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# WV MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION VOCAL MUSIC ASSOCIATION

## CONSTITUTION

*Effective March 8, 2025*

### Article I - Name

The name of this organization shall be the West Virginia Vocal Music Association, an affiliate of the West Virginia Music Educators Association.

### Article II - Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be:

1. To promote vocal organizations in all schools in West Virginia.
2. To provide student activities through vocal participation as well as to provide workshops and clinics for professional advancement of its members.
3. To encourage cooperation with other divisions of music education in West Virginia Schools.

### Article III - Membership

**Section 1.** Membership in the Vocal Association may be obtained only by becoming a member of the WV Music Educators Association.

**Section 2.** The Association shall consist of Active and Associate members.

**Section 3.** Active members: Only directors of vocal music in grades K through 12 and teachers in Fine Arts programs grades 9 through 12 in the schools of West Virginia shall be eligible for active membership

**Section 4.** Associate Members: Any directors of vocal music in universities and colleges; retired or inactive vocal instructors; representatives of the music trade or music lovers interested in fostering the purpose of the Association shall be eligible for associate membership.

### Article IV - Dues

As an affiliate of the WVMEA, this association shall have no dues beyond those required by the WVMEA.

## **Article V - Officers**

**Section 1.** The officers of this organization shall be:

President

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President

Secretary

Treasurer

**Section 2.** Officers are to be elected every other year at the Vocal Association meeting held in conjunction with the WVMEA Conference, and shall take office July 1 of the year elected.

**Section 3.** The nominating committee shall prepare a slate of officers to be presented to the membership at the conference meeting. Nominations may also be taken from the floor. Only teachers in Fine Arts programs, grade 9 through 12, in the schools of West Virginia shall be eligible to serve as officers.

**Section 4.** Voting shall be by majority of those present at the meeting.

## **Article VI - Duties of Officers**

**Section 1.** The President shall preside at all meetings and, with the executive board, shall fill vacancies occurring in offices and appoint such committees as may be deemed necessary to carry out the work of the association. The President is the representative of this association on the WVMEA Executive Board.

**Section 2.** The Vice President shall be the President-Elect, and, in the absence of the President, shall perform his/her duties.

**Section 3.** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President shall serve as Chairperson of All-State Chorus. With the approval of the executive Board, he/she shall appoint a co-Chairperson, all committees, and conduct all activities connected with the All-State Chorus. These activities shall be subject to the approval of the Executive Board.

**Section 4.** The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Association and Executive Board, and shall conduct the general meeting in the absence of the President and Vice Presidents.

**Section 5.** The Treasure shall disburse and keep the Association monies.

## **Article VII - Executive Board**

**Section 1.** The officers of the Association and the regional chairs, and the Show Choir Chairperson shall constitute the Executive Board.

**Section 2.** The seven members at large shall be appointed by the President with approval of officers.

**Section 3.** These seven members shall be Regional Chairpersons and shall work with the All-State Chorus Chairperson in setting up the regional auditions.

**Section 4.** The President shall appoint a nominating committee of five members, two from the Executive Board and three from the membership at large. This committee shall be appointed to fill any vacancies to be voted on by the WVMA membership at the annual meeting.

## **Article VIII – Regional Chair Duties**

Duties include but are not limited to:

1. A minimum of one regional rehearsal.
2. The third judge should be an independent judge that has not worked privately with the students.
3. Verify that all music used for WVMEA All-State Chorus is original and within the current scope of copyright laws.
4. Verify the current membership of NAFME.
5. Regional Chairs must be present at WVMEA Conference and assist WVMEA All-State Chorus Chair.
6. Take Attendance of each All-State Choir Member from your region at each rehearsal.
7. Should attend the Executive Board Meeting (March/June).
8. Communicate with Choral Directors in Region.

## **Article IX – Meetings**

**Section 1.** There shall be one regular meeting of the Association a year, held in conjunction with the WVMEA Annual Conference.

**Section 2.** The President, with the approval of the Executive Board, may convene additional meetings when necessary. The time and place shall be designated by the President.

## **Article X - Voting**

**Section 1.** Only active members may cast a vote.

**Section 2.** A majority vote of active members present shall be required to carry a motion.

**Section 3.** Nine active members, including the President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and one Representative shall constitute a quorum to transact general business of the Association.

## **Article XI - Amendments**

Amendments to the Constitution shall be drawn up in the proper form and presented to the membership at the annual meeting. A two-thirds vote of the active members present shall be required for passage of an amendment.

## **Article XII – Clauses**

Clause 1 - The organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Clause 2 - No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes described in section 501(c)(3). No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Clause 3 - Upon the dissolution of this organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the West Virginia Music Educators Association or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.

