

ACDA Jr High/Middle School National Report Summary 2008-2009

Tom Shelton, National R&S Chair

National R&S Activities

National ACDA Conference – Oklahoma City: March 3 – 7, 2009

- Organized the Junior High Honor Choir
 - Conductor, Judy Bowers
 - Choir Coordinators: Marily Berrie and Jack Idenden
- Facilitated the Commissioned Piece for the choir honoring the 50th Anniversary of ACDA
 - Commissioned composer: Z. Randall Stroope
- Presided over Interest Sessions for the Junior High/Middle School R&S Area
 - Assisted with selecting sessions for the National Conference
- Organized listening committee for the National Junior High Honor Choir, October 17-19, 2008, at National Office in Oklahoma City
- Worked with the Division Chairs to Organize the Junior High/Middle School Music Reading Session
- Organized the Junior High/Middle School Roundtable
 - Focused on the standards and vision for ACDA
- Contacted State R&S Chairs to help with the Roundtable Session

National ACDA Meetings

- Attended National Leadership meeting in Oklahoma City - July 9-12, 2008
- Attended and organized Listening Committee for the National Honor Choir: October 17-18-19, 2008
 - While in OKC, toured the Junior High Honor Choir facilities for the Conference
- Attended the National ACDA Conference in Oklahoma City: March 3 – 7, 2009

Other ACDA Events

- Attended North Carolina ACDA Conference in Greensboro, NC: October 10-11, 2008
- Conducted Elementary & Middle School Choral Festivals in North Carolina, Kansas, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina
- Attended Southern Division Conference Planning Meeting: May 28-30, 2009

Written Materials

- Two articles were submitted for the *Choral Journal*
 - **“Celebrate Handel! 2009 Marks the 250th Anniversary of his Death”** by Maribeth Yoder-White, Ph.D., and Tom Shelton
 - **“A Case for At-Risk Students in the Middle School/Junior High Choral Ensemble”** by Dr. Michael Murphy

Ongoing National R&S Projects

- The “grassroots” application of leadership from the bottom up; seeking input from ALL state chairs to make decisions regarding the Junior High/Middle School R&S area.
- “Bridging the Communication Gap” – working to improve communication from Junior High/Middle School Choral Directors to the State Chairs to the Division Chairs to the National Chair.
- Continued advocacy for giving R&S Chairs (Division & State) the opportunity to have input in decisions regarding their area.
- Educating State Chairs on their responsibilities as State R&S Chair, and helping create ways to strengthen the Junior High/Middle School R&S Area in their state.
- Updating the website; adding resources that will be helpful to choral directors
- Collected data from the National Roundtable regarding the standards for our area. Worked with Gretchen Harrison (Incoming National R&S Chair) to create the document.
- Communicating with Middle School/Jr High Choral Conductors about the updated website. Notes from our roundtable will be put on the website; choral directors that attended the roundtable will be directed to go to the website for resources, and to review information from the meeting.
- Posting the National Jr High/Middle School Report on the web page, allowing choral directors to see what events are happening in other states.

Comments of National R&S Chair:

This has been an exciting year. An enormous amount of time went into the planning, organization, and execution of the National ACDA Conference in Oklahoma City. The National Honor Choir was a huge success. Judy Bowers prepared a wonderful concert and was terrific working with the kids. The Roundtable provided an opportunity for choral directors to communicate and exchange ideas, as well as help shape the Standards document for our R&S area.

Interest Sessions and Music Reading Sessions were well received. The Division Chairs have been invaluable in the process of putting everything together. They are organized and have been excellent communicators.

The honor choir would not have been successful without the leadership of Jack Idendem and Marily Berrie. They did a FANTASTIC job keeping everything together and in order. Jerry McCoy, National President-Elect and Conference Chairperson, listened to our needs and requests and worked to make necessary changes. I am indebted to him for his assistance and for making decisions based on what would be best for the singers. Nancy Cox, National R&S Chair and Honor Choir Chair for the Conference, saved the day. She is marvelous and we are all thankful for her experience and expertise. We would not have made it through the MANY ordeals had it not been for her wisdom and leadership. I worked very closely with Amy Blosser, National High School R&S Chair, as we strived to align the processes for our choirs, in an attempt to make it easier for choral directors with students participating in both choirs. An enormous thank you to Amy!

