

Florida Orchestra Association Inc.
Executive Board Meeting
May 16, 2025 – 8:00 am – Orlando Marriott Lake Mary

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 am on the 16th of May by President Bitters

The Mission Statement was read by President-Elect, Andrea Szarowicz

Appointed Valerie Terry as the committee rep, to vote for committees.

Motion to adopt the agenda with flexibility

Motion Pardee

Second Howard

Motion Passed

Guests and Board Members in attendance were:

District 1 – Maeanna Callahan

District 6 – Victoria Senko

District 8 – Lisa Coyne

District 10 – Michelle Eggen

District 12 – Drew Beckner

District 14 – Essi Nadal

District 16 – absent

District 18 – Joseph Bigler

7/8 Honors Coor. – absent

11/12 AS Coor. – Lauren Pardee

9-12 Honors Coor. – Samantha Felber

Past President – Matthew Davis

President – Laurie Bitters

Executive Director – Cheri Sleeper

District 2/3 – Chris Miller

District 7 – Alli Howard

District 9 – Abbey Duncan

District 11 – Norm Vagn

District 13 – Richard Ballinger

District 15- Tosha Knibb

District 17 – Courtney Chrestensen

District 19 – Mindy Curtis

9/10 AS Coor. – absent

7/8 AS Coor./Mentoring Chair – Marcey Sperr

AS Audition Chair – Brian Hellhake

Conference Chair – Valerie Terry

President-elect – Andrea Szarowicz

Finance Director – Tom Silliman

Special Guests that came in and out during the meeting were:

Dr. Josh Bula – Director of IT

Jason Locker – FMEA President

Dr. Skip Pardee – FMEA President-Elect

Dr. Kathy Sanz – FMEA/FSMA Executive Director

Dr. Shelby Chipman – FMEA Past President

Motion to approve minutes from the January Board meeting with corrections to

Line 23 – spelling

Line 57 – spelling

Motion – Felber

Second – Sperr

Motion Passed

Financial Reports as of May 7, 2025, were given by the finance director

Balance sheets were explained for all accounts and a thorough explanation of accounts, budgets met, exceeded or not met. There was explanation of all-state expenses. Thanks to the State MPA host, Titusville HS. Mindy Curtis offered help with QuickBooks if needed.

Executive Director's report was given to include:

- Updates of membership numbers and participation in State M.P.A.'s.
- Recommendations were made to update the mileage rate to match the IRS rate, adopt the 2025-2026 FOA calendar and to have the responsibility of the individual schools to engrave their own state M.P.A. plaques. It was also recommended that district chairs accept digital, hand signed scans of M.P.A. entry forms.
- Dates and room rates for the next 3 years of Fall Conference were shared along with district chair training and upcoming board meeting dates.

Presidents Report

- FMEA is concerned about costs going up. FMD will go from four to three published magazines a year
- Josh Bula explained how the all-state programs may not be printed but print on demand for individuals that want a hard copy of the program.
- 9/10 All-State and 9/12 Honors coordinator positions will be open for election this coming year.
- Fall Conference will have two keynote speakers. Creston Herron and David Pope.

President-Elect Report

- FSMA has expressed they would like to see alignment between components and FSMA in regards to ethics.

Past Presidents Report

- No report

Committee Reports

Music Committee – report by Music Co-chair, Matt Davis

Both he and Nancy Beebe, co-chairs, will be stepping down from their positions

Met on Monday, May 5th and made recommendations for additions, reclassifications and clarification of arrangements of “pen names” of arrangers on specific pieces.

The committee also recommends specific pieces on the music list be marked as “significant literature” (as FBA does) so that when someone looks at the list, it may assist in selecting literature. It was suggested the committee, in the future, look into this.

Thanks to Josh Bula for making the music list easier to search with a new format on the website.

MPA Committee – report by Executive Director, Cheri Sleeper

Florida Southern has offered to host State Solo & Ensemble. Titusville HS has offered to host State Concert MPA again in 2026

Handbook Committee – report by President, Laurie Bitters

The committee is working on making the handbook easier to read.

The Executive Director, Cheri Sleeper, mentioned that in the future all-state coordinators will be asked to be present at the May board meeting since they have already started working on their programs and working with their coordinators at that point.

