

**2016 COUNTY ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL AT PALMYRA MIDDLE SCHOOL
SPECIAL ASSEMBLY TO DISCUSS MS ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL
FEBRUARY 13, 2016**

1. Past President Frank Caravella called the meeting to order at 1:34PM. Approximately 23 directors were present for this optional meeting.
2. A discussion commenced with regard to adding a second Middle School Orchestra to the LLMEA Orchestra Festival. The rationale behind the change was based on the increase in participation and the relatively low number (4 or fewer) of students each director was able to place in this year's MS Orchestra.
3. A motion was made by Rob Shaubach to "Expand the MS Orchestra component of the LLMEA Orchestra Festival to include two groups, labeled A and B according to their ability level." The motion was seconded by Sara Masten and passed unanimously.
4. A discussion ensued relative to establishing a separate MS Orchestra Festival. Topics of concern included the date of the festival (fall or spring), the timing of the round robin selection meeting, the additional date required for directors of both HS and MS groups, the difficulty of hosting the current festival (which already includes three groups).
5. A motion was made by Jessica Mitchell to "Establish a standalone MS Orchestra Festival." The motion was seconded by Sara Masten and passed with a vote of 21 to 1.
6. A motion was made by Brian Bartch to establish the date of the MS Orchestra Selection Meeting: "The MS Orchestra Selection Meeting will follow the LLMEA General Meeting in September." The motion was seconded by Sara Masten and some discussion ensued. It was agreed that this would work better if the meeting was held a week later and Frank Caravella agreed to discuss this possibility with the LLMEA Executive Board. There was some discussion about the need for hosts to plan the festival in the prior spring in order to have the music ready for the fall meeting. It was established that the expectation would be to hold the festival in November. There was a call for the question and the motion passed unanimously.
7. A discussion took place regarding the need for a hosting rotation. It was agreed that we would follow the model of the Middle School Band North Festival and take volunteers until such time that a rotation was deemed necessary. Shenna Shirk volunteered to host the inaugural concert at Manheim Central MS with assistance from Frank Caravella at Manheim Twp.

8. A motion was made by Jessica Mitchell to “include 6th graders into the newly formed MS Orchestra Festival.” The motion was seconded by Cody Floyd and a discussion ensued. After some time, a vote was taken and the motion failed. The festival will remain open only to students in grades seven and eight.
9. It was agreed that this was a good time to establish eligibility guidelines for the orchestras of the LLMEA MS Orchestra Festival. Rick Ney agreed to reconvene the existing committee immediately following this special session for the purpose of creating these guidelines. This meeting did take place and the following guidelines were established:

a. A Group:

1. *Be able to play with good intonation in the keys up to three sharps and three flats (major and minor.)*
2. *Be able to accurately play complex rhythms in both simple and compound meters.*
3. *Be able to execute the full range of dynamics.*
4. *Be able to execute acceptable legato, détache, martelé, and spiccato bow strokes.*
5. *String basses must be able to play with accuracy in half, first, second, and third positions.*
6. *Violins must be able to play with accuracy in first and third positions, with extensions.*
7. *‘Cellos must be able to play with accuracy in first, second, and fourth positions, with extensions.*
8. *Use of vibrato is encouraged for all instruments.*
9. *Students should be capable playing literature graded 1 - 3.*

b. B Group:

1. *Be able to play with good intonation in the keys up to two sharps and one flat (major and minor.)*
2. *Be able to have familiarity with playing rhythms in both simple and compound meters.*
3. *Be able to execute dynamic markings of p through ff.*
4. *Be able to execute acceptable legato, détache, and martelé bow strokes.*
5. *String basses must be able to play with accuracy in half, first, second, and third positions.*
6. *‘Cellos must be able to play with accuracy in first and second positions, with extensions.*
7. *Students should be capable playing literature graded .5 - 2.*

10. Adjournment - Motion by Sara Masten, seconded by Emily Sheffer