

Florida Orchestra Association Inc.

Summer Board Meeting

July 25, 2025 - 6:30 pm – Orlando Hilton

The meeting was called to order by President Andrea Szarowicz at 6:37pm

The Mission Statement was read by Samantha Grice, District 3 Chair

Motion to approve agenda with flexibility.

Motion Sperr

2nd Senko

Motion passed

Executive Director Sleeper explained how a motion from the floor differs from motions from committee and procedures for the meeting.

Board member roll call and introduction of guests in attendance.

Andrea Szarowicz – President

Laurie Bitters – Past President

Lauren Pardee – President-elect

Samantha Felber – 9/12 Honors Coordinator

Steven Bossert – 11/12 All-State Coordinator

Raine Hollingsworth – Adjudication Co-chair

Kayla Lisa – Awards

Lisa Coyne – District 8 Chair

Joseph Bigler – District 18 Chair

Mindy Curtis – District 19 Chair

Richard Yaklich – District 16 Chair

Samantha Grice – District 3 Chair

Victoria Senko – District 6 Chair

Richard Ballinger – District 13 Chair

Jeffrey Adkins – District 14 Chair

Michelle Eggen – District 10 Chair

Yelena Dumais – District 17 Chair

Justin Swaim – District 7 Chair

Thomas Durante – District 11 Chair

Andrew Beckner – District 12 Chair

Jacob King – District 9 Chair

Marcey Sperr – 7/8 All-State Coordinator

Maeanna Callahan – District 1 Chair

Tom Sillian – Finance Director

Cheri A. Sleeper – Executive Director

Joshua Bula – FMEA/FSMA IT

Motion to approve the May 2025 Board minutes with corrections to line 160, 94 and 211

Motion Ballinger

2nd Callahan

Motion passed

Financial reports were given by the Finance Director, Tom Silliman, to include possible updated accounting services fees per district.

Executive Director's report was given – with no recommendations to the board.

President's Report

- Website has been updated in regards Fall Conference registration, etc.
- Encourage your colleagues and friends to attend FOA/FL-ASTA Fall Conference.

Past President – Handbook committee has no recommendations at this time but is working on reformatting the handbook for ease of reading.

35 President-elect

- 36 • Attended Teach Music Florida Coalition – great event sponsored by the executive committee of FMEA.
- 37 Great five-day training and meetings in June.
- 38 • Attended Leadership Institute hosted by FSMA in July. Applications typically open in the Spring.

39 FMEA/FSMA – Dr. Joshua Bula, please communicate with Dr. Pardee through Dr. Bula.

40 **Unfinished Business**

- 41 • No updates on items moved to committee have been received or shared at this time.
- 42 • Some concerns were raised that some motions sent to committee may fall through the cracks when new
- 43 committee chairs are appointed. The executive director will look into it.

44 **New Business**

45 **Motion** from the finance committee recommends that the board accept the 25-26 State Budget.

46 Motion passed

47 **Motion** from the finance committee recommends that the board accept the updated district accounting services

48 fees.

- 49 • There was a lot of discussion on this recommendation with concern from some districts with their
- 50 financial situations having to pay more.

51 Motion passed

52 **Committee reports and motions** (*note committee motions do not need a 2nd – just a vote*)

53 Executive Committee – no report at this time.

54 Music Committee

- 55 • Focus will be on the AS, AF, BS, BF, and CF levels of the music list for corrections, etc. Looking forward
- 56 to any new submissions.

57 Handbook Committee – no additional report

58 Conference Planning Committee – no additional report

59 Adjudication Committee – two motions were received, one from district 9 and one from district 18 and both failed

60 because they were already covered in the handbook.

- 61 • Executive committee tasks the adjudication committee to continue to review and train new adjudicators
- 62 and that the adjudication list stays updated.
- 63 • The feedback forms will be collected in a new way in the future. The process is still getting revised.
- 64 • Two large projects the committee is working on:
 - 65 1. Revision to the concert MPA sheets, including sight-reading. The committee needs more feedback
 - 66 from the membership for assistance with giving feedback. Revisions will be made after data has
 - 67 been gathered and looked at.
 - 68 2. Solo and Ensemble sheets moved to a numerical format. This is a multi-year process and will be
 - 69 piloted by a district first.
- 70 • Adjudication part of the website will be updated by Dr. Bula for registration including auditing for those
- 71 not eligible yet.
- 72 • A third person will be added for the south part of the state for internship.
- 73 • If there is a need, the committee will request to add a training in July.

