

Festival Improvement Committee Report

September 15th, 2007

MSBOA State Office, Okemos

The following representatives were in attendance:

Kyle Nester – District I,
Rich Brand – District II,
Jeff Ehardt – District III
Al Johnston – District IV,
JoAnn Gross – District V,
Eric Olsen – District VI,
Jason Boyden – District VII,
Sheri Powers – District VIII,
Kevin Culling – District VIII,
Kathy Kinter – District IX,
Keith Westmoreland – District X,
Brian Shetterly – District XI,
Heather Wickman – District XII,
Willie J. McAllister – District XV,
Elizabeth Zachary – District XVI
Paul Lichau – Assistant to the Exec. Director,
Eric Joslin – FIC Chair

Please note all motions, passed and defeated, are included in this report. In addition, any additions to the language of existing policies, procedures or rules are underlined. Also every attempt has been made to reproduce the motions in the chronological order in which they were addressed in the meeting. Finally, since you may not yet have the new yearbook, I will be referring to locations within the 2006-07 blue yearbook.

This year the meeting was held at the State Office in Okemos and featured a new one-day format. The next meeting of the F.I.C. will again be a one-day meeting at the State Office in Okemos in January. There were two items that the F.I.C. Representatives will be discussing with the members in their districts. Both are related to the Open Classification Pilot Project and are listed below.

Discussion Item #1

In the yearbook, under the classification rules, it lists a “First Group” is the ensemble that has the highest grade present. Do you think that means the “First Group” at festival or the “First Group” at your member building?

Discussion Item #2

What do you think about allowing High School Class D bands participating in the Open Classification Pilot Project to choose from an appropriate Junior High List? (No change to the pilot project would occur this school year.)

The first two motions grew from discussion surrounding Chamber events at solo ensemble festival. The first, although passed, was eliminated when the second motion, designed to organize the rule, was passed. I have included the tabled motion as well.

Tabled Motion from Winter 2007 Meeting

Moved by Kevin Matthews, seconded by Keith Westmoreland, that on page 19, Section B Performance, item 13, the following be added after the first sentence, "12 minutes will be allowed for chamber ensembles."

Tabled Motion voted on and Motion Failed.

1) Moved by Eric Olson, seconded by JoAnn Gross, that "unless the selection comes from the MSBOA Suggested Chamber Ensemble List." be added to pg. 19, Section B, item 13, after "Chamber Ensembles shall perform for a minimum of four minutes and not more than 12 minutes or no rating will be given."

Motion Passed.

2) Moved by Sheri Powers, Seconded by Jason Boyden, that on page 19. Section B, item 13, the following sentence be stricken, "Chamber Ensembles shall ... or no rating will be given." and the following be inserted after the fourth sentence, "Chamber Ensembles performing music not appearing on the MSBOA Suggested Chamber Music List shall perform for a minimum of four minutes or no rating will be given. All Chamber Ensembles will be allowed a maximum of 12 minutes."

Motion Passed

The next motion is the result of an email regarding the use of electric pianos at Band and Orchestra festival.

3) Moved by Al Johnston, Seconded by Jeff Ehardt, that the word "piano" be added to item 14, page 51, Eligibility Requirements, to read "...or in lieu of these instruments specified by the composer: piano, organ, celeste, harp or harpsichord."

Motion Passed

The next two motions reflect changes to recording media and the implications those changes have for our festivals.

4) Moved by Keith Westmoreland, seconded by Rich Brand, that on page 53, Recording, we omit and replace the following,

Item 2, Sentence 1, replace "cassette recorder" with "recording",

Item 2, Sentence 2, strike "using the cassette recorder" and add as the second word of the sentence "recorded",

Item 2, Sentence 3, strike "cassette recorder" and replace with "recording device", and

Item 2, Sentence 4, strike "cassette" and replace with "recorded."

Motion Passed

5) Moved by Rich Brand, seconded by Jeff Ehardt, that in item 1 of Recording, page 53, the word "tapes" be replaced with "recordings."

Motion Passed

*The next motion was the result of discussion on an email requesting we address the difference between copy right rules and MSBOA original score rules. As you know MSBOA Rules allow for using copied scores at festival if accompanied by a letter from the **Publisher**. The state office allowed copies with a letter from Pepper citing that the letter maintained that the scores were purchased and could not be returned. The FIC crafted an addition to current rules that will reflect this past practice.*

6) Moved by Al Johnston, seconded by Jeff Ehardt, that the following be added to the definition of original score on pages 52 and 19, item a, and as the last sentence, "Letters from a music distributor will be accepted if the letter verifies that the scores have been purchased and are non-returnable."

Motion Passed

FIC also discussed topics upon which it did not take any action at this time. First, the motion which stated "With the exception of the Director(s), only students from the participating school may enter the boundaries of the performance area during the performance." It was decided to take this up at the Winter meeting in January when we will reference materials from the competing band organizations in the state as well as the input of the State VP for Marching Band, Walt Whitmer.

In addition, there was discussion regarding how to classify bands that are in a single grade level building, changing the nature of required pieces at festival and a possible Pilot Project from District VII.

Finally, the FIC created a Definitions Sub-committee with the purpose of creating a "glossary" of terms from the MSBOA yearbook. This document would be inserted into the current and future forms of the handbook to aid with the consistency of yearbook interpretation.

To assist with the creation of these terms, we will be requesting a list of most troublesome terms from current and past executive board members. This will assist the sub-committee in prioritizing their work.

Members of the committee are: Al Johnston, JoAnn Gross, Leo Hazen, Eric Olsen, Paul Lichau and myself and have planned to meet November 10th at CMU in conjunction with the Survival Camp and State Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric D. Joslin
Chairman, Festival Improvements Committee