

Dear District 16,

Unfortunately, my laptop incurred a virus and had to be wiped out and reformatted so, I lost some things that I had to redo - I am sorry for that inconvenience which is why this is so late.

We had our Spring meeting at Wyandot MS. The important issues from there are that we did lose money at both S&E festivals. High School S&E was just over a \$5000.00 loss. We did have more rooms so, we needed adjudicators to be in them as well as a much higher cost for pianos and tuning (just under \$7800). Middle School was a few hundred dollars. We decided to keep the costs the same for now and tighten up the schedule for HS S&E to condense rooms and therefore need fewer adjudicators for next year. We are also looking into digital pianos for warm-up rooms and several solo and small ensemble room. We will keep acoustic pianos in the the auditorium and other large performance rooms as we are able. This is also being done at the State S&E level since the savings can be very helpful! This was the big topic of conversation at the district Spring Meeting. Our Fall Meeting will be on Monday, September 15th, 2014 at Anchor Bay HS.

**Dates for the 2014-2015 school year:** Spring Meeting: Monday, Sept. 15th @ 4:30 pm  
Honors Choir Auditions: 6-7-8-9 Sept 23 Deadline  
Oct. 18 Auditions  
Sept. 16 HS Regional  
Deadline  
Oct. 11th HS Regional  
Audition  
S&E Festivals: HS January 9/10 MS February 28  
Choral Festival: March 9/10/11/12  
State S&E East: March 27 & 28  
State Choral: April 27 & 28

**Full Board items:** \*As previously stated, the use of digital pianos is being investigated for State S&E.

\*Jim Watson is moving out of state and so we will need a new host school for MS S&E

\*Passed - an amendment to allow elementary schools to join MSVMA.

\*A proposal to allow elementary schools to participate in Choir Festival has been tabled until January. We are to think of what sort opportunities we can provide for them to participate in MSVMA. As of now, districts may try different things on their own like unadjudicated festivals, possibly set up like the Chamber Festival.

- \* In response to the membership, the scoring rubric at Festival will read:
  - 1 Excellent w/ Superior Distinction
  - 1 Excellent
  - 2 Good
  - 3 Fair
  - 4 Developing
  
- \* Passed that the Adjudicator pool will be opened up to those with a minimum of 5 years experience
  
- \* MS/JH only can have nonpitched percussion for the acapella State Festival Piece. For MMC Choral hour, HS requirements stay the same and MS/JH will be at least one of the 3 MUST be acapella or acapella w/ non-pitched percussion.
  
- \* We had a HUGE discussion on reducing membership costs. This was tabled until January. The proposal, if passed, would mean MSVMA would lose several thousand dollars a year. We need to find a solution that both helps districts and protects our future.

Hope everyone has a wonderful summer! See you in the fall!