



President's Committee Meeting

March 9th, 2026 - 8:00 pm

Meet Link - [Zoom Meet Link!!](#)

- Call To Order - Hart Wells, President

- Roll Call

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



-Approval of the February Minutes - [February Meet Minutes](#) Thank you, Chris. Kevin moves to approve. Nathan seconds. Group approves, and minutes pass.

**-Treasurer's Report (Kathy) - Updates from Kathy...
\$3,996.15 balance.**

\$26.50 came in from Acoustic Coffee.

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

-April 13th

-May 11th

-June 1st (Monday after VMEA Executive Council Meeting)

-AVGE/Conference

- We are back in Richmond next year. [VMEA Conference Info Link!!](#)
- March 1 - performance applications go live on the website. Applications will close May 1st. I have not seen them live yet!! Reach out to folks/programs you feel may consider and BE ACCEPTED to perform.
- Hotel Reservations are active. AVGE will be hosted out of the Richmond Hilton Downtown. If you may have a high school student auditioning, don't reserve a room yet as you may need to chaperone, unless you want to...
- Session proposals are active, and submissions will be open until May 1
Hart anticipates we will have four sessions. Hart encourages all to keep our ears open for presenters/sessions.

We also hope to have a guitar ensemble performance. Consider if your ensemble (next year's ensemble) could be a consideration.

- AVGE guest conductor - Alan Hirsh
 - Audition materials - Dunlap, myself, and Hirsh will confirm ensemble excerpts later this week. We aim to post before the end of March. Rochester Scottish is the set piece. Looks to have excerpts in drop D.
 - Should we conduct the entire audition in drop D? Including scale? Three-octave D Major scale?
Group agrees that the scale should probably be a 3 octave D scale.

Alan is planning Michael Hedges Suite.

- Middle School AVGE - guest conductor is Dr. Kami Rowan
 - Guest conductor - \$1200 plus hotel for Friday Night.

- Audition materials - It will simulate HSAVGE - required scale (two octave), solo piece/excerpt, two of four ensemble excerpts, and sight reading. **We are waiting to hear from Kami about excerpt suggestions.** Sight-Reading would be level 1 Sight Reading Factory. **Zach recommends adding some dynamic element. Schuyler and Kathy recommend adding some element to distinguished more advanced and attentive readers. Matt and Schuyler recommend adding a rest. Kathy recommends adding a pair of 8th notes.**
- We are still waiting to confirm ensemble excerpts and solo requirements. Do we need to vote on it, or do you trust us?

Kami needs to be informed of her schedule and our proposed compensation and accommodations provided.

- No MS chaperones. Teachers should attend if possible. Families are required to book rooms. Preference is to book through VGDA but this depends on outcome of hotel feedback. **The hotel may require later check in.**
- One meal included - Dinner Friday Night. No social component.
- Quota system - each region gets FOUR (4) seats in the ensemble. Based on audition scores, those four seats are filled. Next 16 remaining students are invited based on top remaining scores throughout the state. Any unfilled seats by a region are given back to the remaining top scoring students. **A procedural decision must be made to determine how to handle honoring a quota system while fielding concerns that grossly underqualified students aren't added strictly because of the quota system. Kevin suggests that the quota concept remain an internal and private approach to accepting auditionees where VGDA leadership can maintain discretion as appropriate.**
- We can schedule the MSAVGE Concert for either 11:00 a.m. or 12:00 p.m. on Saturday. Do we have a preference? I think 12:00 p.m. as they only have two days of rehearsal.
Hart moves to set performance at 11:00 a.m. Schuyler seconds. Aaron, Mike, and Zach prefer Noon. Seven votes for 11:00 a.m., and majority rules.

-Elections

- **President-Elect - nomination has been made in support of Aaron Kunk. No other nominations have been received.**
- **Secretary - I am officially nominating Chris Cunningham for the office of Secretary, and he is willing to continue to serve. No other nominations have been received.**
- With Aaron being nominated for the office of President-Elect, we will also need to hold an election for the Middle School Rep for the Council. I do want to see more involvement from other parts of the Commonwealth. Please send me names of folks who may potentially be a good fit for this position. **Hart needs suggestions**

by March. 23.

[Adjudicator Training Video](#)

-Representative Reports/Updates

- Middle School: **Aaron Kunk** –
Dist. 16 assessment completed last weekend.
- South East Region: **Nathan Belch** –
Cinco de Mayo Concert. Newport News Guitar Festival.
- Central Region: **Zach Wood** –
Guitar assessment at the end of March.
- South Central Region: **Michael Havens** –
- North Region: **Matt Trkula** –
All District event will combine HS and MS. Bringing back sight reading to assessment.
- North Central Region: **Schuyler Kieley - How is the Tag Team Going???**
April 15. Four schools bringing two ensembles: Herndon, Lake Braddock, West Potomac, and Woodson. Also participating is Annandale, Falls Church, Justice, Robinson
- North East Region: **Chaz Aguado** -

-Website

[-LINKED HERE!!](#)

-A Look Ahead - things to consider

- VMEA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion - I will address this week. Aaron, Zach, or myself are willing to serve. I just have to reach out
- Updated information from Virginia DoE

2 HUGE Victories:

✓1. The Fine Arts Diploma seal has PASSED senate and house and is now awaiting the Governor's signature.

✗2. The class size bill which VMEA were trying to shut down was struck from the docket by the patron, meaning it has FAILED this session. We had a large response in opposition of this bill, and a large turnout to speak on Tuesday morning. No additional action in opposition is needed at this time.

- I have reached out to Steve Turner about a meeting/phone call to discuss the potential for VGDA to implement a school participation fee. This fee would be implemented help provide more economic stability for VGDA and provide our organization an opportunity to support other state guitar education endeavors. I am behind on this and will follow up in April meeting. Do we have a school dollar amount we are thinking? \$25.00?

Kathy recommends we wait to hear from Steve Turner regarding his fee recommendation.

- The Grading Committee is finished grading for this spring. We will look to host a grading retreat early in summer to clean up some of the back-burner pieces that were being shelved to prioritize assessment music. Aaron, Zach, and I will begin to formulate a more strict 26/27 scoring deadline to help the process be more efficient moving forward. More information to come. We do ask that you remind your teachers to be mindful and respectful of dates as we will look to enforce “submit by” dates. Failure to follow those guidelines could result in school/ensembles having to go “Comments Only” for assessment.

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

- NAFME Guitar Council has a Virtual Town Hall on Tuesday, March 24, 2026 from 8:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. EDT. You will have an opportunity to choose breakout rooms to specifically address your needs in the classroom.
- Teaching Guitar Workshops (TGW) celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2025. Classroom teachers, whether guitarists or non-guitarists, may take this 4-day intensive workshop for only \$299 at one of many locations. For an additional \$250, participants can earn 3 graduate credits. Both virtual and in-person workshops are available. For dates and locations go to <https://www.discoverguitar.com/tgw/>.
- **Guitar Teachers Newsletter - Bill Swick!**
- Contra-bass Substitute - <https://www.franknstrings.com/>

-Good of the Cause

Parking Lot:

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

Matt D. moves to adjourn. Matt T. seconds. Meeting adjourns at 9:22 p.m.