Missouri Association for Jazz Education

January 26, 2012
MMEA Membership Meeting

President Jeff Melsha called the meeting to order at 10:30 am.

The minutes from the MMEA meeting in January 2011 were read. Motion: David Dickey. Second: Chuck Appleton. Minutes approved. Minutes from the MBA meeting in June 2011 were read. Motion: Chuck Appleton. Second: Bob Long. Minutes approved.

Cathy Coonis gave the treasurer report. Motion: Kathleen Holeman. Second: Dave Dickey. Motion approved. Cathy also reminded the membership they can become members of JEN through MOAJE since MOAJE is an affiliate member. Dues are $10 payable to Cathy Coonis. If you would rather have a different level of membership, then go to the JEN website at: www.jazzednet.org.

Chris Miller gave a report on All State Jazz Band. Students are working hard; equipment (electric piano) is much better this year; Clinician Chip McNeil is giving a clinic. Chris invited everyone to check out the rehearsal schedule and watch the rehearsals.

Bob Long attended the JEN conference in Louisville, KY the first week of January. Missouri was well represented with MU Jazz Band under the direction of Arthur White and some groups from UMKC being involved in clinics. Clinics were aimed toward educators. Bob strongly encourages everyone to attend. The 2013 conference will be held in Atlanta. Also, the reading session scheduled for tonight is in Northwinds at 10:45 pm.

Dave Dickey was thanked for organizing the jam session that was held last night. ASJ Clinician, Chip McNeil, sat in on the jam session. Dave discussed the visibility of MOAJE. He has been talking to students in the St. Louis area about MOAJE. He has also put together a jazz band that will invite a high school group to perform on the concert with them. He would like to have a table with MOAJE literature. As far as having a student MOAJE membership, perhaps have a membership card with discounts at certain stores, etc. He would like to get jam sessions in all areas of the state. He would like to see more students involved in our organization. Chris Becker suggested a banner be made with the MOAJE logo on it to have at jam sessions and other events.
Lori Hutton reported that anyone can contribute ideas, stories, and/or suggestions to the newsletter. She also reported the MOAJE constitution was revised in 2008 when MOAJE became its own organization. However, since then, there are some updates that are needed concerning membership levels. We would like to change the patron level to “corporate” level. Motion: Chris Miller. Second: Bob Long. Motion passed. Discussion from the membership involved ideas such as having the associate level for parents with no voting rights; have student and/or student chapter levels; have university/school chapters with a suggestion of $100 per group; have the corporate level for those businesses that give $150; have the associate level for those business/individuals that give extremely high amounts; or remove the word associate have different levels of sponsorship based upon amount given.

Danny Watring gave a report on membership. He is currently updating the membership files. Would like to see more jazz vocal groups/directors involved. Would like to put together an updated list of jazz educators/musicians to help school districts that do not have jazz programs. Membership ideas were to have a blog that students can talk about jazz or ask teachers; put videos on blog or website; list top/favorite 10 albums for listening; top/favorite jazz videos from youtube. Getting students to our website will increase visibility and membership. Danny also suggested the idea that MOAJE get membership pins.

Cathy Coonis reported that this year’s recipient of the MOAJE Outstanding Jazz Educator Award is Gary Brandes.

MOAJE would like to help out with award certificates at jazz festivals across the state. The organization would like feedback from any festival managers.

Jeff Melsha reported that MOAJE as nine corporate sponsors. They are advertised on our booth. He also reported that we are affiliate members of MAEE which costs MOAJE $500 in yearly dues, however, we are entitled a $1500 grant to help with ASJ Clinician expenses.

Chris Miller met with the MBA board about having ASJ registration be a part of the concert band registration for the online process. If everything is approved, then both band and jazz will do online registration through the MBA website. We are currently at the end of the four –year cycle for audition music. If anyone has any suggestions to changes in the current audition music, please send those ideas to Chris Miller by the end of March 2012.

MOAJE supported MCDC this summer by providing rhythm section players from ASJ alternates and honorable mention to perform along with the vocal jazz group which performed at the MCDC convention.

Next year is the 75th anniversary of MMEA. MOAJE will receive $1000 from MMEA to help with the commission. Next year’s clinician is Terrell Stafford. Also, Phil Dunlap from Jazz at St. Louis, would like to have some type of partnership with MOAJE to bring in big names for the ASJ Clinician.

Nottleman Music donated a P-bone for MOAJE for chance drawings. It was discussed about having a vocal jazz person on the MOAJE board.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Hutton