

# Minutes for the Choral Section of NWNMMEA Meeting May 2026

- **Members attending: Siromani Leath, Kaden Weisheit, Katie Olivas, Melissa Mortensen, Virginia Weaver, Holly Hook, Kayla Mohlman, Tessa Martinez**
- Called to Order at 10:13 am
  
- **Financial Report**
  - There is \$ 6736.54 in the choir account with \$ 582 still outstanding checks that have not cleared, which leaves 6154.54.
  
  - **High School & Middle School Solo and Ensemble**
  - When: 9/23/26
  - Where: **FHS**
  - Choral VP will get the judges. (Make sure the judges fill out a clinician contract and W9 form and it is given to the choir secretary.)
    - Judge suggestions: Annie Bushman, Hannah Britt, Virginia Nickels, Allen Green, Kevin Bell, Lazaro Perez, Maggie Mendoza
  
  - <https://www.nmmea.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Choir-Adjudication-Contract.pdf> )
  - Registration by 9/9/26. Please register on the NMMEA website <https://www.nmmea.com/districts/northwest/entry-forms/> (Siromani will need to invoice everyone once registration is completed)
  - Fee is \$10 per student per ensemble/song (If you register the student, they need to pay regardless of showing up to the event)
  - This event is great for All-State solo practice.
  - May use a track as accompaniment.
  - Types of songs: Art, Jazz, Broadway, Folk. No Pop or Country songs. Please choose music of educational value.
  - Please bring the original legal copy of the music to have on hand for the judges and a copy of the music for the judges to write on.
  - Students, please stay true to the printed page of music.
  - Small ensembles are encouraged to sing non-unison pieces.
  - Students need to be prepared with their accompaniment track on flash drive, or phone (if using an Apple phone please make sure they have a dongle/adapter.)
  - Teachers **MUST** attend with their students.
  - Schedule requests/changes need to be communicated as early as possible.
  - We will be doing a Sight-Reading component for the High School students who will be auditioning for All-State Choir. Two teachers needed to help facilitate this. Once a student finishes with their solo they will go line up for a quick 7-minute sight-reading example and clinic.
    - Any volunteers to run the sight-reading room?
      - Ask Elementary teachers: Melissa Kimball, Amy Sewell, Angie Echols, Sheri Peterson
    - Recording system: Katie is taking care of this
    - Awards this year: Judges choice award
  
- **Honor Choir for 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Treble Choir & 6th Grade Treble Choir**
  - Venue: San Juan College?

- Students MUST be prepared. An idea to help with this is to use two of the pieces in your own fall concert so students don't have to learn as much outside of class
- Date: Nov. 12th, 2026
- Choral VP will get the clinicians. (Make sure they fill out a clinician contract and a W9 form and given to the choir secretary  
<https://www.nmmea.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Choir-Adjudication-Contract.pdf> )  
Suggestions on clinicians?

- Petra Lyon
- Mika Proctor
- Tammy Martin
- Marilyn Barnes
- Rebecca Kendall
- Virginia Nickels
- Robyn Clark

- Accompanist: ? (Fill out a contract & W9 form also for the choir secretary's records to be paid.)
  - Robyn Woodard
  - Paul Cranfill
  - Shane Gallagher
  - Mika Inouye (Virginia Weaver has contact)

<https://www.nmmea.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Choir-Adjudication-Contract.pdf> )

- Each school may bring 5 soprano 1's, 5 soprano 2's and 5 altos for 7th/8th
- Each school may bring up to 8 sopranos and 8 altos for 6th grade treble choir (5th graders are invited)

- Music Selection committee:
  - Music Selection for 7th-9th grade choir:
  - Siromani Leath, Virginia Weaver, Kayla Mohlman

