



## District 4 - North Central General Meeting Minutes

*May 17, 2025 9:00-12:00*

**Los Alamos High School & Google Meet**

### Minutes

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- I. **Call to Order** and request for time-keeper to keep us on track **@ 9:02**
  - A. **Members present: Teague, Subratie, Iliff, Tholen, Meek, Collins, Lucero, Riggins, Mendez, Cordova, Vigus, Gonzales, Birrell, Devargas, Rutledge**
  - B. **Members online: Bleich, Hernandez, Tiranno, Walker, Koslowsky, Higgins. Lerch, Ungar, Heaton, Kountupes, Winograd, Chrisman,**
- II. **Ethics Statement (1 Minute) @ 9:06**
- III. **Approval of August 17, 2024 Meeting [Minutes](#) @ 9:07**
  - A. **Jacob moves to approve minutes from August**
  - B. **Megan seconds**
  - C. **All in favor**
  - D. **Motion passes**
- IV. **President and Treasurer Reports @ 9:07**
  - A. **President - Zane Meek (15 minutes)**
    1. **State Level Updates**
      - a) [All-State Audition Info](#) is available on NMMEA website  
**Encourage students to audition**
      - b) **Honor Groups - consider applying!**
        - (1) **Alternative/Guitar - No rotation**
        - (2) **Choir & Orchestra - Large school preference**
        - (3) **Band - Small school**

- (4) General Music - Elementary ensemble
- (5) Jazz - Small school
  - (a) Resources
    - (i) Application and more information [can be found here](#).
    - (ii) Submission process ([link](#)) as it **has changed**.
- c) Be sure to renew your NAFME Membership before it expires; you cannot register students for any events or vote without it being current.
  - **PO, PTO, review individual process to renew**
- d) Review the [Monday Notes](#) from NMMEA each week. The latest one contains a LOT of information on summer events and dates for next year.
- e) 2025-2026 State Dates
  - ~~(1) June 21, 2025 - NMMEA General Music Workshop (Eldorado HS, Albuquerque)~~ cancelled due to low registration numbers
  - (2) October 16-25, 2025 - Choir, Guitar & Orchestra All-State Auditions
  - (3) October 25, 2025 - NMAA/NMMEA State Marching Band Contest
  - (4) October 29-November 8, 2025 - Band & Jazz All-State Auditions
  - (5) January 14-17, 2026 - All-State Music Festival & In-Service Conference (UNM) **week later than usual.**
  - (6) January 22-24, 2026 - Jazz All-State (ENMU)
- f) Need help with end-of-year NMMEA audit report
  - (1) Need one member-at-large; need you for one approximately hour-long meeting with Zane and Valerie over Google Meet.
- g) State meetings in July
  - (1) Zane will ask about getting event registration info sent to VPs **and Treasurer**
  - (2) Zane will report out during August meeting
  - (3) **Will ask about the audio recordings situation**

## **2. President Report Summary**

- a) **Read monday notes, All State information is up, alternative groups like mariachi available this year. Renew membership BEFORE you register. Take advantage of the workshops over the summer. Fall dates ready, leave a few days before to deal with recordings, and quality. Discussions are happening at the State level too. President needs to do an audit report and need a**

**member at large to help complete it, due July 1, and Steve Iliff volunteered to help.**

**B. Treasurer - Valerie Collins (15 minutes) @ 9:19**

1. [24-25 Event Reports](#)
2. Not all the event fees have been collected, \$7,560.00 are outstanding, but I expect they will come in.
3. Not all, but most of the adjudicators' checks have been cashed. I still have a few receipts for event food that haven't been turned in for reimbursement.
4. Officer honorariums will be given to those who submit current W9s.
5. Even with the purchases of a new computer and printer, Honor choir being canceled, higher honorariums this year, and several events that lost money, we are looking to end up a couple thousand dollars below where we started.
6. Current balance in the checking account is \$8,403.02.

