



President's Committee Meeting

September 8th, 2025 - 8:00 pm

Meet Link - [HERE!!](#)

- Call To Order - Hart Wells, President

8:05 p.m.

- Roll Call

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| William Hart Wells - | Present |
| Matt Dunlap | Present |
| Kathy Robinson | absent |
| Chris Cunningham | Present |
| Kevin Vigil | Present |
| Aaron Kunk | Present |
| Schuyler Kieley | absent |
| Matt Trkula | Present |
| Michael Havens | absent |
| Nathan Belch | Present |
| Chaz Aguado | Present |
| Zach Wood | Present |



-Approval of the August Minutes - [August Meeting Minutes](#)

Kevin moves to approve the minutes. Nathan seconds. Motion to approve passes.

-Treasurer's Report (Kathy) - \$ 2045.54 current.

-25/26 Meeting Schedule - all meeting times are 8:00 p.m.

-October 20th

-November 10th - pre-conference

-No December meeting - survey

-January 12th (Monday after VMEA Executive Council Meeting)

-February 9th

-March 9th

-April 13th

-May 11th

-June 8th (Monday after VMEA Executive Council Meeting)

-AVGE/Conference

- AVGE Audition Updates - September 13th and 14th - Matt Dunlap updates
111 auditions are scheduled. Slots are still available. Matt confirms all sites have recorders as needed or will be supplied accordingly. Refer any questions from audition sites to Matt or Hart. Hart and Kevin clarify that as long as a student has paid, they may audition even if the school itself has NOT cut/sent the check on behalf of the student.
- Anticipate a short meeting session around September 23rd/24th/25th to finalize

the results of the auditions and to vote on the number accepted. Meeting may take 15-20 minutes.

- Schedule for AVGE - Nov. 19-21, 2025 with concert at 11:00 a.m. on Friday at Sheraton.
 - At Sheraton - book your hotel room, unless you are a chaperone, but those aren't known until after the audition process finishes and rooms are filling up! Hart emphasizes that guitar directors are needed at conference both as chaperones but also to represent guitar and maintain a strong and active presence.
 - Fundraising - All help is greatly appreciated. SBM has already concluded. We anticipate those numbers any day now. Kevin clarifies SBM proceeds may take up to 2 weeks to arrive. Kevin can also share about Acoustic Coffee. Reach out to area businesses that either you or your families have connections with. We accept donations and that can lead, depending on the \$\$\$ amount, to ads in the AVGE program. More fundraising resources and ideas are needed!
 - Greenlight for 2026 or 2027 All-Virginia Middle School Guitar Ensemble at conference. Aaron is chairing, Matt and I are serving. A rep from each region is desirable for this committee. Send me recommendations for a middle school rep for this committee. We will begin the conversation and planning. A VMEA vote is NOT needed for this to move forward. Hart is looking for region middle school reps.
 - Conference schedule for VGDA events tentatively set for...
1. Thursday - 11/20 - 2:00 p.m. - Guitar Ensemble Reading Session - Kathy Robinson and Jodi Austin
 2. Thursday - 11/20 - 4:00 p.m. - Addressing Challenges in Guitar Education - Dr. Matt Dunlap
 3. Friday - 11/21 - 10:00 a.m. - That's Not My Instrument! Tips for Teaching Guitar for non-Guitarists - Ariana Heck and Ross Hedlund
 4. Friday - 11/21 - 11:00 a.m. - 2025 All-Virginia Guitar Ensemble Concert - Darin Au, conductor
 5. Friday - 11/21 - 1:00 p.m. - Complete Classroom Guitar - Dr. Alan Hirsh
 6. Friday - 11/21 - 3:00 p.m. - Uke Flash Mob Rehearsal
 7. Friday - 11/21 - 4:00 p.m. - Uke Flash Mob Performance
Hart, reach out to Jackie about leading this event.
 8. Friday - 11/21 - 5:00 p.m. - VGDA Business Meeting
 9. Friday - 11/21 - 6:00 p.m. - VGDA Social Reception
 10. Saturday - 11/22 - 9:00 a.m. - Arranging for Guitar Ensemble - Dr. Alan Hirsh
 11. Saturday - 11/22 - 10:00 a.m. - VGDA Mentorship Forum
- October 1 - basic schedule for conference
 - October 15th - last day of early bird registration
 - October 22nd last day to book rooms at discount (if any left)
 - We will need a room Chair and a Host for each event. The list is due at the end of

- October. **Chair and host can be combined if needed and in most cases.**
- Awards - Glen and Beginning Teacher Awards [LINK!!](#) One from each region. Deadline is October 15th.
Hart will reach out to each regional rep regarding nominations.
- Application for lobby concerts is live and active on the VMEA webpage according to Amy... I just don't see it...
- Booth is all set. We need four persons to cover it. It can't be just anyone and VMEA is asking for a list. I think it should be conference attendees, not chaperones.

Here are the remaining VMEA Deadlines for Conference

Fall - Applications/Auditions for Lobby Concerts - applications deadline is September 26th, 2025

- [VGDA FALL NEWSLETTER](#) - just came out. Posted to the website

-Representative Reports/Updates

- North Region: **Matt Trkula** –
- North Central Region: **Schuyler Kieley** - in contact with new programs in Prince William Co. In correspondence they are looking to start assessments in the 26/27 school year, but conversations have been positive. **Schuyler is also going to connect Hart with the head of music in PWCPS.**
- North East Region: **Chaz Aguado** –
April 15. Chaz will register the event with VMEA.
Chaz confirms NE region will combine with NC region for a single assessment.
- South East Region: **Nathan Belch** –
Nov 18 Tidewater Guitar Orchestra/Festival including Nathan's school and a couple additional.
Jan. 8 regional ensemble.
- Central Region: **Zach Wood** –
Nov. 8 regional ensemble. No update regarding assessment.
- South Central Region: **Michael Havens** – out
This region has more students auditioning for AVGE than ever before.
- Middle School: **Aaron Kunk** - District 16 – **regional m.s. ensemble** currently 3/6/26 and 3/7/26. Alan Hirsh conductor. Possibly 3/13 for all-district ensemble event, if joining with HS **Aaron is coordinating appropriate rehearsal space as needed.**

-Website

-[LINKED HERE!!](#) send any concerns/questions/suggestions to Aaron Kunk

-Graded Repertoire Updates (Hart Wells/Aaron Kunk)

-Around 600 individual titles are scored. Several more have been submitted the past several weeks. Plan for a fall pow-wow?

-A Look Ahead - things to consider

- VMEA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is looking for a VGDA committee member. Let me know if you are interested or if you know anyone who might be good for the role.
- Do we want to consider instituting a school participation fee for VGDA? On-going discussion
- AVGE and MS-AVGE should have a “Host” role involved, as it ties into the conference. Let me explain...

-Resources - feel free to add/suggest any new ones you have come across...

-Good of the Cause

Nafme Town Hall coming up on Sept. 29

Zach offers to work on developing an adjudicator list.

Parking Lot:

Please add items here for comments, concerns or things to discuss in a future meeting:

Nathan moves to end the meeting. Kevin 2nds. Motion passes, and meeting adjourns at 9:13 p.m.