With the downturn of the economy, only one division chair was able to attend the National Conference. The upside of this situation, was that many State R&S Chairs jumped in to help with the reading session and roundtable. Thank you to Cara Sedberry (Southwestern Division), Ellen Forslund (MT), Gretchen Harrison (KS), Camille Jones (SC), Linda Lovaas (CA), Paul Olson (IA), and LaJuana Warner (AR) for their assistance!

Communication between Division and State R&S Chairs continues to be problematic. Hopefully the updated website capabilities will help bridge this gap. Tim Sharp has done an AMAZING job as Executive Director of ACDA. With his leadership, we are finally catching up with the rest of the world – technologically speaking. This is going to make a huge difference, not only with communication, but with readily available resources on the website.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being the National Chairperson for Middle School/Junior High Choirs the past two years. As I read the Division and State Reports, it is exciting to see the musical opportunities for our singers all over the United States. I am in awe of the passion and dedication of the Choral Directors in our R&S Area, as we all strive to make a difference in the lives of our students.

I have worked closely with Gretchen Harrison over the past month as she prepares to take over as the National Chair. She will be incredible and I look forward to seeing our area grow under her leadership.

CENTRAL DIVISION

Marie Palmer, Division R&S Chair

STATES: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio

No Report Submitted

EASTERN DIVISION

Lon Beery, Division R&S Chair

STATES: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland/District of Columbia, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont

R&S Activities

1. Helped in preliminary planning of the "Men in the Middle" session at the 2010 Convention. Surveyed several directors in order to select clinician.
2. Attended the Eastern Division Board meeting in Philadelphia.
3. Personally invited 15 middle school choral directors from NY who had records of exemplary choirs to submit CDs for the 2010 convention.
4. Proposed including a Resource Room at the 2010 Convention to include notebooks of recommended music. A number of other R & S Chairs have signed on to provide materials for the room.
5. Wrote an article for the Troubadour on middle school classroom management called "Middle Management."
6. Submitted an article to the Choral Journal on selecting appropriate choral literature for middle school male choruses. It was accepted for publication in November, 2009.
7. Conducted the Connecticut Middle School Honors Choir at the CT ACDA Conference.

Ongoing Projects

1. Preparing a list of choral literature in various voicings for the Eastern Division Webpage.
2. Preparing notebooks of recommended choral literature for middle school choirs for the 2010 Eastern Division Resource Room.

NORTH CENTRAL DIVISION

Sarah Marohl, Division R&S Chair

STATES: Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin

Division R&S Activities

- The R&S Chair traveled to Oklahoma City in October for the Middle Level listening session for the National Honor Choir.
- The R&S Chair has attended several meetings in the Twin Cities area to assist with planning for the 2010 Regional Convention.
- The R&S will present and participate at the 2010 Convention.
- Submitted reports for the Melisma, the NC ACDA publication.
- Attended the ND and MN state conventions.

Ongoing Division R&S Projects

- 1 Will be a member of the listening committee for the NC-ACDA 2010 Jr. High Honor Choir in July of 2009.
- 2 Continue to prepare for the 2010 Convention.
- 3 Communication with the state chairs.
- 4 Asking the State Chairpersons to attend the 2010 Convention.

Comments of Division R&S Chair:

I feel much more connected to the organization of ACDA this year. Attending the listening sessions in Oklahoma City was one of the highlights of my year. Meeting everyone and putting faces to names was an encouraging experience. I've tried to take the suggestions of the ND-ACDA President to heart in my own programming...."A Community That Sings". I hope to attend more state conventions in the next year.

IOWA

Lori Nielsen, State R&S Chair

State R&S Activities

- 1 The R & S chair was responsible for the reading sessions at the 2008 ICDA summer symposium. Music was selected for sixth – eighth grade voicings and difficulties. New choral works were presented as well as songs that seasoned music instructors have found success in their choral programs.
- 2 The Iowa R & S committee compiled various examples of instructional music documents to share with new teachers as they start teaching in their first year. The documents are copied and put in a book to give to new and first year teachers at the summer convention.
- 3 The twenty-second annual Opus Honor Choir festival was held on November 20, 2008 at C. Y. Stephens auditorium in Ames.

- 4 ICDA South Central Division sponsored the seventh and eighth grade honor choir on March 3, 2009 at Dallas Center Grimes.
- 5 ICDA South Central Division sponsored the fifth and sixth grade honor choir on April 7, 2009 at Newton.
- 6 Many non-ACDA local middle school show choir contests, large and small group contests and seasonal contests were well presented throughout the state.
- 7 Lori Nielsen wrote an article for the Sounding Board promoting quality middle level music for choral directors to view.

