

# **AOSA Advisory Board Meeting**

*Kansas City, Missouri*

*November 2, 2022*

## **Mission Statement**

The American Orff-Schulwerk Association is a professional organization of educators dedicated to the creative music and movement approach developed by Carl Orff and Gunild Keetman.

Objectives:

- To demonstrate the value of Orff Schulwerk and to promote its widespread use.
- To support the professional development of our members, and
- To inspire and advocate for the creative potential of all learners.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Advisory Board of the American Orff-Schulwerk Association was called to order by Vice President Josh Southard on Thursday, November 3, 2022 at 2:17 pm.

## **OPENING SONG**

Betsy Sebring, AOSA Treasurer and Chair of the Chapter Relations Committee, led the Board members in singing an adaptation of “Good Morning to You.”

## **READING OF THE ETHICS STATEMENT**

Betsy Sebring read the following statement of meeting conduct ethics:

“All AOSA National Board of Trustees meetings, as well as committee reports and recommendations, are open to review by all members of AOSA. We trust the judgment and the conduct of Board members and anyone else in attendance to be ethically discreet at all times when discussing personalities and issues. The American Orff-Schulwerk Association strongly encourages members to be positive and discreet when discussing our organization, specific courses and/or teachers, and the Orff movement. The very nature of the Orff Schulwerk philosophy embodies a broad spectrum of expressions, exploring different paths to arrive at artistic and educational goals. Members are encouraged to recognize and remain open to varied approaches and to celebrate both our differences and our similarities.”

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

The Minutes from the 2021 Advisory Board meeting are posted on the member side of the AOSA website in “AOSA Governance Reports” under the “Member Services” tab. The 2021 minutes were read and approved by Carolyn Janke, Great Plains Chapter, Region I, Sarah Kurth, Rocky Mountain Chapter, Region II, and Nancy Bauer, Kansas Chapter, Region III. Thank you to these individuals for serving AOSA in this leadership capacity.

The 2022 Advisory Board minutes will be read and approved by Kelly Mraz, Atlanta Area Orff Chapter, Region IV, Charlotte Rudolph, Pittsburgh Golden Triangle AOSA, Region V, and

Heather Webber, Greater Detroit Orff Schulwerk Association, Region VI. Thank you to these individuals for their willingness to serve in this leadership capacity.

## INTRODUCTIONS

### Executive Board:

Tiffany English, Executive Director  
Michelle Fella Przybylowski, AOSA President  
Josh Southard, President Elect  
Betsy Sebring, Treasurer  
Kathy Hummel, Recording Secretary  
Patrick Ware, Vice President Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access  
Manju Durairaj, Vice President Elect Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access

### AOSA Staff:

Linda Hines, Editor of *The Orff Echo*  
Anna Pack, Associate Director  
Debbie Peck, Chapters Liaison  
Ruth Schwartz, Bookkeeper  
Brian Burnett, National Conference Director  
Marjie Van Gunten, Communications Director  
Karen Benson, Professional Development Director

### Conference Chairs:

2022 National Conference Co-Chairs: Constance Van Engen and Jennifer Donovan  
2022 Local Conference Co-Chairs: Mollie Holler and Eve Osborne  
2023 National Conference Co-Chairs: Jill DeVilbiss and Sarah Fairfield  
2023 Local Conference Co-Chairs: Paul Hallsted and Cat Woo

### Regional Representatives:

Kelly Whisinnand and Dan Gullick, Region I  
Rachel Bergeron and Armando Campos, Region II  
Christopher Giles and Jeaneau Julian, Region III  
Heather Klossner and Michele Sampson, Region IV  
Karen Prouty and Matthew Stensrud, Region V  
Deb Navin and Melissa Marotta, Region VI

Industry Representative: Michelle Marie

### Past Presidents:

Betsy Sebring recognized AOSA past presidents in attendance and thanked them for the important role our past presidents have in our organization.

