

NYSCAME General Membership Meeting Minutes

August 9, 2009

Albany Crowne Plaza

Present: Cindy Baldwin, Joel Ratner, Pat Wheelhouse, Johanna Siebert, George Ober, Joseph Sugar, Marc Greene, Patricia Baehr, Deborah Stehlik, Carmela Brown, David Gaines, Paul Lieberman, Joseph Pergola, William Rodriguez, David Cerullo,

Secretary's Report: Lori Orestano-James (No Report)

Treasurer's Report: Kevin Bayen. (No Report)

Presentation of Slate of Officers:

Dr. Patricia Wheelhouse – President

Ken Pollitt – President-Elect

Joel Ratner – Past-President

There were no further nominations from the floor. We will vote on the slate in December.

2009 Summer Conference Workshops and Events: Each presenter was asked to give a two-minute description of their workshop.

“Money Matters: Music & the Real Rules” Marc Greene

“21st Century Skills – What are They, and Why is Music Education Essential to Their Development?”

Dr. Johanna Siebert

“So Now You’re Teaching General Music!” George Ober

2008-09 Advocacy Reports:

Joe Sugar: Teacher preparation programs need our guidance. We should unite and make a program in which students can learn all of the skills they need before they go into the work force. We could do this in conjunction with COMTEP. Johanna Siebert suggested we bring this to the attention of the National association of Music Supervisors and SMTE. Joel Ratner suggested that we hold joint meetings with other music advocacy groups around this topic.

Joel Ratner: When the bottom dropped out of the budget this past year, our letters to legislators made a difference. It’s very important that we continue our letter-writing campaign. Joel shared copies of letters he received from legislators in response to his advocacy this past year. Every letter makes a difference.

Scholarships:

This has been tabled until the December Winter Conference meeting, due to a lack of time in the spring. We discussed what decisions should be made at the local level. There is a need to create a procedure for this. It was stated that there shouldn’t be large differences between areas in how the scholarships (\$500) will be awarded. Joel recommended that we come up with a timeline for this in December.

Workshop Clinicians Compensation from NYSSMA:

Joel proposed that we discuss having NYSCAME remunerate any clinicians for the registration fees not paid by NYSSMA, starting in December. Discussion ensued. One concern is that once we put this in motion, it will be hard to discontinue this practice. Joel Ratner moved that we pick up the balance of registration, and Carmela Brown seconded. The motion passed.

2009 Winter NYSSMA Conference: The dates are December 3-6. Joe Sugar inquired if workshops presented in the summer are automatically given again at the winter conference. This is not automatic, but often happens.

Area Representative Reports:

Area 1 (Buffalo/Rochester): Johanna Siebert (Rochester). RACAME will once again sponsor its annual Teacher Workshop Day on January 28, 2010. Johanna will present her workshop on 21st Century Skills at that workshop. RACAME recently held a summit meeting on 21st Century Skills and music education. There is an article on this topic coming in the August edition of *Music Educator's Journal*, for which Dr. Siebert is an editor.

Area 2 (Syracuse/Central NY): Carmella Brown (Utica). Carmella informed the group of a massive advocacy movement that came forth to save her position. She oversees 52 art and music teachers for the city of Utica. When a new superintendent tried to eliminate her position, parents organized a phone campaign and sent 32 people from 9 area districts to speak on her behalf at a board meeting for over two hours. Her position was not eliminated as a result of this tremendous advocacy by parents.

Area 3 (Capital District/North Country): No representatives

Area 4 (Hudson Valley): No representatives

Area 5 (NYC/Westchester): Marc Greene (Bedford), William (?) (Bronx). The Westchester County Arts Leadership Association is going strong. Craig Sherman is the new president. They are planning their annual Professional Development Day to be held on Election Day. In terms of budget cuts and music programs, some districts gained and some districts lost. Ossining now has a full-time directorship. In the Bronx, there is now NYSSMA Festival Adjudication held at the Bronx School of the Arts. Alan Hollander of Westchester County has embraced the school. Currently the Bronx High School of the Arts shares a building with other groups, and partners with Lehman College. It is William's [get last name] hope that soon the school will have its own building.

Area 6 (Long Island): Joe Sugar (Nassau). On November 3rd Nassau will hold its annual Balanced Mind Conference with Dr. Gerald Ross of the St. John's School of Education as keynote speaker. Nassau is very active in advocacy for the arts. Nassau and Suffolk County NYSCAME chapters are very active in general. There are nine meetings throughout the year, a full range of professional development opportunities for teachers and administrators, busses are provided for the All-State Conference students, and the NYSCAME chapters offer scholarships annually. Senator Skelos recently attended a meeting honoring retirees and secretaries. Joe Pergola commented on the fiscal crisis we are all facing. There is great need for guidance in matters of budget. This takes a toll on morale and momentum.

Webmaster's Report: George Ober:

George is checking into issues of web page visibility and access.

Vice President's Report: Dr. Johanna Siebert:

Johanna will update the membership list this year with input from Joel and others. We will send the newsletter to all paid or unpaid members.

NYSCEA Report: Joel Ratner:

NYSCEA is very involved with the Middle Level Initiative at this time.

State Education Report (Joe Sugar): The annual NYSSMA Day in Albany has been changed to March 1st. Legislators have called Joe to get names of schools that brought advocates to Albany so that letters may be written.

Old Business: None at this time.

New Business: Joe Sugar suggested that NYSCAME plan a grand celebration of upcoming important anniversaries. This is our 44th year, so next year we should have a big celebration. We have arrived! Thanks to all who have put in so much hard work over the past years to bring us to our current status as an advocacy group for music education.

Adjournment: Stuart Rausch moved to adjourn at 6:05. Marc Greene seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Patricia Wheelhouse, President Elect (substituting for secretary Lori Orestano-James)