

## **December 3, 2016 SWKMEA District Choral director's meeting**

Brandon Wade opened with introduction of himself and other teachers present.  
34 in attendance!

State representative here today-Gretchen Bixler (KMEA President-Elect)  
Lynn Unruh and Gay Phillips are nominees for President Elect  
All-State Choir-email sent about voting for new All-State choir options

Troy Johnson (KMEA Webmaster) sent a Survey open until December 11, 2016 for the following:

- Add freshman/soph All-State and another which would be juniors/seniors-grade level based, SATB/Treble state choir, or 1234/56 State level choir.
- Also, survey for live state choir auditions or district allotted (based on population of district). Possibly develop new formula for determining choir members based on population of district.

Brandon Wade (SWKMEA President), Pratt led discussion about the possibilities of change in the All-State Choir.

Discussion topics:

- Some felt that we already have a live audition when they audition for district.
- Would it push the choir kids more to have them do the same thing the instrumental students already do?
  - If we go this way, it could be a possibility that our students would not be involved because the other districts have college-level voice lesson resources and more students in bigger districts.
  - We do have our first audition as a live audition to see where their talent level is as compared to instrumental auditions don't do live auditions until their second audition.
  - The 1234/56 level choirs may take care of that. Fear factor for students of having to do a second audition may cause students not to want to do it.
  - Travel time and money to for small schools to have to pay for a live true All-State audition may also cause students not to audition.
  - Gretchen explained Brandon and Elise Peterson will take the recommendation to the KMEA board. Having the instrumental and vocal at the same time was also brought up
  - Would the State Chair take into consideration that a female was in SATB one year and the Treble ensemble the next year? Or, will it be the same each year, or only placed as a ranking.

Gretchen Bixler (KMEA President-Elect) Consider that students may think there is a top ensemble and a lesser ensemble. We as teachers must really work to keep our students thinking that there are greater and lesser ensembles. She gave the example of the 1234A Band and 56A Bands often outshine each other each year.

- Tony Claus, Liberal interjected that we might consider an upper-level and underclassmen choir?

-Jodi Reese, Scott City stated that there is an email from Troy Johnson, KMEA Webmaster that explains all the PROS and CONS.

Troy's Email:

Kansas Vocal and Choral Directors:

You are invited and encouraged to participate in a survey regarding the addition of a high school choral group to the existing group at KMEA In-Service Workshops in the near future. Please do not participate in this survey if it does not directly affect the students you work with in an educational institution or professional setting (i.e. vocal coach/voice lessons).

Please note that the window to respond is very short. We are working to have an answer for the membership at the 2017 KMEA In-Service Workshop, at which time a proposal will be submitted to the KMEA Board.

To access the survey, visit this URL: *[URL redacted]*

The survey will remain available until 11:59:59 PM (CST) on Sunday, December 11, 2016. Any web-enabled device should work (desktop, notebook, tablet, smartphone). For browsers, I usually recommend Chrome or Firefox.

Additional information about the survey is available in the attachment. Please send replies or questions to Elise Peterson.

Thank you in advance,

Troy Johnson  
KMEA Webmaster  
[webmaster@ksmea.org](mailto:webmaster@ksmea.org)

-Bob Lee, Pratt-Skyline spoke about numbers in each ensemble.

-We always have more females, rather than males auditioning, so that is why we have a Treble Group being looked at.

-Jodi Reese, Scott City asked if this will be voted on this year.

-Gretchen Bixler, KMEA President-Elect, explained that the recommendation will be brought to the Board. Please make sure to vote.

-How will this affect the Middle Level Choir by adding 9/10 or 11/12 choirs?

-Gretchen Bixler explained that the Middle Level Ensembles will be reworked. Discussion will happen in June 2017 and then voting in July 2017. She thinks that KCDA would revamp too! Not sure if students can do both KCDA and KMEA ensembles....Logistics might go against them.

Are you in favor of adopting the philosophy of a true All-State choir?

-The district is **not** in favor of the change.

9/10 and 11/12 Choir

9 in favor of 34 in attendance.

1/2/3/4A and a 5/6A

4 in favor of 34 in attendance.

SATB and Treble

20 in favor of 34 in attendance.

## **SEAN BOLLER (HS CHOIR)**

Tracy Resseguie from Staley High School in Missouri is the Choir Clinician

38 schools / 342 students entered last year.

37 schools / 319 students entered this year.

113 scratches last year

60 scratches this year

229 auditioned last year.

259 auditioned this year.

Acceptance Rate:

Accepted 75% auditioning last year

Accepted 71% auditioning this year, because more auditioned this year!

## **Open Forum**

Discussion of judging all the sopranos in one room, all the altos in one room.

-Bob Lee (Pratt-Skyline) asked about the possibility of splitting the audition between Rooms

-If sight reading was part of it, that could work but not with the way we do it now.

-The question of does one room score higher than the other room was brought up.

-Brandon Wade asked what's best for the kids or what's best for us.

-A Hand vote was taken for one Soprano Room and one Alto Room for District

Auditions:

-20 keeping the same - 2 changed it

## **CONCERT ATTIRE**

Choir is trying to adopt a state level policy of Black and White required concert attire. Are we going to do it at the district-level.

Sean Boller, SWKMEA Choir, likes the idea because it allows the students to have a very formal experience.

-Many comments were very PRO!

-Consider that we have a wide variety of socio-economic statuses and because of the location of towns...we don't all have easy access to required clothing.

-It was mention that we have donors will to help out around the District.

-Sean posed that we email the choral chair and they can ask if anyone in the SW District can help a school out.

-State will not change from time to time...It will be permanently adopted and remain at the state. Randy Fillmore, Lawrence, KMEA All-State Ensembles

Manager will be putting it together.

Do we want to adopt the State Concert Attire Policy for SWKMEA?

Was asked by Alexandra Rome, Larned....Addendum...Can women wear slacks?

29 voted to adopt the State Concert Attire Policy as is!

### **AUDITIONING GUIDELINES**

Please remember that at the District Auditions, please remember to be as ethical as possible.

-Do not memorize your student numbers and time and judge

### **Choir Yahoo Group**

Bob Lee, Pratt-Skyline mentioned that we have a Yahoo Choir group. It has to grow organically, KMEA will not push it out via KMEA. Please talk to KCDA to get it promoted.