### Industry Representatives:

Betsy Sebring expressed our appreciation for the vendors that were able to attend despite the challenges of travel, shipping, staffing, etc. and encouraged Advisory Board Members to

frequent the exhibits and thank them for supporting AOSA through their participation and presence.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Betsy Sebring shared the following announcements:

- Update your Job Descriptions, check in with all the virtual opportunities throughout the year, read your chapter leadership handbook.
- We will only be moving forward with one Advisory Board at conference, while having a few virtual meetings at other times in the year
- The Crisis Response form is currently available on the DEIA tab of the AOSA website.
  - AOSA is committed to supporting a diverse and inclusive membership, promoting an understanding of issues of diversity and inclusion and providing teaching and learning resources and professional development that respects, affirms, and protects the dignity and worth of all.
  - To report instances where bias or discrimination may have occurred due to the policies, procedures, or practices of AOSA, please complete that form and AOSA will respond within 72 hours.
- Welcome Ceremony: Thursday
- Exhibit Hall Grand Opening
- DEIA Meeting in Seahorse Thursday at 5:30
- DSA Presentation: Thursday evening with Jeff Kriske Randy DeLelles at 8:00 in 2501A
- Children's Performances: At 11:15 Friday, the Treble Makers from Liberty, MO performs in 2501CD, and at 2:15 Reeder Elementary performs as well in 2501CD
- Closing Ceremony on Saturday 4:15-5:00 in 2501A
- And as a general reminder, we are here as resources for you. Email any of us for help and we will be able to help you through anything you may need.

## Chapter Awards

AOSA Executive Director, Tiffany English, presented the Chapter awards for 2022.

### Wildflower Award

Region I: Evergreen Orff Chapter, Portland Orff Schulwerk Association, Wyoming

Region II: Nevada's Desert Valley, New Mexico AOSA, Rocky Mountain Chapter

Region III: Capital Area Texas Chapter, Green Country Oklahoma Chapter, Heart of America, Heart of Texas Orff, Kansas Orff Chapter

Region IV: Atlanta Area Chapter, Central Carolina Chapter, Central Florida Chapter, Middle Tennessee Chapter, North Florida Chapter, Piedmont North Carolina Chapter, Quad State Orff Chapter, Southern Appalachian

Region V: Greater Baltimore Chapter, Philadelphia Area Chapter, Maine Chapter, New England Chapter, Tidewater Area Chapter

Region VI: Greater Cincinnati, West Michigan

### Gold Award

Region II: New Mexico

Region V: Maine Chapter

Region VI: Greater Cincinnati

## STRUCTURAL CHANGES

Betsy Sebring reviewed the following changes:

- The Regional Representative Committee is now called the Chapter Relations committee. This committee is made up of 6 Regional Representatives/NBT members. It has been tasked with maintaining an even stronger relationship between National and local leadership.
- The Advisory Board II session was moved to a virtual session outside the scheduled conference time.

## CHAPTER RESOURCES

Betsy Sebring reviewed the following benefits and resources available to chapter leadership:

- AOSA's General Liability insurance policy.
- AOSA Website
- Chapter Leadership Resource Center
- Ambassador Talking Points
- AOSA has been working to improve the following 3 points and we hope you might look at ways to improve on these points in your local chapter as well.
  - DEIA training
  - Promote AOSA (national membership)
  - Leadership training

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Chapter leaders met in breakout sessions by region with their Region Representatives and Past President's met with Michelle Fella Przybylowski, AOSA President.

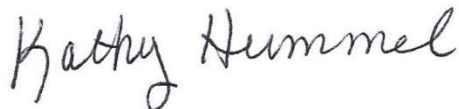
After the breakout sessions Betsy Sebring reviewed the process for the Banner Roll Call.

Betsy Sebring called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn was made by Angela Neal, North Texas Orff Chapter and seconded by Melissa Blizzard, Greater Augusta Area Orff Chapter. (motion carried)

The meeting was adjourned at 3:29 pm.

Betsy Sebring thanked the chapter leaders for their service to AOSA and dismissed them for the Banner Roll Call.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kathy Hummel  
AOSA Recording Secretary

## Advisory Board I – Regional Meetings

Region Representatives met with Chapter Leaders by regions and discussed the following topics.