# WV VOCAL ASSOCIATION BYLAWS

## Article I – All-State Chorus

**Section 1.** The All-State Chorus shall be the primary project of this Association.

**Section 2.** The WV All-State Chorus is to be held in conjunction with the WVMEA Conference.

**Section 3.** Participation for singers is open to all students (grades 9-12) enrolled in a West Virginia High School having a mixed chorus or glee club. A student must represent the school in which he/she is enrolled and is an active member of said school's performing vocal ensemble or must have full credit in the current school year of block scheduling. Participation for accompanists must represent the school which he/she is enrolled and be recommended by the schools' choral director. Each teacher who has student(s) participating in the All-State Chorus shall be a member of NAFME, shall be registered and attend the WVMEA conference with his/her student(s) as the primary chaperone for his/her student(s).

**Section 4.** At the beginning of the school year, the All-State Chairperson will contact each teacher using the address listed in the Secondary School Activity Commission Directory. Teachers will be directed to the WVMA website for all information and forms regarding All-State Chorus.

**Section 5.** The approximate size of the chorus shall be 300. Schools shall be allotted students based on the following:

1. In trying to be fair to all schools, large and small, each school, so requesting, will receive a mixed quartet (four voices - soprano, alto, tenor, bass). The school may request the exact voice part mix of the quartet; however, it will be up to the chair to select the voices, considering the request of each school and overall balance of the All-State Chorus. As space allows, a school may receive more than a mixed quartet, but not to exceed eight voices.
2. Each school may be allotted at least a MIXED quartet, 2 treble (S/A) or 2 bass voicing (T/B). If your school is unable to send a quartet, you may choose 1, 2, or 3 voices. However, if you should request only treble or bass voicing, you may request only 2. The maximum number of voices the chair will allot to one school is 8. REMINDER: All students must be currently enrolled in a choral program or must have a full credit in the current school year of block scheduling.
3. A school requesting no tenor/bass voices will receive only two (2) soprano/alto voices. (1 soprano, 1 alto). This will be followed for the entire All-State Chorus process including the audition.
4. Participants have the option of requesting eight (8) vocal parts beginning with the 2001 All-State Chorus. The vocal parts must be: S1, S2, A1, A2, T1, T2, B1, B2 in order not to interrupt the balance of the chorus.
5. A change of voice part after allotments are given must be approved by the All-State Chorus Chairperson. Schools who received an allotment and individual student's change their minds

regarding participation must notify the All-State Chorus Chairperson 10 calendar days prior to the start of the statewide auditions.

6. There will be no re-auditions. The decision of the judges is final. At the conclusion of the All-State auditions the teacher will be informed of the pass/fail status of any or all students with written comments.
7. Students passing their audition must attend all rehearsals (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday) connected with the All-State Chorus Festival. The All-State Chorus Chairperson and the All-State Conductor will determine the schedule yearly. Failure to follow the procedure requires your director and school notified of your suspension from All-State Chorus. The only excused absences are for students who are performing in honor groups and/or recitals at the WVMEA Conference.
8. A teacher must conduct their own students' Regional Auditions unless prior arrangements have been made with the All-State Chorus Chairperson 10 calendar days prior to the start of the statewide auditions.
9. It is acceptable for the same person teaching in two high schools to combine their students for the All-State audition; however, the total number of students auditioning at one time may not exceed eight. The director needs to inform the Regional Chair and the All-State Chorus Chairperson 10 calendar days prior to the start of the statewide auditions.
10. The All-State Chairperson will conduct auditions. In addition, the Regional Chairperson and one qualified judge will preside over the auditions.
11. Use of recording devices during regional auditions is prohibited.
12. When a school sends in its allotment form, the designated school fee will be paid. Those not paying the fee at that time will not be given an allotment.
13. The following statement will be included on the WV All-State Chorus Application Form: I have been selected as an All-State Chorus student from \_\_\_\_\_ High School. In the event I am no longer enrolled in the afore mentioned High School, I forfeit my right to audition and participate in the All-State Chorus.
14. The chairperson will pay a \$15.00 per school application fee to the WV Vocal Music Association. This fee is due one month after the student application deadline.
15. Students auditioning for All-State Chorus must be physically present at the audition. Audition via technological devices is prohibited.

