

Texas Jazz Educators Association
General Membership Meeting
Texas Bandmasters Conference
Monday, July 28, 2014
9:30 a.m.- CC Room 218

The meeting was called to order by TJEA President Mark Nichols

Officers were introduced to the general membership

Mark Nichols-President
Matthew Seifert-President Elect
Alan Black-Secretary
Heather Mensch-Treasurer
Directors-Brent Matheson ,present, and Greg Ball and Aric Schneller, (who were not present)
Alex Parker-Executive Officer
Aric Schneller- Past-President (not present)
Roland Sandoval-Past Director (not present)

Minutes and Treasurer's Report were reviewed and approved

President Mark Nichols reviewed the jazz events for TBA. There were several different events sponsored by TJEA over the days of the conference. Some were concerned that there were clinics on improvisation held at the same time, which affected audience participation.

Brent M. suggested that there should be a link on the TJEA website of the jazz etudes.

Under Old Business:

There was discussion about the Invited High School Jazz Band, and the winning group was announced: **The HSPVA High School Jazz Ensemble**, directed by Warren Sneed .

Discussion ensued about wanting at some point to open the process to other ensembles, and not have it limited to jazz bands. Choirs and string groups should be eligible also, and those directors should be made aware of the process if they are interested.

The comments have been good so far on how it is being done, and the process of applying.

Discussion included the suggestion that perhaps one year, the process could be for ATSSB bands, or for middle school bands, rather than always larger TMEA Jazz Ensembles.

Another suggestion was that if middle school or younger groups were invited, possibly a performance could be a split concert with another group, to help with needing to learn so much music.

The application process will be available, along with dates, on the TJEA website.

The membership was asked to submit any clinic suggestions in any area of jazz, for TMEA and TBA consideration.

TJEA has submitted a clinic proposal for the 2015 TMEA Convention, with Steve Owen, Director of Jazz Studies, University of Oregon. It will be entitled "Arranging for Middle School and High School Jazz Ensembles." The clinic would focus on how arranging decisions (voicing choices, orchestration, rhythm section writing, reharmonization, and "intangibles") lead to a positive educational experience and strong performance. TJEA is awaiting word on acceptance by TMEA.

The membership was asked for information to be included in the newsletter and website.

These include articles on any area of jazz, festivals, concerts, clinics, etc. The newsletter is always in need of such things before publication. John Goode is the newsletter editor, and Cathy Benford is the website coordinator. The website is being looked at for ways to upgrade and streamline, and the executive board will continue to work on that.

The new deadline for etudes has been moved forward to January 15, instead of February 1st.

There is also a desire to collect and archive video from any and all areas of jazz if members have things to share.

The application deadline for TJEA grants will be by October 1st, and grants should be awarded by November 1st. Application forms are available online at tjea.org

Finally, the Jazz Symposium was discussed, particularly in light of the problems that were encountered this year, resulting in not having anything.

It was suggested that perhaps every other year may be a way to go, giving plenty of time to obtain top clinicians and get organized.

The 2015 symposium is scheduled for the 2nd weekend of June, June 12/13, in San Antonio, where Matthew Seifert is located. Discussion included the possibility of moving it around the state, as has been done in the past, because of travel issues, but to have it at the same time each summer.

It was also suggested that perhaps a student track could be included, and clinics aimed at the students, as well as the directors be offered.

Under new business, there was discussion about how best to grow the organization and let more people know about what TJEA can offer, including choral and string. Alex said he was going to collaborate with a fellow faculty member at Baylor concerning jazz string improvisation.

It was decided that the board members would get approval from TMEA to attend the division meetings of the different areas and make short presentations on TJEA.

There was also discussion on why members were in attendance and how we could encourage more people to become involved, regardless of being a “rookie” or a “veteran” to jazz. Also discussed was the importance of focusing on the “education” part of jazz education, which helps to make the organization even more legitimate to supervisors and principals.

Jose Diaz reported on the Jazz Education Network conference, held in Dallas in January of 2014, and presented a plaque, which had been presented to the Texas TJEA chapter for outstanding contribution in the field of jazz. Jose is on the board of directors of JEN. The 2015 JEN conference will be held in San Diego January 7-10th at the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel.

Because Roland Sandoval was unable to attend, discussion about the Texas Jazz Educator Hall of Fame and Texas Jazz Educator of the Year was tabled until the next meeting at TMEA.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.