



## **New England Music Festival Association**

### Executive Board Meeting

Zoom meeting March 13, 2021

10:00am

1. Call to Order.
2. Roll Call - Marj Rooen, Steffen Parker, John Deeb, John Kuhner, Sal Ciccarella, Danielle Conerty, Scott Benson, Thomas Reynolds, Frank Whitcomb, Pam Rodgers, Rob Gattie, Eddie Wilkins, and James Pescok. Mission Bill Sittard and Lyvie Beyrent.
3. Association Member Comments - None
4. Minutes August meeting on Google Docs – vote to accept. Steffen makes a motion to accept, John D seconds, all in favor.
5. Board Member Reports:
  - a. Executive Secretary/Treasurer – Bill Sittard - Down \$2,555.58 in revenue. Motion to accept John D, seconded by Steffen, all in favor.
  - b. Past President – Sal Ciccarella - Thanks to various people. Nominations are as follows:  
President-Elect: Jennifer Chambers, Hanover HS, Hanover, NH  
Concert Band Manager: Anthony Pandolfe, EO Smith HS, Storrs, CT  
Orchestra Manager: Paul Pierce, Windsor High School, Windsor, CT  
John D makes a motion to accept nominations, Steffen seconds, all in favor.
  - c. President Elect – John Deeb, Concert Festival report and Host report/concerns for 2022 - Looking forward to going back to in person concerts. Has lots of support with parents, booster groups, etc., but is concerned with housing. Do we cut down the festival or pay for housing, which will increase the fee? Could we do half housing and half hotels? Long discussion about various options. Frank volunteers to help head up chaperones for hotels if needed. Certificates? Danielle suggests having a PDF blank copy that teachers print and give to students. Sal volunteers to distribute, if Steffen sends him mailing

labels. Steffen makes a motion to create a certificate of participation individualized for the concert festival students, have that printed and distributed appropriately. John D seconds. All in favor.

- d. Bulletin and Website – Tom Reynolds - Will try to get a bulletin out after the June meeting, before school ends.
- e. Solo & Ensemble Festival – Steffen Parker & Rob Gattie - A few technical errors of missed adjudications happened, but have caught up. Platform seemed to work well if people followed directions. Had about 40% of the normal number of participants, which speaks very highly of how well our members are giving opportunities to students who had schools that weren't even having programs. Several schools didn't participate due to their own circumstances. Now that we have proven that we can do this online platform, we might have to offer this in the future. Long discussion about what if situations and future.
- f. Librarian – Frank Whitcomb - Nothing new. Still negotiating with G. Shurmer.
- g. Chorus Manager – Eddie Wilkins – Dr. Ganschow is on board for 2022 and Dr. Fryling on board for 2023.
- h. Orchestra Manager – Scott Benson – new orchestra manager candidate Paul Pierce. Dr. Tinkham is on board for 2022 and Dr. Marcross on board for 2023.
- i. Band Manager – Danielle Conerty - new band manager candidate Anthony Pandolfe. Dr. Westgate for 2022 and Dr. Peterson for 2023.
- j. Concert Festival Report – Steffen Parker - feedback, and response to this on-line festival - Took a while to get workable video performances, but kids did a good job. Final product is not what Steffen wanted, but it works. Tom gives kudos to Steffen for a great presentation!

6. President's Report – Marjorie Roonen - Thanks to everyone for everything they have done. Will work better on communication.

7. Unfinished Business

- a. Concert Festival proposal - Talked about above, will revisit in June.
- b. Recruitment efforts – Conventions, Social Media, and Festivals - Getting Constant Contact out to more than members, but to state associations, that would be keeping our foot in the door for people who are looking to do something musical with their students.

8. New Business

- a. Meetings - More frequently to react to changes. Can we tentatively plan on having the September meeting at the host school in person? Yes, John is planning for it.

- b. A concern was brought up from a member that the concert festival this year highlighted the best students and that there was a lack of communication about what the final product would be. Discussion about the communication that went out, everything from website to emails.

9. Future Dates

- a. Executive Board Meeting - June 5, 2021 Holiday Inn Express, 100 Chickering Drive, Brattleboro, VT 05301
- b. Future Concert Festival Dates:  
2022 Concert Festival; March 17-19 - John Deeb host  
2023 Concert Festival; March 16-18 - TBD

10. Any other business that could not be brought to the President before the setting of this agenda?

Cowgill Award - Kate Lavanway (Mount Mansfield, Alto) and Jeff He (East Lyme, String Bass). Will mail out after the meeting. Motion from Rob Gattie to award scholarship to these two students. John D seconds. All in favor.

11. NEMFA Executive Board Comments - None

12. Adjournment! Motion to adjourn by Marj at 11:40am.