

**Minutes - February 26, 2011 meeting
Jr. Clinic - Union Grove MS**

The meeting was called to order by President John Gallagher. Present were: Andrew Bernard, Holly Wight, Dana Smith, Mark Connell, Jim Hix, Ashley Glenn, Matt Weyer, Kevin Ross, Pete Rogers, Ron Hicks, Craig Valentine, Jamie Hackney, David Westrich, Kim White, Becky Terry, Russell McCurdy, Clint Juday, Chris Metcalf, John Gallagher, Brandon Tilley, TJ Skeen, Katrina Jolley, Lisa Michaels.

Copies of the treasurer's report and minutes from the January meeting were presented by Dawn. There were no objections or corrections, so both were accepted as presented.

Old Business: We will be looking for a more suitable venue for fall meeting - we need a place with a meeting area that will not charge us exorbitantly, and let everyone order individually off the menu without charging for a banquet meal. Dawn will be looking during the spring; anyone with ideas of a place convenient to Farragut HS feel free to let her know. She has had Mimi's and Olive Garden in Turkey Creek suggested.

Craig pointed out that new teachers will be going through the new teacher orientation with ETSBOA, and that might keep some people from coming to our fall meeting, which occurs after the ETSBOA meeting in September. After discussion, it was decided that it might be difficult to find another convenient time for a fall meeting, and we will continue to monitor and encourage new members to join our organization, even if they can't attend the fall meeting.

John wanted to point out what a great job done by Holly Wight. Holly thanked Mark Connell for his help with the clinic, especially in helping to provide the percussion.

It was announced that Dr. Michael Stuart, Jay Romines, and William Hunley will be the Concert Festival 2011 judges. Concert Festival is April 30, 2011 at Hiawassee College.

Ron Hicks reported on his findings on the possibility of using music theaters in Gatlinburg for concert festival - it was a no-go. Other ideas for another future site was Heritage HS. John pointed out that the stage is very dark, although the acoustics are good. He will check, in case the membership wishes to rotate the site in the future. Linda Trout is happy to host at Hiawassee College as long as the membership wishes to do that.

It was announced that Tony D'Andrea has confirmed that he will be the Sr. Clinic 2012 Blue Band clinician, and that John Gallagher will be the Red Band clinician. Sr. Clinic will be held again at Cocke County HS.

Kevin mentioned how nice it was to have Dr. John Culvahouse lead the Saturday morning round-table directors' discussion this morning, and perhaps it would be nice to try to have similar presentations for the group again at future clinics, even if it was just a chance for a director to present a topic of interest to the group.

Craig mentioned that there was a difficulty with having sight-reading music ready to go on Friday

morning, and it would be good for everyone to bring sight-reading just in case there is a glitch. Brandon apologized for the fact that there was a difficulty. He went on to say that it would be better if we reverted back to the way we used to do it, which is for folks to bring sight-reading so that we wouldn't be totally dependent on the music being provided for us as in the last several clinics. The group expressed that we weren't meaning to be critical, and that we had enjoyed having the sight-reading written and provided by Kathy and Brandon, but that directors should come prepared with materials to use in the future, as we used to do.

New business: Jim Hix is able to record concert festival this year, since Larry Hicks has a conflict. He will communicate this to Linda Trout to let her know.

Holly brought up the fact that we might need to consider limiting our percussion student submissions. She wants it to be a good clinic experience for all students, and that when there is such a large number as the last 2 clinics, especially in junior clinics where the literature is simpler, the students end up without much chance to play. Pete pointed out that over the years that we have fluctuations, and that it could go either way. He also encouraged that directors do need to try to send students who are at least moderately skilled enough to attend clinic, and that goes for all the different sections, not just percussion. Directors should ensure that their students can accomplish the audition guidelines as stated on the applications by screening their students.

After discussion about the instrumentation issues, Mark Connell asked about what the group philosophy is regarding admission to this clinic. Is it to provide an educational experience for the kids, perhaps at the expense of having a higher quality ensemble? Do we submit kids who wouldn't have a chance at other clinics, do we let more percussionists play even if it means having a band with too many snares, for example? Many kids come from small bands and find that our clinic band is the biggest band they have ever performed in. For many, it is a chance to audition for the first time. Chris pointed out that it is difficult for a group of band directors to agree on or define educational philosophy. Mark continued on with his thoughts about finding appropriate literature for the younger ensembles and making the experience good for all of them. Student instruction doesn't necessarily come from the podium, it can come from the clinic experience and the students in the band. He suggested that we rank the sections through tryouts, and then have 2 equally ranked bands, odd numbers in one and evens in the other. We discussed when we had had 3 jr. clinic bands, we had a top band and then 2 equally ranked bands through that method. Chris thanked Mark for his input. Pete said that even though we don't have a stated philosophy per se, we do want to err on the side of encouraging the kid. Chris pointed out that it was great to see everyone jumping in to help the sections who needed it in the red band. Ashley Glenn related that he had a student the year before who had been lower-skilled, who was inspired and wanted to improve because she had heard the higher band, so he felt it was good to have 2 different levels of bands. Chris asked if we wanted to limit the numbers in the higher band so that there would be a chance for more numbers, thus more skill in the second band. We also discussed how the problems of instrumentation are exacerbated when directors don't turn in their applications in a timely manner, and that no matter the deadline for applications, if folks don't abide by it, major difficulties ensue for the host and the clinicians. We know that we are going to have issues in January and February with snow and flu, and it's important to plan ahead – it's necessary for all of us to abide by whatever deadline we have set. Brandon spoke again to the importance of preparing the students, no matter the

educational philosophy.

Holly agreed to host Jr. Clinic again. Jr. Clinic 2012 will be at Union Grove MS, pending school approval.

The following list was comprised for possible Jr. Clinic Blue band clinicians for 2012 - Valerie Sanders, Lisa Burden, Pete Hodges, Angie Messer, Richard Brown, George Hayden, David Price, Michael Stewart.

Mark Connell volunteered for and will conduct the Jr. Clinic red band in 2012.

Possible Judges to contact for Concert Festival 2012:

College: Dr. John Culvahouse, Sean Greene, Christian Zembower.

High School: Zack Williamson, Tim Michaels, Megan Christian, Dr. Russell Ramsey, Rick Shaw.

Middle School: Joel Tillman, Jeff Kile, Angie Messer

For the good of the association: The motion to adjourn and second were so quick, it was impossible to record who made them.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Patelke
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
TSSBDA