Music Selection for Treble choir: Siromani Leath, Virginia Weaver, Kayla Mohlman

- Who will provide recordings to send out to the students? Pipes Practice Tracks?
- Siromani will order and distribute music.
- Registration <https://www.nmmea.com/districts/northwest/entry-forms/> due \_\_\_\_\_ (one month before the event) (Siromani will invoice everyone once registration is completed)
- Choral VP will keep a spreadsheet of the names of the students who will be participating.
- Fee is **\$25** per student. (If you register a student, they need to pay regardless of showing up to the event).
- Siromani will order the honor choir souvenirs. Tote bags, key chains, pencils, engraved wrist bands, snacks and water. Does anyone have any suggestions on changes for this?
- \_\_\_\_\_ will get the programs printed (QR code).
- Students bring a sack lunch and a drink.
- Siromani will order lunch for directors and clinician/accompanists.
- Siromani will do the schedule for the day including scheduling sectionals.
- Rehearsal start at 9:00am Concert begins at 6:00pm Charge \$2 at the door for parents.

- \_\_\_\_\_ will be in charge of collecting the money at the door
- 6th grade choir will sing the all-state audition piece at this honor choir
- Students MUST be prepared. An idea to help with this is to use two of the pieces in your own fall concert so students don't have to learn as much outside of class
- Students must be eligible to participate.
- Clinicians will lead their own warm-ups, run all the music and clinicians will let teachers know what to work on during sectional rehearsals
- Reaudition committee to decide what system will be used to ensure students are prepared for honor choir.
  - Virginia Weaver (committee leader)
  - Kayla Mohlman
  - Siromani Leath
  - Have specific rooms per choir (s)
  - I will count how many souvenirs we still have
  - Use them as incentives

- **High School All State**

Location: UNM, Albuquerque; Date: January 6th-9th, 2027

Auditions will be Oct. 15th-24th, 2026

- Registration deadline Oct. 1st, 2026 (early registration) by 5:00pm, Oct. 8th, 2026(late registration) by 5:00pm
- Audition piece is We Are the Music Makers - Reginal Wright (m. 14-the end) [Choir Audition Material](#)
- Please buy an audition track for each student to help keep the fees down.
- Will there be a NW District High School All State prep day at FHS or PV? TBD Fall Meeting

- **Jazz All-state**

Location: ENMU, Portales; Date January 21st-23rd 2027

Auditions will be Oct. 28th-Nov. 7th, 2026

- Registration deadline Oct. 14th, 2026(early registration) by 5:00pm, Oct. 21st, 2026(late registration) by 5:00pm
- Auditions piece is [JAZZ AUDITION MATERIAL](#)

- **Youth All-State**

○ Date: Jan 28th-Jan 30th, 2027 Location: National Hispanic Cultural Center (1701 4th St. SW Albuquerque, NM 87102)

○ Audition pieces:

- Treble/Mixed: We Are The Music Makers by Reginal Wright (SATB) - m. 14 to end.
- Elementary: The Swing by Victor C. Johnson (Two Part) -beginning to m. 20.

■ For recording student states: First name, last name

Website is <https://nmacda.com> for more information

○ Audition Deadline is Oct. 15th, 2025 ?

○ Clinicians are

- Elementary: Paul Hallsted
- Youth Treble: James Golden
- Youth Mixed: Clint Ferrie

○ Must register as an **ACDA member** <https://acda.org> to participate.

○ Siromani is the Farmington trip coordinator but we will all sign up for certain duties.

- Farmington is judging the elementary choir. If you want to be on the judging committee, reach out to Amy Sewell.