Consent Agenda - Committee, District, and All-state Reports

- Are attached as an addendum under the consent agenda

FL-ASTA – no report

99 **Unfinished Business**

100 All-State absences

- 101 • Roll-call vote for 2 absences from All-State in January
- 102 ○ Absence 1 Montverde Academy – excused

104 Motion from the floor to suspend Roberts Rules for District M.P.A. date selection

105 Motion Terry Second Bigler Motion Passed

107 Motion to reinstate Roberts Rules

108 Motion Ballinger Second Terry Motion Passed

110 **New Business**

112 Motions to the Board from Committees (*only need a 2nd to be voted upon*)

114 **Executive/Finance Committee motions**

115 Recommendations were made by the Executive Director

- 116 1. Update the mileage rate increase to match the IRS rate of .70

117 Motion Duncan Second Chrestensen Motion Passed

- 119 2. Accept the 2025-2026 Calendar

120 Motion Coyne Second Callahan Motion Passed

122 Handbook committee recommendation is to change the current format of the handbook for clarity and
123 readability.

124 Motion Pardee Second Curtis Motion Passed

126 Music committee recommendation is to accept the additions, reclassifications and clarification of
127 arrangements of “pen names” of arrangers on specific pieces.

128 Motion Bigler Second Sperr Motion Passed

130 **District Motions:**

131 *District motions require a 2nd to be voted upon*

133 **District 8**

- 134 • Motion that the Florida Orchestra Association accept digital scans (i.e., PDF) or required Music
135 Performance Assessment (MPA) paperwork in lieu of original documents.
136 Second Howard
- 137 • It was proposed by Ballinger that District 8 amend their motion to the Florida Orchestra
138 Association accept digital scans, for example PDF format, of all required Music Performance
139 Assessment, MPA paperwork, in lieu of original hard copy documents. Provided that all required
140 signatures are original hand written signatures included in the scanned documents. District 8
141 accepted the amendment.

142 Motion Passed

144 **District 9**

- 145 • Motion that the Florida Orchestra Association revise the current adjudicator eligibility
146 requirements/pathways to certification to increase the number of qualified individuals available to
147 judge Concert Music Performance Assessments (MPAs).

148 Second Eggen

149 • Motion from the floor to move to the Adjudication committee

150 Motion Pardee Second Ballinger Motion Passed

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152

153 District 10

154 • Motion to remove the clinic session at the State Concert MPA and schedule the PA by

155 “performance blocks” similar to FVA and FBA.

156 Second Sperr

157 • Motion from the floor to move to the MPA committee

158 Motion Felber Second Pardee Motion Passed

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160

161 • Motion to include text in the MPA section of the Handbook, under VII.K.1.B to ensure that judges

162 receive original scores.

163 Second Ballinger

164 • Motion from the floor to move to the Handbook committee

165 Motion Felber Second Ballinger Motion Passed

166

167 A short break was taken for room checkout, etc.

168

169 District 18

170 • Motion for elimination of a possible 1-2-3 rating from the judges panel at Concert Music

171 Performance Assessments

172 Second Pardee

173 • Motion from the floor to move to the Adjudication committee

174 Motion Chrestensen Second Felber Motion Passed

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176

177 • Motion to consider to expand State MPA to Regional Sites (East/West or North/South) for Greater

178 Accessibility and Participation.

179 Second Eggen

180 • Motion from the floor to move to the MPA committee

181 Motion Pardee Second Felber Motion Passed

182

183 It was brought up that the adjudication committee did submit a report that there were people that were up

184 for CBAA or renewal and they were approved. Twelve were added to the CBAA list and 5 renewed. The

185 adjudication chair was not in attendance at the board meeting.

186

187 **Motions from the Floor:**

188 None

189

190 **Good of the Association**

191 • It was suggested that MuseScore subscriptions for Solo & Ensemble be researched.

192 • Performance of solos, not of the complete work, and under the time limit, not addressed in the

193 handbook.

194 • Dr. Megan Sehealy had a beautiful baby girl.

- 195 • Tom Silliman, Finance Director, mentioned that the expense voucher updated has been sent out
196 and what can be claimed.
- 197 • Samantha Felber-shout out to Titusville HS for a great job hosting State Concert MPA and to Matt
198 Davis for his service as Past President again.
- 199 • Mindy Curtis-shout out to Tom Silliman for great, pleasant emails and reminders
- 200 • Matt Davis-thank you to Laurie Bitters for stepping in as President. Shout out to Tom Silliman and
201 Cheri Sleeper in their first year.
- 202 • Mindy Curtis-shout out to Cheri Sleeper on the countdown of 15 days to retirement.
- 203 • Laurie Bitters-reminder that the 9/10 all-state and 9/12 honors coordinator jobs are up for
204 elections.
- 205 • Laurie Bitters-"I will not be looking for a third term."

206

207 **Appointment of Officers - None**

208

209 The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

210

211 Next Board Meeting will be at the Orlando Hilton on July 25th at 6:30 pm

212

213 Respectfully Submitted

214 Cheri A. Sleeper, Executive Director