Ongoing State R&S Projects

Bob Youngquist has been responsible for organizing the reading session project for the summer convention. A template was created in January 2008 for R & S chairs to organize their successful songs for other teachers to view.

Comments of State R&S Chair:

This is my second year chairing the Jr. High/Middle School R & S for the state of Iowa. I have found how important it is to select quality music from the publishers. It is nice having complete octavos to sing through when sorting the music. Hopefully teachers will enjoy the music I've selected for the state convention. All the music has been successfully used in my choirs.

MINNESOTA

Sue Gilsdorf, State R&S Chair

State R&S Activities

- Submitted verbal state report at state board meeting in January.
- Selected music for the Middle Level reading session for Summer Dialogue.
- Present for the Middle Level reading session for Summer Dialogue.
- Contributed two written articles to the MN publication "Star of the North".
- Attended MN Summer Dialogue at Concordia College in Moorhead in August and National Convention in March.

Ongoing State R&S Projects

- Coordinating and co-chairing the NC-ACDA Middle Level Honor Choir for the Minneapolis convention.
- Have asked Region R&S to be on listening committee.
- Will be present for the 2010 Convention.

NEBRASKA

Jodie Liess, State R&S Chair

State R&S Activities

The Nebraska Choral Directors offer two specific opportunities for 7th, 8th and 9th grade students through the middle school/junior high R & S chair. These events are called "SINGING YOUTH OF NEBRASKA." They are opposite years of the "SING AROUND NEBRASKA" offerings.

On odd years (2005, 2007, etc.) a Singing Youth of Nebraska Festival is offered. Each teacher may send up to 10 students to a site. These choirs are usually held the last or second to last Saturday in February. There are a number of sites across the state. In the past, we have had from 5-7 sites. The students are chosen at the discretion of the director of the school. We do try and keep an SATB balance, but our goal is to continue to offer many great opportunities for young adults to sing. The only limitation to a site size is the size of the gym or auditorium of the site school. We utilize talented directors from across the state to direct a festival choir at a site usually out of their own schools area. A director does not need to belong to the Nebraska Choral Directors to have students participate. On even years an honor choir is offered. Teachers may send tapes or CDs of up to 12 of their top students. The auditions consist of singing "AMERICA" a cappella and singing a short selection from one of the honor choir pieces. We strive to have nationally known clinicians from around the country come and work with our young people. The Honor Choir is usually held the second to last Saturday in January.

NORTH DAKOTA

Desiree Bondley, State R&S Chair

State R&S Activities

- R&S Committee planning for State Convention/ Honor Choir
- ND Junior High/Middle School Honor Choirs (in conjunction with NDACDA convention)
- Wrote article for NDACDA Chorister (ND state newsletter)

Ongoing State R&S Projects

Several members and I are going to meet as a committee over the summer to organize and divide up the responsibilities of the 2010 NDACDA Honor Choirs. I believe this meeting will improve the level of communication between all people involved in planning the Honor Choirs.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Chuck Canaan, State R&S Chair

State R&S Activities

ACDA sponsored or co-sponsored events outside of State Convention

- SD Junior Honor Choir (in conjunction with Winter Convention)
- Involvement in state, division or national Conventions
- Reading session at Winter State Convention

Non ACDA activities

- Singing Boys of Sioux Falls Summer Camp to be held July 14-17; an annual singing summer camp for boys grade 3-8

Written materials

- It Don't Mean a Thing if it Ain't Got That TONE! An article highlighting the importance of developing beautiful tone in adolescent singers. The article lists specific techniques and repertoire that have proven effective.
- High Five for MS/JH

WISCONSIN

Beth Herrendeen Smith, State R&S Chair

State R&S Activities

Continued contact with Region R&S

New to the position and to ACDA

The State R&S chairperson of Wisconsin has resigned and the state has just recently appointed a new chairperson.

The 2010 Regional Convention occurs at the same time as the district's solo and ensemble festival; we are discussing the dates at the next district meeting.

Ongoing State R&S Projects

Would like to move the districts solo and ensemble festival dates to allow attendance at the 2010 NC-ACDA convention in Minneapolis.