## ***Section 6.*** Audition Criteria

1. Teachers must present a current NAFME card before audition begins.
2. Each student must wear a 3" x 5" card displaying his/her voice part and student number which will be assigned at the regional audition.
3. Schools should arrive 30 minutes prior to audition time in order to register and warm-up.
4. A warm-up room will be provided.
5. The teacher must direct his/her group.
6. Like voice parts will be separated.
7. Music *does not* have to be memorized.
8. A cappella music *must* be sung a cappella.
9. Voice tone quality will count *heavily*. Judges will be listening for accuracy in pitch, rhythm, intonation, and dynamics.
10. Teachers may request missing voice parts 10 days prior to the start of the statewide auditions. They may be supplied if available.
11. Judges may elect to hear individual students and parts at any time during the audition.
12. Schools may not audition together except under the conditions specified by the bylaws.
13. The decision of the judges is final. No re-auditions and no alternate voices.



## Article II – WV State Show Choir Festival

### Division I & II

**Section 1.** Participation is limited to students who are all members of the same accredited school whose director holds an active membership in NAFME. The instrumental ensemble may be directed by an educator from the same county who holds an active membership in NAFME. The festival will be divided into the following divisions: Championship (High Schools competing for Grand Champion through 4th Runner-up Overall and caption awards), Festival (High Schools competing for 1st, 2nd, 3rd in this division only and caption awards, and schools who use tape accompaniment, Comments Only, Non-mixed and Middle School.

**Section 2.** There is no limit to the size of the vocal ensemble. Each school's director may play an instrument without penalty to the group and still qualify for the outstanding instrumental ensemble. For High School, two additional adults may be used on any instruments without penalty to the group but will not qualify for the outstanding instrumental ensemble. For middle school, additional adults may be used on any instruments without penalty to the group but will not qualify for the outstanding instrumental ensemble caption. Live or taped accompaniment may be used; however, no additional voices are allowed on the tape.

**Section 3.** The vocal presentation will constitute 50% of the score sheet. Visual presentation will constitute 30% and overall presentation will constitute 20%. An adjudication sheet will be given to each participating group with comments.

**Section 4.** There is no limitation concerning the form and style used in style and movement or musical selection. The time limit will be 25 minutes. Any group exceeding the time limit will be penalized one point per fifteen seconds exceeding the allotted 25 minutes. The group will be disqualified if total time on stage exceeds 30 minutes. A festival official will time all groups. Timing will start when "places" on stage is announced.

**Section 5.** Special effects or staging that interfere with other groups or delay the time schedule is forbidden. There will be no pre-hung props. Simple, special light (example: dimming of stage lights) will be granted if presented to the chairman one month in advance and is within the ability of the facility.

**Section 6.** A rehearsal room will be provided for warm-up prior to performance.

**Section 7.** Awards will be given for the following:

Middle School Division Awards :

- Middle School Division: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd
- Outstanding Instrumental Solo/Accompanist
- Outstanding Instrumental Ensemble
- Outstanding Individual Performer (One per school)
- Outstanding Male and Female Soloists Outstanding
- Choreography
- Outstanding Choral Sound
- Outstanding Show Design
- Outstanding Costumes

High School Festival Division Awards :

Festival Division: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd  
Outstanding Instrumental Solo/Accompanist  
Outstanding Instrumental Ensemble  
Outstanding Individual Performer (One per school)  
Outstanding Male and Female Soloists Outstanding  
Choreography  
Outstanding Choral Sound  
Outstanding Show Design  
Outstanding Costumes

High School NonMixed Division Awards:

NonMixed Division: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd  
Outstanding Instrumental Solo/Accompanist  
Outstanding Instrumental Ensemble  
Outstanding Individual Performer (One per School)  
Outstanding Male and Female Soloists Outstanding  
Choreography  
Outstanding Choral Sound  
Outstanding Show Design  
Outstanding Costumes

High School Championship Division Awards:

Outstanding Instrumental Solo/Accompanist  
Outstanding Instrumental Ensemble  
Outstanding Individual Performer (One per school)  
Outstanding Male and Female Soloists Outstanding  
Choreography  
Outstanding Choral Sound  
Outstanding Show Design  
Outstanding Costumes  
4th, 3rd, 2nd, 1st Runner-up, and Grand Champion Overall

All High School Mixed groups participating in the Championship Division will be placed in a class based on school size. This will not affect the awards for the overall winners. Classes will be based on school choir size. Awards for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3rd will be given out in each class. Classification will be as follows:

Small: 25 and under  
Medium: 26-40  
Large: 41 Plus

In the event of a tie for the Grand Championship, the tie will be broken based upon the existing rankings of the five (5) overall judges. The Grand Champion of the WV State Show Choir Festival will be featured as the Honor Group at the WVMEA State Conference. In the event that the WV State Show Choir Festival takes place after the WVMEA conference, then those schools competing in the WV State Show Choir Festival may submit an unedited MP4 file that will be adjudicated by a panel decided by the WVVMA executive board.

