

**Sacramento Concert Band Council
Minutes –January 25, 2016 Meeting**

The meeting of the Sacramento Concert Band Council opened at 6:20 p.m., January 25, 2016, in the East Music Room of Rio Americano High School.

Members present were:

Bob Allshouse
Les Corbin
Dawn David
Minty Green
Norm Hill
Karen Hung
Bill Parker
Grant Parker
Jill Somers
Linda Thomas

The minutes from the meeting of November 16, 2015, were approved.

Concert Checklist

In discussing the concert planning checklist, it was pointed out that we should add an item to arrange for the church to handle passing the collection plates at the December concert. This should be the job of the church because the full amount from the collection goes to the church's food closet program. At the spring concert, the proceeds of the collection go to our band.

Grant said that the file for the checklist was on Steve's computer. Bob volunteered to recreate and update the file.

Linda announced that she was going to be moving to Ashland, Oregon and would be unable to handle the publicity functions for the spring concert. Minty agreed to take over the publicity functions. Linda turned over to Minty posters from prior concerts and a notebook of posters, contacts, and ideas for publicity. Grant thanked Linda for the excellent publicity that she provided for the December concert.

Website

Mark has taken over the job of maintaining the band's website. He is removing information about the Holiday concert and is adding new pictures. We need to remind the band members that the website now ends with ".net" not .org because the old website lapsed and was purchased by someone else. Grant registered the new website, sacramentoconcertband.net for 20 years.

Membership

The group discussed ways to draw in more membership. One idea is posters in the music stores. A second idea is putting an add on Craig's List. Les said he would ask his assistant at work to put a notice there. He pointed out that the adds expire after one week, so it will need to be renewed. Karen said she will check into the Run for the Arts to see how it can be used for recruiting.

Grant reported that the school district website has attracted several new members. The band is listed there as a course in adult education, which it is.

Several people asked if we have a single list of the band members. Grant said that the official list is the one maintained by the adult education office of people who register for the class. We supplement the list with email addresses so we can communicate with the members between rehearsals.

Grant asked if someone would volunteer to maintain our version of the roster, and Bob said he would do it. Grant will print out the list and email it to Bob. We may need to send around again to get the email addresses. Grant pointed out that two members need phone numbers on the list because they do not do email.

Discussion turned to the \$110 registration fee. Currently a person must pay that amount regardless of when they sign up for the band. Grant will suggest to the school district that the fee be changed to \$55 for people who sign up in the spring semester.

Les suggested that the band should have a formal scholarship fund for members who cannot afford the \$110 registration fee. This had been suggested to Grant by Gregg Rasmussen about a month ago. Grant said that he contacts people who have not registered and paid to find out what is going on. When he found a person who could not pay the fee, he talked with a few band members to find someone who would volunteer to pay the registration. He thought that we could use band funds to pay the fee in this situation but that we should continue to monitor and discuss this situation. Les Corbin made a formal motion that was seconded not to do a formal collection of funds to pay scholarship membership fees unless we run out of band funds to cover the cost. The motion was approved.

New Business

We have a continuing problem with band members talking while Grant is trying to talk to the entire band. The private conversations make it hard for other people to hear. In addition to Grant reminding the band periodically about not talking at inappropriate times, section leaders should remind the offenders in their sections.

Several people asked that we consider playing a few less difficult pieces so we can really focus on the difficult ones and play more music that would be familiar to the audience. Grant said he is already trying to do that. He pointed out that this spring's music includes pieces that are generally easier. However, he pointed out this is a balancing act. We have a wide range of skills among the members. There will be harder things and some easier things.

Discussion moved to raffle prizes. One view was that we are spending too much time on raffle prizes. Others thought that members of the audience really liked the teddy bears.

One suggestion was to do the drawing for the CDs at a different time from the fund raising drawing. The consensus was to leave things as they are but break up the raffles.

The group then discussed how the Board could provide Grant with more support. One idea was to have someone attend SVSBA meetings. A second idea was to improve the turning in of folders. Getting the folders turned in is a big problem. The band has many orphan parts of music pieces. When folders don't come back, we can't get complete music pieces back to the library. We need improved accountability for folders. Karen takes care of the music and needs a way to contact people who still have music out. She agreed to check folders back in from band members at the end of concerts. Bob will add a separate column to the members list for the folder number. The council will revisit this issue at the next meeting.

February 29 will be the last rehearsal at Rio Americano High School. The band room will be closed on March 1 for demolition and the construction of new music rooms including a performance theater. Our rehearsals will be moved to the band room at El Camino High School at the corner of El Camino and Eastern in Carmichael.

The next band council meeting will be on February 29, 2016, at 6 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Norm Hill

Secretary