

SDBA General Membership Meeting

Saturday, February 11, 2023 – 8:00 AM

Oscar Larson Performing Arts Center at SDSU – Choir Room

In attendance: Full Executive Board and 39 members of the South Dakota Bandmasters Association

Meeting was called to order at – 8:00 a.m. by President Mary Cogswell.

Minutes from the February Executive Board Meeting were presented by Secretary/Treasurer George Dragoo.

The Financial Report for the SDBA was shared by Secretary/Treasurer George Dragoo. The current balance of all SDBA Financial Accounts is \$10,412.09.

Conference Recognition—President Mary Cogswell formally thanked Dr. Reynolds and SDSU for hosting a great conference and thank you for helping coordinate the clinicians each year.

Membership Report – Ben Koch reported that the South Dakota Bandmasters currently has 195 members (150 standard members ... 10 student memberships... and the remaining retired memberships).

Executive Board Elections – Nominees were shared for the position of President-Elect (Kim Carda and Susan Karels), Region 3 & 4 Representative (Wendy Thorson and Becky Nierman), Region 5 & 6 Representative (Liz Bengs and Heather Harnisch), and Young Band Representative (Tessa Bolgum and Andrea Harstad). Members present were then given the opportunity to vote online. Election results will be tabulated and shared at the end of the meeting.

Summer Symposium – Mary Cogswell shared details of the July 20, 2023 Summer Symposium.

Elementary Contest Report – Jeff Patzlaff reported that the Elementary Music Contest Program is in good financial situation, but the participation is getting smaller and smaller each year. The current number of contests is 12 Instrumental and 7 Piano. Directors who are interested in doing local contests for their own school and getting ribbons through SDBA is supported.

Conference Bands Invitation – Dan Carlson’s call for schools to apply to perform at the 2024 SD Music In-Service was shared with membership. Submissions are due by All State Band weekend.

Dennis Hegg Young Director Award Report – Mary Cogswell shared that Brian Lemaster wanted to share again that he would like the membership to help support this program and nominate the exceptional young band directors across South Dakota.

All State Band Site Host Report – Ben Koch reported that O’Gorman High School is excited to host All State Band again this year. There will be a director’s lounge provided by Schmitt Music, and professional development sessions will be available. Excited that Paul Cravens will be brought in through a co-sponsorship by SDBA and SDMEA.

All State Jazz Band Site Host Report – Andrew Belsaas shared his excitement to host the All State Jazz Band, and All State Show Choir, at Rapid City Central High School in May. Everyone was encouraged to have students audition.

SDBA Logo Updates – Membership was informed that the process of updating the SDBA Logo is being explored, and any progress will be shared as it happens.

SDBA by-laws - Article III Section 5 – This section states that the SDHSAA representative serves as parliamentarian for the SDBA Board Meetings. It has been requested, by the SDHSAA, to have this removed from the by-laws. Jared Opp motioned to approve this request. Phil Carlson seconded the motion, and the membership approved it unanimously.

SDBA Hall of Fame - Phil Carlson was proud to report that Jerome Letcher will be inducted as the newest member of the South Dakota Bandmasters Hall of Fame. Phil discussed a revision of the Hall of Fame voting process. The nomination process will remain the same, but a panel will be created to vote on the nominated individuals. This panel will include a combination of membership that are east and west river, 0-15 years and 15+ years of experience, and 5 current members of the SDBA Hall of Fame.

SDBA College Scholarship Award – Last fall the SDBA Board discussed raising the SDBA College Scholarship from \$500 to \$1000 per participant, starting in 2023. With the positive financial situation the SDBA is in, along with the understanding of college costs, the board has suggested that the general membership approve this increase. Ron Stary motioned to increase the SDBA College Scholarship Award from \$500 to \$1000 starting in 2023. Stephanie Wranek seconded the motion, and the membership unanimously approved it.

Midwest Scholarship Change Proposal – The executive board decided to open up the Midwest Scholarship to all SDBA members with preference given to young directors and/or first-time attendees to the conference.

State of the Band Survey - Thanks to all the members who completed the “State of Band” survey earlier this year. The board hopes to use the information gathered to help better serve the band directors of South Dakota by seeing a snapshot of the bands across the state.

Taps Performance Opportunities - Board member Dan Sip shared information regarding the need for communities to have musicians to perform Taps at military funerals and various events. Dan discussed the idea of creating a network for our students to have the opportunity to take on this honored tradition and realize the importance of this service.

Members in Distress – No names were brought forward.

Members Retiring – Those SDBA Members retiring this year were shared: Kathy Leisinger - Mitchell Christian; Mick Dragoo – Lead-Deadwood; Vicki Bjerke – Castlewood. A standing ovation was given for their service to music education.

Members Who Have Passed Away – It was shared that the following SDBA Members have passed away recently: Leo Getsgo, Deb Jensen, and Wes Peppers. A moment of silence was held.

Election Results – The results were shared for the Executive Board elections: President Elect-Susan Karels, Region 3/4 Representative-Wendy Thorsen, Region 5/6 Representative-Elizabeth Bengs, and Young Band Representative-Andrea Harstad. The transition to the new executive board took place, and president Ben Koch thanked Mary Cogswell for her great leadership over the last two years, and Jeff Patzlaff for his service as he leaves the board this year.

Conference Invite – Dr. Reynolds that the SD Bandmasters on behalf of SDSU, and invited them to return in 2024 for the next SD Music In-Service.

Adjournment – Phil Carlson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dan Sip seconded the motion, and membership approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

George Dragoo

SDBA Secretary/Treasurer