**Section 8.** According to WVMEA rules, no honor group may succeed itself in consecutive years at the State Conference. However, this ruling does not prohibit a group from winning the State Show Choir Festival in consecutive years.

**Section 9.** There will be a total of eight (8) judges evaluating the following:

5 Judges – Overall

1 Judge - Instrumental and Soloist/Accompanist.

1 Judge – Vocal Soloist (Male and Female)

1 Judge – Outstanding Performer (1 per group)

Judges will give each group a numerical score.

The overall score will consist of the 5 overall judges and the instrumental ensemble score.

**Section 10.** No flash photography, video or audio recording will be allowed by spectators or participants. Only professional ASCAP-BMI, NAFME, WVMA approved companies will be permitted to record.

**Section 11.** Festival provided equipment:

Sound system with six (6) microphones.

Three wireless microphones, set center stage

Piano tuned to A 440

Platform risers (4-4'x8'x8", 4-4'x8'x16", 4-4'x8'x24", 4-4'x8'x32")

Keyboard Amp

Bass Amp

CD/Tape Player

Note: A drum set will not be provided.

**Section 12.** Schools may enter the Middle School, Festival, Non-Mixed, Championship Division or comments only. Schools using tape accompaniment will receive a score of "5" from each overall judge under the category "accompaniment" on the score sheet. A group may choose to participate for comments only. These scores will not be included in the final score composite and the group will not be eligible for the top 5 awards.

**Section 13.** Groups dropping out within one month of the festival will not be allowed to participate the following year.

**Section 14.** Registration fees are non-refundable for any reason.

**Section 15.** Middle and High School will perform in the same hall if time permits. Performance groups will go as follows: Middle School Division, Festival Division, Non-Mixed and Championship. Festival Division awards will occur after their division is completed. From these groups. performance times will be set according to riser configuration (lowest number of risers to highest number of risers). Choirs whose directors do not meet all deadlines may be disqualified or assigned morning performance times.

**Section 16.** The chairperson of the State Show Choir Festival will be elected every other year at the Show Choir teachers meeting held in conjunction with the WVMEA conference. The chairperson shall receive a \$2,500.00 stipend per year. The hosting school will receive a \$1000.00 stipend. Chairmanship will be done on a rotating basis of the school participating consistently in the state festival.

**Section 17.** The WV Vocal Music Association President will be in attendance at the WV State Show Choir Festival to present awards and assist the Show Choir Chair in any decisions regarding awards.

**Section 18.** The chairperson will pay a \$15.00 per school application fee to the WV Vocal Music Association. This fee is due one month after the student application deadline.

**Section 19.** The decision of the judges is final.

**Section 20.** Schools using "special" arrangements or non-published music arrangements must secure permission from the copyright holder(s) for the intended use. Each school will sign a waiver stating this has been accomplished, and copyright licenses have been submitted to the WV State Show Choir Chairman.

# WV State Show choir Festival-Score Sheet

Vocal Presentation (130 Points)	SCORES	Comments
I. Tone Quality		
II. Blend		
III. Balance		
IV. Intonation		
V. Rhythmic Precision		
VI. Dynamics		
VII. Phrasing		
VIII. Diction		
IX. Interpretation/Style		
X. Projection		
XI. Difficulty of Music		
XII. Treble Sound		
XIII. Bass Sound		
<b>VOCAL PRESENTATION TOTAL</b>		

Visual Presentation (70 Points)	SCORES	Comments
I. Execution of Choreography		
II. Staging/Blocking		
III. Originality/Creativity of Movement		
IV. Appropriate to Music		
V. Transitions		
VI. Technique		
VII. Difficulty of Choreography		
<b>VISUAL PRESENTATION TOTAL</b>		

Overall Presentation (50 Point)	SCORES	Comments
I. Costuming		
II. Facial Communication		
III. Professional/Discipline		
IV. TotalEffect of Show		
V. Simultaneous Responsibilities		
<b>OVERALL PRESENTATION TOTAL</b>		

## SCORESHEET DESCRIPTIONS

### VOCAL PRESENTATION

Tone Quality	Appropriate to style; Quality of male voices. Quality of female voices. Color. Control.
Blend	Appropriate to style; Blend of individual voices.
Balance	Balance of vocal sections; balance.
Intonation	Each section in tune without noticeable pitch problems.
Rhythmic Precision	Accuracy of time, values, attacks and releases, precision, stylistic authenticity, time feel.
Dynamics	Contrasting dynamics within choir or between voices and instruments; sensitivity to solos
Phrasing	Carrying phrases through to end.
Diction	Beginning, inner and ending consonants, clarity of words, vowel consistency; appropriate to style and understandability of lyrics.
Interpretation	Articulations/inflections, appropriate tempo and dynamics, emotion, musical sensitivity, vitality. Style concepts.
Projection	Effective use of breathing mechanism; vitality.
Difficulty of Music	Two part vs. Four/Six/Eight-part harmonies; A cappella, etc.
Treble Sound	Quality of the treble voices
Bass Sound	Quality of the bass voices

