Music Contests this year with 300 schools and 21,958 students attending.

C. District Contest entry fees at each site—late fees, expenses/receipts, future adjustments:

1. Each district coordinator reviewed their sites contest fees and the need to monitor the impact of transportation costs for schools and contracted judges' expenses. Four of the six districts reported balanced or surplus revenue budgets for their events with two reporting small deficits.
2. Two schools intending to attend music contest missed the March 20 entry deadline but attended by meeting the provisions of the NSAA Approved Ruling for late contest entries.

D. Review of District Music Contest Survey:

1. The school music directors' contest survey was reviewed and discussed by each music coordinator. The overall results indicated important areas of priority at NSAA District Music Contest for music educators and their music students. The survey revealed that 87% of the 285 directors who responded to the survey said their contest experience was good (37.2%) to excellent (50.2%). The survey also included comments and suggestions from the directors polled for making contest improvements in their districts and/or at their contest sites. The survey results will be available to all Nebraska music educators in July.

E. Other items for discussion from each of the districts:

1. The expanded use of digital recording devices for adjudicators' comments which replaces the older tape models was discussed by the committee.
2. The need for more standardized training or certification for music adjudicators was discussed by the committee. The interpretation of the present rating system as applied by Nebraska contest judges and the rating scale system used on the ballots was also discussed and determined to be acceptable at this time.

3. The implementation of the 'Outstanding Performance Award' for soloists and small ensembles to recognize the top performers at NSAA District Music Contests was discussed. The awards will be presented to the top performers from each contest site performance center (adjudicator's room), regardless of class or type of vocal or instrumental performance in the solo or small ensemble categories. The necessary adjudicator forms, tracking documents and award certificate logistical details were discussed and agreed upon.
 4. The implementation of the amended NSAA policy regarding the use of illegally photocopied music at District Music Contest was discussed and information provided in the NSAA Music Manual for guidance regarding next year's changes was agreed upon. The policy adopted through this year's NSAA legislative process summarily states:
 - A. Performers or their accompanists using illegally copied music will not be allowed to perform.
 - B. Solo and small ensemble performers shall present judges with original scores and have proof of a second original score for the performer and accompanist.
 - C. The numbering of measures for adjudicators will be strongly recommended but will not be required and thus will no longer lower the rating one division.
2. **Planning for 2010 NSAA District Music Contests was discussed with the emphasis on securing host sites and Directors for all of the contests.**
- A. Dates for the 2010 NSAA District Music Contests will be April 19-24.
 - B. It was noted that in 2011 due to the Easter holiday the dates for contest would be split between Thursday to Saturday (April 14-16) and Monday to Wednesday (April 18-20.)
3. **Discussion on any changes that need to be made to the NSAA Music Manual and the NSAA District Music Contest online entry form:**
- A. The committee discussed proposed clarifying sections of the Music Manual pertaining to the new award program and the Scores Bylaw amendment.
 - B. The 2010 online entry form will feature expanded information for non-specified small ensemble instrumentation and percussion solo and ensemble instruments to assist contest hosts in scheduling and planning.
4. **2009-2010 NSAA Music Proposals:**
Music proposals for the 2009-2010 school year will be drafted and presented to the committee at the beginning of the school year.

Appreciation was expressed by the committee for the work of Mark Butler and Dan Wiese of Holdrege for their years serving as District V Music Coordinators.

The next meeting of the NSAA District Music Advisory Committee has been set for May 24, 2010 at the NSAA office in Lincoln, Nebraska.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Bud Dahlstrom, Assistant Director