

Indiana Arts Festival  
General Board Meeting  
Sunday September 14, 2025

Those in attendance were: Lisa Cremer, Karri York, David Mannell, Catherine Kling, Stephen Gruoner, Anna Stumpf, Marta Hassfurder, Darcy Shackelford, Virginia Kleeberg, Ginny Jones, Vicki King, Juanna Uhrich, Sarah Strickland, Marie Kirkeiner, Anne Wieder, Andrea Schweizer, Sayuri Guelce, Melanie Edling, Debbie Griswold. There was no representation from Jasper or Evansville Central present.

Karri York called zoom meeting to order. Karri gave the invocation in Carolyn Lorenzoni's absence.

Lisa Cremer reported on the acceptance of the minutes from the reading committee. The minutes are posted on website.

David Mannell presented the treasurer report. No money was taken out of the investment accounts this year. There was enough in the operating expense account to cover all expenses. If needed, we can take funds out at any time of the year. Catherine Kling moved to accept the report. A second was made by Stephen Gruoner. Motion passed.

David Mannell reported on the new Membership dues process. David gave a demonstration on how members will log in, register and make their payment. If festivals collect additional fees, members will have to send those directly to the local festival. If teachers register for 3 or less students, the dues are 22.50. If a teacher registers for 3 or less students and then has an increase, they should be able to add the additional membership fees through the site at a later time.

Anna Stumpf reported on our Investments. Anna said she loves her position at the moment! The stocks are up! We will stay the course! Stephen Gruoner moved to pass the investment report. David Mannell seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Marta Hassfurder reported on Standing Rules and Bylaws. At this time, there is nothing new to be voted on. The updated bylaws and standing rules are posted on the website.

Sayuri Guelce reported on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Honors Recital. There were 106 entries! Thank you to UIndy for hosting. Sayuri thanked the executive committee and the participating teachers for all of their help. All information for 2026 will be updated by mid October.

Virginia Kleeberg reported on the state festival. A panel of string teachers was formed from outside of IAF. The panel evaluated the contemporary category for Strings as was defined in the manual. The panel unanimously decided that current Contemporary music, by the IAF definition, was too advanced for students K-12. The executive committee moved to change the “Contemporary” Category at the State Honors Recital to “Non-Classical” Virginia Kleeberg moved to accept. The motion passed.

The executive committee also moved to take out the contemporary category in Violin, Viola, Cello and Bass at the local festival level. David Mannell moved. All accepted.

Newsletter: Catherine Kling reported on needing articles and pictures. The deadline is October 10 for the fall newsletter.

Visual Arts committee report was presented by Marie Kirkeiner. Marie reported that she met with Carolyn Lorenzoni via zoom a week ago. Marie is planning to add a pdf to the website to show how to mount the artwork. She made changes to the instructions so that a student can understand without adult help. Marie is wanting to set a baseline for standards and requirements. Marie had a few questions for the executive committee. Marie is curious if there is a desire in the future to have a state level award. David mentioned that more festivals need to participate from the entire state before we move forward with a state award. However, this is a goal for the future. Currently there are two visual arts categories – drawing and painting. Marie questioned if students that are only artists could enter two drawings in one category seeing that all art is original. She asked the board to consider this. It would help these students to accrue more points. Another question/idea - Do we want to add sub categories? The executive committee will take these questions under advisement.

Ronda Rosenbaum was not present for the meeting. Ronda has agreed to chair the Composition Contest in 2026.

Catherine Kling reported on poetry and essay. “My Musical Journey” will be the 2026 essay theme. The deadlines are January 31<sup>st</sup>. Darcy Shackelford commented how there were not too many comments on the forms for last year. Others commented on this as well. Catherine reported that there would be a new judge for 2026 and Catherine will work with her on expectations for comments to students.

Scholarship application fees will be 20.00 for all scholarships going forward. The Sweeney Scholarship will be raised to 20.00 from 10.00.

Digital certificates on the website will be available. A format will have to be created and then Philip will make it available for teachers to print off right from the website.

A clarification is needed in the language in the standing rules in regards to playoffs. In some festivals, if there was only one student in a category, they have been automatically sent to state if they received a Superior. Receiving a Superior at local level is not necessarily the standard for state. It was agreed by the executive committee that there should be a judge to sign off on this. It could be the local level judge or at a separate playoff. The chairperson can alert a local judge if there are a few in a category so that the judge can discern and then let the festival chair know who is recommended to advance. Virginia and Marta will work on the wording. Anne Wieder volunteered to help with this as well.

Andrea Schweizer asked if Vocal Duets will be added to the State Honors Recital in 2026. She alluded to the fact that this was discussed at a previous meeting. The Executive Committee agreed that this category would be considered for the future but it was not slated for 2026. Please note that in 2025, there were only 6 vocal duets in the entire state and that only represented two festivals. In order for a new category to be added at the state level, more state participation from more festival areas would be needed.

Virginia Kleeberg inquired on who the teachers were that would be helping with the theory tests. Darcy Shackelford from Hendricks County will help. Valerie Merrill from Indy North was suggested. David Britton might be able to help. Ed Moy from Indy North was suggested as well. Darcy suggested that answer keys and tests need to be looked in tandem.

January 11<sup>th</sup> will be the next meeting. IAF board of directors will meet at 7:00 PM instead of 7:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Lisa Cremer