### VISUAL PRESENTATION

Execution	Precision of movement, strength and energy of movement. Discipline. Sharpness
Staging	Use of space, levels, general stage "picture," etc.
Originality/Creativity	Uniqueness of choreography
Appropriate	Stylistic authenticity.
Transitions	Effectively planned and executed. No dead space.
Technique	Dancing with proper technique for the style of music
Difficulty	Degree of difficulty of choreographic moves. Stylistic authenticity

### OVERALL PRESENTATION

Costuming	Clothes are coordinated, have color appeal and are appropriate to the style of the ensemble or show.
Facial Communication	Communication with audience, confidence, energy, excitement. Attitude, Stage presence. Salesmanship.
Professional/Discipline	Students have a confident poise and appearance. They react to situations appropriately.
Total Effect of Show	Communication with audience, confidence, energy, excitement. Attitude, Stage presence. Salesmanship.
Simultaneous Responsibilities	Does everything work cohesively. Does the choreography, arrangements, vocals, band, costumes work together for a cohesive package.

## PENALTY SHEET

Each penalty will be specified and the reason given in writing by the contest official. All participants of the festival agree to abide by the decision of the contest official.

1. Choirs whose directors do not meet all deadlines may be disqualified or are assigned morning performance times.
2. The use of an instrumentalist who is not a bona fide member of the school, and not the designated two adults and director, will result in disqualification and will be restricted from participating in the festival for a period of two (2) years.
3. The use of a director who is not a bona fide music educator of the participating school and does not hold membership in WVMEA will result in disqualification of the group.
4. One (1) point will be subtracted from the composite total **per fifteen seconds** exceeding the allotted 25 minutes onstage.
5. Disqualification will result from violation of the rule concerning the use of fire on stage. Furthermore, the group will be restricted from participation in the festival for a period of at least two (2) years.
6. Any damage or destruction done to any facilities or equipment by any student will result in that student's performing group being disqualified from the festival and barred from future festivals for a period of at least three (3) years. The student's school will be assessed for the damages.

## **Article III - Chamber Choir/Madrigal Ensemble Festival**

Participating choirs will receive a written evaluation, and trophies will be awarded in each category. Judges will be chosen from within the state.

The festival will have two divisions, of which the first will be considered more difficult. Participants may enter only in one division, though a school may enter both the madrigal and chamber choir categories in the same division.

### ***Section 1. Division I (more difficult)***

1. Madrigal Category - (mixed voices up to 18) Perform one composition from each of the following:
  - a) English madrigal of four or five parts by Moreley, Bennet, or Weelkes. A cappella.
  - b) French or Flemish chanson in four or five parts and in the original language by di Lasso, des Prez, or Januquin. A cappella.
  - c) Sixteenth-century madrigal of the groups own choosing. A capella
2. Chamber Choir – mixed voices up to 30 but no fewer than 18. Perform one composition from each of the following:
  - a) Twentieth-century sacred or secular composition by Butler, Rorem, Nystedt, or Havhaness, either accompanied or unaccompanied.
  - b) Sixteenth-century sacred composition in Latin not to exceed four minutes by Victoria, Byrd, or Palestrina. A cappella.
  - c) Nineteenth-century secular composition by an American composer either accompanied or A cappella.

### ***Section 2. Division II***

1. Madrigal Category – mixed voices up to 18. Perform one composition from each of the following:
  - a) English madrigal in four parts either A cappella or accompanied.
  - b) Renaissance foreign-language composition, sacred or secular, sung in English either A cappella or accompanied
  - c) One of the madrigals from “Three Madrigals” by Emma Lou Diemer (Boosey & Hawkes, pub.), or any madrigal style composition by an American composer.
2. Chamber Choir - mixed voices up to 30, no fewer than 18. Perform one composition from each of the following:
  - a) Twentieth-century sacred or secular composition (excluding rock, pop, or folk music) of the group’s choosing, either accompanied or a cappella.
  - b) Sacred composition by Mozart or Haydn in English and not exceeding four minutes, accompanied.
  - c) Nineteenth-century sacred or secular composition of the group’s choosing either accompanied, or A cappella.