- **Music Performance Assessment**

- Date: March 10th and 11th 2027: March 10th: middle school, March 11th; high school.
- Registration deadline Feb. 10th, 2027. Please make sure your NAFME membership <https://nafme.org/join-renew/> is up to date so you don't have problems registering and please do not register late. (Siromani will invoice everyone once registration is completed)
- Venue: PVTCPAT Host: Melissa Mortensen
- Host will need to make sure that everything is set up for MPA; judges tables; signs posted; risers for stage, sight reading room and warmup room. Host will get high school kids as guides for the choirs. Will also need auditorium door monitors, MP3 recording students to deliver/pickup judging packets, sight reading room monitor. On high school performance day we need to make sure that no jobs are being neglected because the high school kids are performing.
- Sightreading must be in UIL format
  - Make sure that you're familiar with the guidelines in the NWNMMEA Handbook
- Siromani will do the schedule
- Katie will get the judges.
  - Eun Ah Roh - Fort Lewis College
  - Marletta Newman
  - Linda Mack
  - Amy Sewell (last resort - FMS Elementary Teacher)
  - Kelly Yost
  - Marla Sitton (Shiprock High School)
  - Robin Clark
  - Lina Ramos
  - Paul Hallsted
  - Jason Paulk

Committee for potentially recording judges comments. What device, price, other logistics.

Katie Olivas

Kaden Weisheit

Invite Elementary groups to bring their honor groups.

Elementary groups are exempt from sight-reading.

- Judges need to fill out judges contracts  
<https://www.nmmea.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Choir-Adjudication-Contract.pdf>  
 and W9 forms <https://www.nmmea.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/W-9.pdf> and send them to [nw-choralsecretarytreasurer@nmmea.com](mailto:nw-choralsecretarytreasurer@nmmea.com)
- Site Chair: Middle School Day: Katie Patton, Melissa Mortensen, Kaden Weisheit  
 High School Day: Siromani Leath, Virginia Weaver, Kayla Mohlman  
 Site Chair duties include: MCing (?), runners, computer/judging inputting
- \$210-\$215 Fee (this includes one photo for the director)
  - Raising fee to \$230 to help cover the cost of the recurring UIL fee.
    - Melissa moves to raise the fee to \$230
    - Virginia Weaver 2nds
      - Vote passes unanimously

If you need your judges sheets or plaques mailed, please bring your own pre-paid self-addressed envelope.

- Photographer: Melissa is working on this.
- Siromani will provide lunches for the judges/directors/accompanists, also will need to get snacks and drinks/ice.
- Handbook verbiage for sight-reading
  - Motion - change the wording on MPA Section F from “Beginning choirs are exempt from the a cappella requirement.” to “Beginning **junior high/middle school** choirs are exempt from the a cappella requirement.
  - Motion Passes
    - Committee to update handbook
      - Katie Olivas
      - Melissa Mortensen
        - Check back in the Fall

Siromani will order Level 1-4 UIL for at least SSA and SATB.

- **State Choir Festival**

- Date: April 13th-14th, 2027 (Tuesday middle school, 3A, 4A) (Wednesday 5A)
- Location: V. Sue Cleveland high school, Rio Rancho, NM
- The requirement for state is to go to MPA and get a composite score of no less than a 90 (high school) and 85 (middle school). Or, get a composite score of 90 (high school) and 85 (middle school) at the previous year’s state competition. Must be an NAFME member.
- Choral VP/NMAA State Representative will represent us in the State Choir Festival meetings.
- Farmington district will pay for one bus each to state.
- The cost is \$225 per choir to register for the event. ? will pay for the registration fee.
- Must submit a completed and signed registration form (December), NMAA Verification of Eligibility form and roster (signed by a school administrator), a signed Music Director’s Code of Conduct and check or PO or CCD for \$225 per choir by March? , to Zac Stevenson, Deputy Director of NMAA.  
**Zac Stevenson (NMAA)**  
505.923.3277 (office)  
505.923.3114 (fax)  
[zac@nmact.org](mailto:zac@nmact.org)
- Use <https://www.nmact.org/activities/choir/> for more information and to see who performs on each day

- **Other Business**

- ENMU Men’s Choir Festival -
- Anything else? We need a new VPresident of the NWNMMEA choral division. Katie Olivas has served her two years.
  -

- **Proposed Fall Date:**

- Aug at Aug 19th at 9:00 AM at Melissa’s house (change if needed according to the Fall general meeting)
- Full District meeting \_\_\_\_\_

- Adjourn at
- Motion - Kayla Mohlman at 1:29
- Second - Melissa Mortensen