**C. Treasurer Report Summary**

1. **Event reports linked. We are in the red, but hoping to collect outstanding monies. We should end with less than we started. Computer printer and plaques and honorarium upgrades are to be considered. Elem. may change the fee schedule to accommodate as they lost money. Honor choir canceled, but music was paid for and belongs to NC-NMMEA - we could sell or program for another event. It was unable to be rescheduled. On event report, the total income does not include encumbered income. Expecting SFPS funds soon. Outstanding expenses added to event reports in real time. Officer honorariums outstanding. Admin tab shows what we've spent generally. Each event can be seen below as well.**
2. **Discussion about Choir music purchased to sell it AFTER the event, if it is digital should be printed and hard copies given. Caleb requested that something be added to the handbook about selling music. VP should arrange the sale of music. Table, to discuss later. Voted on in the past to rotate sight reading music- UPDATE needs to be added to the Handbook.**

**V. Committee Reports (15 minutes) @ 9:31**

**A. Handbook Committee:**

1. Handbook updates have been completed; the handbook is now 22 pages instead of 73
2. Many of the checklists have been removed from the body and made into links; all portions have been edited for clarity, professional language, and succinctness

3. All proposed changes have been highlighted in yellow
4. Discussion and revisions to updated handbook
  - a) Motion?

**B. Handbook has been streamlined, checklists taken out and added back as links to separate pages. Quick review of your section to see any revisions and offer suggestions to further revisions.**

1. Steve discusses that we should not allow new registrations until past due balances, instead of adding a fine.
2. Gabe discusses stage performance. And keeping track of performance repertoire, using programs as a way to track and VPs. Steve suggests having VP discuss at the August meeting. Problematic for new teachers.
  - a) Zane suggests that VPs share the past programs at the August section meeting so repertoire is not repeated.
  - b) Gwen brought up a point that the handbook does not mention that scores will be affected for repeating repertoire. But there is a section on the MPA rubric where a comment can be made about music selections.
3. Jacob mentions that we voted on last year to ensure that money collected from Elementary festival will be used for scholarships for the next year's festival.
4. Zane clarifies that Band/Orch has rep requirements for Solo/Ensemble, but Vocal doesn't.
5. UIL sight-reading question from Prenevost. Answer: VP's responsibility to acquire each set of music to rotate through, including keeping record. UIL for MPA? No. Just for solo and ensemble. Re: sight-reading; inquiry from Gabe. Director discretion on sight reading repertoire choice clause? Discussion: are people taking advantage of this? Suzanne suggests incorporate their sight reading to the score. But at the State level they don't want sight reading scores. Gabe mentions that it works well to just read the grade they're at. Clarissa mentions, the unspoken rule is picking sight reading the grade below your repertoire. If the average stage performance grade is a 3, you can sight read the 2 or 3.

**C. Clarissa moves, Steve seconds**

1. All in favor.
2. Motion passes
3. Changes can still be made.

D. Exec Committee: @9:54

1. Proposed change to constitution regarding election of VP's (Jacob)
  - a) Would take effect at End of Spring
  - b) Motion?
  - c) **Devon moves to change**
  - d) **Valerie seconds**
  - e) **All in favor**
  - f) **Motion passes**
2. Proposed change to Solo and Ensemble awards (Gwen-Marie)
  - a) **Differentiate** certificates for I's and II's
  - b) Motion?
  - c) **Certificates for I's can be different with gold embellishments/embossing, and to honor the effort of students who were close to Superior rating. The cost of the embosser would be less than \$50 and can be used for decades.**
  - d) **Gwen moves that we go back to giving certificates for 1 and 2 and that level 1 certificate be embellished.**
    - (1) **Discussion: Clarissa brings up that we moved away from this because of the cost of getting more paper. Membership discusses whether the cost is worth it. Galen makes suggestions to just use different templates for Superior and Excellent ratings. Gabe mentions that we give 2's at MPA we should do the same at S/E. Deb suggests that the templates get shared with directors and directors can print out at their schools for their students.**
  - e) **Motion: Gwen moves that we go back to giving certificates for 1 and 2 and that level 1 certificate be embellished.**
  - f) **13 in favor**
  - g) **1 opposed**
  - h) **Motion passes**

**E. Committee Reports Summary**

**VI. Section Meetings (30 min) @ 10:08**

A. Section VP's lead section meetings

1. General music has already had their meeting; the remainder of business for this meeting does not require their presence unless they wish to vote on any motions made after section meetings
2. Each VP has an agenda with items to address
3. Caleb is stepping down so Choir needs to select a new VP
- 4. 10:10am Break out rooms - VPs will create and share in the chat.**

