



New England Music Festival Association  
Executive Board Meeting  
On-Line Zoom Meeting  
Time: 8:00am – June 6, 2020

1. Call to Order - 8:04am
2. Roll Call - Marj Rooen, Lyvie Beyrent, Bill Sittard, Rob Gattie, Steffen Parker, John Deeb, Eddie Wilkin, John Kuhner, Thomas Reynolds, Danielle Conerty, Scott Benson, Pam Rodgers, Frank Whitcomb, and Sal Ciciarella
3. Association Member Comments – Presidents statement of the Situation
  - a. Discussion of some ideas and situations for each state. Marj read a statement about the current Covid-19 pandemic and asked about what states have decided for the fall. Steffen talked about online auditions and the problems that come with that. Bill asked about the financial piece for adjudicators and how that would work. Frank asked when this determination would be made and Steffen said he would plan for both online and in-person S&E. Students would know before they register. Marj suggested moving the Sept meeting to Aug. Rob suggests waiting until schools are in session to make that determination and mentioned saving money for S&E, because we wouldn't need hotels, meals, or mileage. John D and John K both suggested having an Aug and Sept meeting. Scott asked about a reduced fee, since students aren't getting feedback like they would have in person. Steffen suggests offering masterclasses as an alternative. Discussion about the reality of the concert festival happening in March. Frank mentioned that NEMFA could possibly have more students involved if district festivals weren't going to happen. Scott suggests reaching out to the membership to keep them updated and to get feedback and support. Tom makes a motion to report to the membership that we are going forward with S&E Fest in some form, based on our current situation, and that we would like to have membership register input to this decision. Steffen seconds. Tom

modified - Based on our current situation the NEMFA EB plans to conduct the S&E Festival in December, in the form of online submissions, incorporating the best aspects of what we do, including adjudicator feedback. Discussion about getting feedback from the membership now, before school ends. Motion passes, all in favor.

4. Minutes March 2020 – Lyvie Beyrent – Google doc. Tom moves to accept. John Deeb seconds. All in favor, motion passes.

5. Board Member Reports:

- a. Executive Secretary/Treasurer – Bill Sittard

May 31st \$56,838.04 \$58,321.75 as of today. Rob moves to accept the treasurer's report. Tom seconds. All in favor, motion passes.

- b. Past President – Sal Ciciarella - Nothing

- c. President Elect – John Deeb - Suggests having an online meeting/forum for possible new recruits/schools when schools go back.

- d. Bulletin – Tom Reynolds - Constant Contact this week and bulletin going out in a few weeks.

- e. Website – Tom Reynolds & Steffen Parker - Feedback for new website and colors of lettering. Steffen mentioned how he wishes the website had more information on the backend. Less graphic and more text. Marj likes it because it's cleaner and easier to navigate. Tom makes a motion to allow Meaghan Ferris from Norwood, MA to take over the design of the website for \$5,000, but with the stipulation that we pay her \$2,000 upfront and if we like her work to offer her a contract for the additional \$3,000 for website upgrade. Lyvie seconds. Sal suggests offering a stipend and if we like her work to offer her a contract. All in favor.

- f. Solo & Ensemble Festival – Steffen Parker & Rob Gattie

1. On-line Solo and Ensemble & On-Site Solo & Ensemble
2. Have plans in place for both - Discussion earlier.

- g. Member Services – John Kuhner – home stays (he left meeting early, no report).

- h. Librarian – Frank Whitcomb last year's music situation - Major loss that we haven't gotten much back. Eddie suggests to have Tom put a reminder in the Constant Contact to mail music back.

- i. Chorus Manager – Eddie Wilkins - Contact has been made with next year's conductor, David Fryling, and future conductors. Eddie read a statement about the selection of conductors. Discussion.

- j. Orchestra Manager – Scott Benson - Sent updated contract with a clause that says NEMFA is harmless if our event gets cancelled. Frank asked about the music rental. Allen Tinkham is conductor for next year. Brian Norcross is the following year, no contract has been sent.
  - k. Band Manager – Danielle Conerty - Matthew Westgate from UMass is next year's conductor. Discussion on band programs. Tom makes a motion to accept program 1. Lyvie seconds. Discussion on percussion parts for the programs. Matt was emailed and asked could programs 1 and 2 be combined to accommodate the Ticheli piece? Wait until we hear back from him to vote. Tom withdraws motion. Discussion about who would sing the solo from the Ticheli.
6. President's Report – Marjorie Rooen
- a. 2021 Concert Festival? No Host as of 5/18/2020 - Could we do a festival in a hotel if allowed? Hilton or Marriott from Mechanic Hall in MA. Tom is going to check it out and get back to Marj. Bill will look at them online. Will change things like meals and chaperone duties. Discussion about cost.
7. Unfinished Business
- a. Conferences and Publications – Are Conferences happening? Not right now. Frank will send out an ad for us to approve for publications.
  - b. Website investment monies - Above
8. New Business
- a. Thoughts from Frank Whitcomb's letter – Wrap up discussion.
  - b. Future Ideas? - Eastern is April 2021 and would be a great opportunity to recruit.
  - c. Snow date elimination with on-line S & E? - If we can do it online it would eliminate this, but it could knock out power and the internet.
9. Other Business? - Jennifer talked about bringing swag to S&E Fest. Are members allowed to submit articles for Constant Contact? Yes.
10. Future Dates
- a. Saturday, September 12, 2020 10:00am TBA.
  - b. Saturday December 5, 2020 S & E Festival – North
  - c. Friday, December 11, 2020 Executive Board Meeting – South Griswold, CT
  - d. Saturday December 12, 2020 S & E Festival – South
  - e. Saturday December 19, 2020 S & E Festival – **Snow Date**
  - f. 2021 Concert Festival- TBA March 11-13, 2021.
11. NEMFA Executive Board Comments

12. Adjournment! - Steffen makes a motion to adjourn at 10:37am, Bill seconds.

Future Concert Dates

2021 – March 11-13

2022 – March 17-19

2023 – March 16-18