74 **Motion** to nominate Stephan Fillare, Furman University, to complete the alternative adjudication certification for

75 college directors.

76 Motion Sperr (for Erickson) 2nd Callahan Motion failed

77 MPA Committee – reviewed State Concert and Solo & Ensemble MPA dates and will be looking for sites.

78 • M. Eggen asked if the motion from district 10, which was sent to committee regarding performance
79 blocks, had been addressed. The MPA committee didn't meet prior to this meeting but will be meeting
80 prior to end of August.

81 • District 10 also asked about the motion sent to the handbook committee regarding clear text of original
82 scores. The handbook committee has it on their list.

83 Sight-Reading Committee – met and read several pieces, have picked new music to replace those pieces deemed
84 inappropriate.

85 **Motion** to add a hyperlink to the sight-reading evaluation form to the FOA website under the MPA tab so it is
86 publicly available. This motion is out of order because it does not have to come from the committee as a motion.
87 This request would go to the executive director.

88 **Motion** to add instructions for distributing the sight-reading evaluation form via district chairs to the FOA
89 handbook. This motion is out of order because the handbook is not where this would be placed. It would be placed
90 in the district chair manual. The executive committee is currently looking into this.

91 All-State Audition Committee

92 • Audition window for districts is September 15-21, 2025
93 • District reduction window is October 1-7, 2025
94 • Final reduction is October 18, 2025
95 • Number of judges needed by district was included in the board packet. This number will be researched for
96 the future, based on the number of auditions in the district.

97 Conference Committee – no report

98 Ethics Committee – no report. Meeting next month. Working on a clear process for reporting ethics violations, etc.

99 Awards Committee

100 • Encourage members to nominate colleagues for the Hall of Fame and Rising Star Awards. Nominations
101 close November 1, 2025
102 • Committee is working on a Longevity Award, Roll of Distinction Award and milestone ribbons at the
103 conference.
104 • Composition Contest is being finalized for middle school and high school student compositions.
105 Requirements are on the website. Nominations/submissions due November 1, 2025. These awards will be
106 presented in January at the general membership meeting. Lead judge will be Jennifer Erickson.

107 **Motion** from the committee to implement a new award titled “FOA Student Composition Contest.”

108 Motion passed

109 Benevolence Committee – committee plans to send a card to Val Anderson who has been ill. Please send the
110 names of any other district members who the committee should be reaching out to.

111 Mentoring Committee – discussed action items like a FaceBook forum, database for the website, opportunities for
112 young teachers to have a one-on-one mentor. Very few are reaching out.

113 • The committee is asking district chairs for contact information of 1–3-year teachers. The committee urges
114 mentors to be assigned in your district.

- 115 • Recommendations will be made to have things changed on the mentoring part of the FOA website.
116 Soundbar button to be added on the mentoring portion of the website.
117 • Suggest that an article or quarter page be included in the Florida Music Director for our members.
118 • Asks district chairs to share the QR code for the FaceBook forum.

119 FLASTA Committee – Partners with FOA and work together for Fall Conference.

- 120 • Introduced the leadership.
121 • Goodie bags will be available to members
122 • There will be an honor ensemble at the conference
123 • While attending Fall Conference stop by and find out more about FL-ASTA chapter.
124 • National Conference co-located with Suzuki and in California in February 25-28, 2026.

125 Motions from the floor

126 **Motion** to relook at the sight-reading box matrix so that no district incurs an exorbitant shipping fee.

127 Motion Callahan 2nd Sperr

128 Motion to send to sight-reading committee Hollingsworth 2nd Ballinger Motion passed

129 Good of the Association

- 130 • Raine Hollingsworth expressed gratitude for all the work Tom Silliman is doing for the state. Michelle
131 Eggen and Samantha Felber reemphasized.
132 • Tom Silliman re-explained some of his report for clarity. He also went over the expense voucher
133 procedures. Audit is August 11-15.
134 • Kayla Lisa mentioned that guitar is working on becoming their own component. There are state guitar
135 festivals happening that are low stakes and no rating.
136 • Richard Ballinger complimented the executive committee, finance director and executive director for
137 their positivity and work done so far.
138

139 The Next Board meeting will be January 14, 2026, at 5:30 pm at TCC.

140

141 **Motion** to adjourn at 8:37pm.

142 Motion Felber 2nd Bigler Motion passed

143

144 Respectfully submitted,

145 Cheri A. Sleeper, Executive Director