B. Officer Reports after section meetings (15 minutes)

1. VP General Music - Jacob Lucero @11:19

- a) *Voted on Megan Tholen to be VP of General Music after the General Meeting ends on condition that someone takes over the Secretary 2 position for 1 year.*
- b) *Elementary Fest for February 28, 2026 at El Dorado if Janine is willing to host again*

**(1) Waiting for confirmation**

- c) *Motions to change clinician pay for Elementary Festival for \$250 for Choir Director, \$150 for out of network, and \$100 for in network clinicians.*

**(1) Need to vote for new honorariums**

**(2) See VP General Music meeting minutes for more information**

**(3) Jason moves to approve new honorariums**

**(4) Clarissa seconds**

**(5) All in favor**

**(6) Motion passes**

2. VP Band - Steve Iliff @11:32

- a) **Strong honor band**
- b) **Blind auditions worked well, balanced, Laura would like to go back to collaborative judging. Not everyone meeting at one time, but the judges score the same instruments and work around the same time/location to complete auditions.**
- c) **Clarissa does not want to do full meeting**
- d) **Motion to do collaborative scoring between the two judges that are judging each instrument.**

**(1) 10 in favor**

**(2) Motion passes**

- e) **Discussion: on where is the cut off for honor groups**
  - (1) Judges should make a recommendation for where to cut.
  - (2) VP will share the number of auditions, but judges will recommend a cut off and VP will set the final instrumentation.
- f) **Motion amended: VP will make a chart as to what ideal instrumentation would be based on the number of quality tuba auditions, and will be included into the handbook.**
- g) **Rubrics have been changed.**
  - (1) Do we want to keep Timpani
- h) **Music**
  - (1) Some audition stuff is difficult for Middle School
  - (2) Deb suggests we adjust what we have, to not throw students off.
  - (3) MS auditions this year were concerning, but we don't expect to see a downward trend
  - (4) Revising committee for audition music, Steve will head
    - (a) Steve, Deb, Suzanne, Steve will meet
- i) **Honor band**
  - (1) Clinicians need to get sent to Steve
    - (a) Keith Birden HS, Amy Williams MS last year
    - (b) Emily Moss for upcoming year, Ty Fredrik, Neil Schwapp, Andrew Hunter), Brian McCallugn, Richard Maine, Syndey Schuller,
    - (c) Michael Mapp was 2 years ago. Dustin did all state.
    - (d) Middle School- David Sorenson, Jon Roback, Frank Slife, Elsie Stott (she did S/E), Jose Gonzales
- j) **MPA recap**
  - (1) Judges questions
    - (a) Terms of scoring philosophy : do we want judges to judge MS groups more lenient or be as critical?
      - (i) Discussion: repertoire should be appropriate, and judges should follow the rubric. Extreme gaps are concerning for some members, but judges were

consistent among themselves. Judges were recommended to not discuss scores.

(b) Judges should calibrate their own scores but not calibrate or collaborate among each other.

(2) Adjudicator nominations- *Tabled for August Meeting*

(a) *Daniel Fier, Cody Jackson*

k) Solo/Ensemble

(1) Extra time slots did not work well, not going to offer for the future

(2) Copies where had to be made on day of, and music copies were questionable, very obvious photocopies. Handbook mentions selecting appropriate music,

l) Dates

(1) Honor band November 14-15, second friday in November

(a) SFHS offered to host

(2) MPA: Not on State basketball week,

(a) Choir and Orchestra may be on the same day

(b) Potentially March 18-19

(c) LAHS on the 18 and CHS on 19

(3) S/E May 9th Milagro

(a) Confirmed!

3. VP Choir - *Caleb Heaton @ 11: 24*

a) Deveon Devargas voted for new VP Choir

(1) Combine solofest/solo and ensemble - Sept 27, 2025 at St. Michaels

(2) Honor choir TENTATIVELY 11/6/2025 @ the cathedral

(3) MPA combine with band March 11-12, but Band can't do that week

(4) Week after St. Mikes spring break

(a) Need a site in SF

(b) Another possibility to go to another district

(5) Will not be doing Spring S/E, combined with Solofest in Fall.