NORTHWESTERN DIVISION

Carrie Rice, Division R&S Chair

STATES: Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming

Activities & Projects

R&S Activities: Nothing specific at this time.

Ongoing Projects

I am assisting with the organization of the NWACDA Middle School/Junior High Honor Choir with Stacy Winn for the 2010 Northwestern convention. I will also be in charge of the Honor Choir registration area throughout that convention

OREGON

Erika Lockwood, State R&S Chair

R&S Activities

- Attended OR ACDA board meeting on Jan. 24.
- Wrote article for Oregon Choral Focus, spring 2009 edition, called "Let's Continue Sharing".
- Started Facebook group, Oregon Middle School Choral Directors.
- Putting together a group of male singers, age 10-15, for our summer workshop with John Cooksey.
- Planning a middle level interest session for summer workshop, as well as a JH/MS reading session.
- Working with the Men's Choir R&S Chair to incorporate a middle level men's choir for our all-state conference in 2010.
- Opening a new middle school in my district; I've planned the room needs and furnishings, and will soon begin choosing literature for the library.

Ongoing Projects

Planning for ORACDA summer workshop, working with OMEA to coordinate men's honor choir, choosing literature for reading sessions and new library.

WASHINGTON

Dawn McCormick, State R&S Chair

R&S Activities

- MS/JH email list - sharing ideas for repertoire and classroom management
- Round table at Summer Institute
- Provide presenters for Summer Institute MS/JH Reading Session
- Help organize Summer Institute
- Recruit choral directors at regional contests
- Attend NW conference (last year)

WYOMING

Heather Blackwell, State R&S Chair

R&S Activities

Middle school students from around the state participated in the Honor Choir for 5th-8th grades in June 2008.

Ongoing Projects

Repertoire lists for Middle School/Jr. High Choirs of all voicings.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Cristy T. Ray, State R&S Chair

STATES: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia

R&S Activities

I was unable to attend the National Conference, but I understand it was a great success in the Middle School/Jr. High area. At our State convention this summer we will offer a Middle School Honor Choir.

The GMEA conference hosts an ACDA reading session each year at the Choral All State Event. An ACDA luncheon is also held at the GMEA Conference.

I was not requested to write any articles this year, and did not submit any for publication.

ALABAMA

Jeannie Bubbett, State R&S Chair

R&S Activities

July 2008 - Alabama ACDA Choral Celebration

*offered reading session for Junior High All-State and ACDA Young Voices Festival

*offered information on ACDA Young Voices Festival to new teachers

May 2008 - Alabama ACDA Young Voices Festival

*information was sent to state membership, clinicians were hired, music selected, etc

*updated website for ACDA Young Voices - www.alabamayvf.org

Written Materials

*R&S Chair updated literature notebooks for all voicings appropriate for middle level to be perused by teachers at state workshop. Notebooks will also be available to check-out to choral directors.

Ongoing Projects

Committee strengths include Young Voices which generates a great amount of revenue and involves over 800 choral students from the state of

Alabama. This festival has caused a great increase in state membership.

GEORGIA

Rachel Green, State R&S Chair

R&S Activities

- Spring, 2008 GA ACDA newsletter article, "Beginning Part Singing in Middle School"
- Coordinated 2008 GA ACDA Summer Convention Middle School Honor Chorus directed by Tom Yackley
- Presented Middle School Reading packet at 2009 GMEA Allstate Chorus for choral directors

Ongoing Projects

Researching music to present middle school reading packet for GA ACDA summer conference

MISSISSIPPI

Carrie Owens, State R&S Chair

R&S Activities

None. Jr. High activities are done through Mississippi's Chapter of MENC

SOUTH CAROLINA

Camille Jones, State R&S Chair

2008 Fall Convocation - Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC
2 Jr. High Choirs

SSA (Dr. Lillian Quackenbush - Columbia College - Conductor)
80 Choir members - all female

SATB (Patrick Freer - Georgia State University - Conductor)
110 Choir members - male (unchanged and changed voices)/female

22 South Carolina Schools participating

Auditions chosen by tape or CD recordings sent in by March 2008

Adjudicated by participating teachers in April

Notification was sent by May 1

\$50 registration fee paid per student - covers registration, tshirt, music packet, reh CD, shipping

TENNESSEE

Lisa Bitzas, State R&S Chair

State R&S Activities

The 2009 TN ACDA Summer Conference will feature Rodney Eichenberger as the conference clinician. The summer conference schedule will be filled with interest sessions, roundtable discussions, music repertoire reading sessions, and sessions with the clinician.