- Orff Levels courses
  - Chapter Leaders shared how they promote Levels courses, AOSA and local chapter membership.
    - Offer free local membership when joining national to anyone who completed Level 1.
    - During the Levels course, raffle off a free workshop, host social events, such as folk dancing and dinner, to promote the workshops.
    - Offer scholarships to members for Levels.
    - Provide lunch one day during the course to introduce the chapter and invite people to join.
  - Do you have ideas for other in person levels models?
    - Offer courses on weekends and weeknights.
    - Longer, spaced out time would be great for families, maybe AOSA could offer various formats. Do a summer, fall, spring, winter in small bites to accomplish the level.
    - If the courses were spread out over the year or semester it would help the Levels students to process more and be able to understand and retain more.
    - A benefit of having courses spread over a year/semester is that teachers can use and apply as they are learning it.
- Silver Linings of the past two years
  - Chapter Leaders shared positive outcomes of the past two years.
    - Held Levels courses.
    - Added a social media person to the board.
    - Partnering with the local University.
    - More college students are attending workshops.
    - Provided scholarships.
    - Successful chapter share.
    - Successful social activities; informal jam session, make and take workshop, building community through intentional discussions.
    - Building membership up after the pandemic.
- How can AOSA support your chapter?
  - Chapter Leaders shared the following suggestions.
    - Can AOSA reach out to college/music departments (there are shrinking music departments, those college students aren't available to attend workshops).
    - Children coming to workshops. Suggested a waiver for parents to sign to show that AOSA isn't responsible for children.
    - Suggested AOSA to have tik-toks or short videos, or # to share to promote AOSA.
    - Have Region Rep check back in with local chapters about the unified fee structure.

- Provide mentorship of leadership roles. Possibly a zoom for specific chapter leadership.
  - Suggested a mentorship program on a board level between chapters within the region.
  - Can AOSA reach out to each chapter to confirm that chapter leaders are in fact, chapter leadership after the reports have been issued. Possibly right after the first workshop or in the fall.
  - Suggestion for a regional connection, maybe an email chain.
  - Could we have regional leadership zoom meetings on a regular basis?
- Challenges AOSA can help with
  - Chapter leaders discussed specific challenges they are facing and received suggestions from their Region Representatives and other Chapter Leaders
    - Low attendance at workshops.
    - No one wants to serve on the board.
- Successes other chapters can benefit from.
  - Chapter Leaders shared successes from the past year.
    - Started a retired committee.
    - Improved College outreach and increased college member attendance.
    - Added a DEI position to the chapter board and increased diversity in chapter workshops.
    - Provided scholarships to Levels courses.
    - Offered discounted workshop rates to new teachers.
- Region Representatives reviewed the role/charge of local leadership to act as an intermediary between local chapter and National Organization.
  - DEIA training
  - Promote AOSA
  - Leadership training
- Leadership
  - Chapter Leaders discussed how they transition leadership roles in their chapters.
    - Divide elections between even and odd years.
    - Having Members at large to bring them onto the board and cultivate inclusion.
    - Having Job Descriptions and timelines for Chapter Leadership to use in order to make it clear what the expectations are for positions within local boards.
    - Suggestion to have a google drive where people can share things that work and materials that could apply to other chapters.
  - Chapter Leaders discussed how they develop local leadership in their chapter.
    - Offer scholarships for levels courses. Afterwards we ask “would you like to join the board?”
    - Present at a workshop.
    - Who do you think would be good? Ask who wants to serve. Do a survey.
    - Do business before the workshop.
    - Writing an article for the newsletter.

(Regional Minutes on file)

## AOSA Past President's Meeting

### AOSA's Financial Position

- The Future of AOSA

### Sessions of interest

- DSA Session: Judy Bond: Closing Session

### Strategic Planning Process/Updates

- DEIA: Training Modules next step Teacher Educators required training

### Curriculum and Instruction

- Basic, Recorder, and Movement
  - Recorder Concerns – continue discussion

### Professional Development/Research

- Level III - PLN

### Leadership Development and Nominations

- Elections – We value your vote

2023 Conference – Albuquerque, NM November 1-4, 2023

### Website

- Work in in progress - updates

Discussion, Comments, Questions

(Past President's Minutes on file)