(6) Lots of turn over in Choir

(7) Discusses Sight Reading, and switching to UIL

(a) Requested to have music examples



4. VP Orchestra - *Gabe Tafoya @ 11:35*
  - a) [Orchestra Meeting Minutes](#)
5. VP Guitar, Mariachi and Piano - *Gwen-Marie Lerch @11:42*
  - a) **Will meet on Monday s**
  - b) **Guitar MPA will be in Albuquerque, first tuesday in March**
  - c) **Capital is hosting for Harmonizing, Strings Sat 4/25**
  - d) **Honors guitar 11/14-15, cannot be moved because of state wide date**
6. NMAA Band Advisory Council - *Laura Eberhardt @ 11:47*
  - a) *Remember that **State** registration is early in December; you can always drop after MPA scores are reported without charge or punishment.*
  - b) *Remember that we draw for order now and it is random.*
  - c) *Please continue to submit judges; you can email Zac: [zac@nmact.org](mailto:zac@nmact.org).*
  - d) *Keep pushing for small schools to go for it and compete, otherwise we are in danger of going to A to 4A as a category. **3A and below!***
  - e) *They are talking about standardizing it to sticking with smaller schools on Friday and then larger on Saturday rather than rotating.*
  - f) *Email with any concerns to bring to the council [Leberhardt@cimarronschools.org](mailto:Leberhardt@cimarronschools.org)*
  - g) *TENTATIVE dates: April 14-15 Choir, April 16-18 Band*
  - h) *Need a new **BAND** rep*
7. NMAA Choral Advisory Council - *Jason Rutledge @11:49*
  - a) **No updates**

**VII. SY 2025-2026 Scheduling (20 minutes) @11:50**

A. [Scheduling Spreadsheet](#); tentative dates set in section meetings

1. Replacing dates event by event
- 2. Deadlines will be discussed later**

**VIII. New Business (10 minutes) @**

A. IEP and 504 accommodations for Solo and Ensemble events (Jen Cordova)

1. Directors can help by choosing appropriate literature, making modifications that better align with a student's abilities, using octave displacement, etc
2. Students can always perform for comments only
3. Must always keep FERPA and legal boundaries in mind
4. Is there anything in the handbook that is too rigid?
5. Should we offer a context or information sheet that can include non-identifying info?

6. Motion?

- a) **Jen discusses that she has taken students with IEPs and 504s. Current rubrics aren't fair students with disabilities. Jen proposes: add a teacher comment box where directors can make comments about students' accommodations or add an IEP check box, or add comment prompts. But I still need to follow the law. Just comments, would not be modifying or accommodating for these students.**
- b) **Discussion: *Adaptive Music* check box, would not violate FERPA and would address this. May need to explain to judges but can be discussed in Judge meetings. Discuss with schools SPED teachers about legality. Is there a way to get consent from families to release information, suggestion from a parent. Jen Cordova volunteers to look more into it and report back.**
- c) **Jen Cordova will head this committee with Gwen, and Laura can be the state level communicator**

**(1) Report back at August meeting**

- B. Gabe requests we post quote generator, event fees, and new solo and ensemble rubrics added to District Page**
- C. Adding a VP of Membership to handle handbook**
- D. New Co Secretary 2 to finish the term, 1 year commitment**
  - 1. Would need to find by August**
  - 2. In May officers will be up for election**
- E. Solo & Ensemble [Rubric](#)**

**IX. Vacancies @ 12:04**

- A. Band (.4) and GM (.6) at Aspen CS (SF)
- B. General Music 1.0 FTE at El Camino Real Academy
- C. General Music .8 FTE at Cesar Chavez Elementary School
- D. Band .2 FTE at EJ Martinez Elementary
- E. Band .2 FTE at Amy Biehl Community School
- F. Choir .8 FTE at Santa Fe High School
- G. Orchestra .6 Gonzales Community School
- H. Orchestra .6 + General Music .4 (total 1.0 FTE) at Nina Otero Community School
- I. Openings in Vegas- mostly upper elementary, general music, beginning band, beginning choir**

**J. Can be posted on the NMMEA website**

**X. Announcements @12:06**

A. SF Youth Symphony Orchestra, Jazz, Mariachi - auditions in SF and LA

1. [Go here](#) for audition dates, times and locations

**B. Youth chorus AND children's chorus- in Los Alamos**

**XI. Next Meeting & Adjournment @**

A. August 16, 2025, 9:00AM @LAHS (tentative)

B. Motion to adjourn?

C. May Meeting will be discussed at August meeting

D. Votes will be collected by the end of 5/24

E. Devon moves to adjourn

F. Clarissa seconds

G. 14 in favor, 1 opposed.

H. Motion passes

I.