The 2010 Convention of the Southern Division of ACDA will be held March 10-13 in Memphis, TN.

Ongoing State R&S Projects

To effectively communicate with middle and junior high school directors across the state of Tennessee.

VIRGINIA

Rhonda Miller, State R&S Chair

State R&S Activities

- Organized the Virginia Middle School Honor Choir involving 155 participants.
- Wrote article for the Virginia ACDA newsletter, "Beyond 'Amazing Grace'; Choosing Audition Repertoire."
- Helped to organize and lead Middle School Reading Session at the Voices United Summer Conference for ACDA of VA, MD, DC and DEL
- Staffed ACDA information booth at VMEA convention, November, 2008, Hot Springs, VA

Ongoing State R&S Projects

To communicate with middle level choral directors across the state of Virginia to provide support and encourage participation in statewide ACDA events.

Comments of State R&S Chair:

The level of participation in the Virginia Middle School Honor choir has increased significantly again this year, involving 603 auditions and 155 students selected by audition to participate in the choir. Having such large participation in the honor choir has involved students and teachers from all over the state and has helped to keep the level of choral excellence very high here in Virginia.

WEST VIRGINIA

Julie Watkins, State R&S Chair

In spite of the harsh winter weather, the Jr. High/Middle School Choir boasted over 200 members again this year. Dr. Terry Barham, from University of Kansas, brought energy and knowledge as he worked with some of the most vocally talented middle school students in West Virginia. The students, in turn, thoroughly enjoyed and learned from the concepts Dr. Barham brought to them. The three days of the WV ACDA conference culminated on Saturday, January 31 with a performance at the beautiful Clay Center in Charleston. It was a fantastic opportunity for the students and teachers involved. Many thanks to all those who made it possible, especially to the dedicated students!

SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION

Cara Sedberry, Division R&S Chair

STATES: Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas

R&S Activities

- *Choral Journal Publication "The Choir Wants YOU!" Recruitment for the Jr. High/Middle School Choral Program
- *Literature selection/submission for National Reading Session
- *SWACDA made up majority of participants in reading session and roundtables and National Convention
- *Common Times Publications "Put your Money Where Your Mouth Is" Text and Jr High Boys
- *National Reading Session Director - Helped to find Directors to participate in this event
- *Presided over Jr/Middle Interest Session at National Reading Session
- *NWArkansas Choral Directors Association Distinguished Director of the Year 07-08 and 08-09
- *NWA Choral Directors Interscholastic events which are under the umbrella of AAA which governs all interscholastic activities in our state - Regional and State Level events
- *National Honor Choir Participants (5 out of the 8 from AR)

Ongoing Projects

Continuation of work with National and Regional Chairs for better participation,

communication and involvement.
Possibility of Jr/Middle Blog at state and Regional level

KANSAS

Gretchen Harrison, State R&S Chair

R&S Activities

1. Contributed to state convention reading sessions (2008 KCDA, 2009 KMEA)
2. Involved in planning for the summer 2009 KCDA convention
3. Participated in Planning meetings
4. Participated in JH/MS reading session at National Convention
5. Participated in JH/MS round table discussion at National Convention
6. Articles appeared in several issues of the "Choral Range" which is the award-winning newsletter for the Kansas chapter of ACDA.
7. Presented a seminar at KMEA called "Moving from Shock and Surprise to Awe and Wonder: A Survival Guide for Teaching Choir for the non-Choral Expert".
This was a session designed to give confidence to band directors who've been assigned a section of choir in light of the tightening school funding.
8. Serving as a mentor in my school district for new educators (one is choral; the other is teaches home ec)
9. I am the JH Choral Facilitator for my school district. I plan choral inservices for the JH choral staff.

Ongoing Projects

Planning simultaneous interest sessions for the KCDA Summer 2009 Convention.
Reading session construction
Planning to help create a JH/MS blog area on our KCDA website so all KS ACDA JH/MS teachers can be connected.
Supporting and encouraging KS JH/MS choral music educators.

WESTERN DIVISION

Peg Hutson, Division R&S Chair

STATES: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Utah

R&S Activities

- 1) Ongoing answering of emails, phone calls, and letters from ACDA members and interested directors
- 2) Spoke to various choral director groups (TKMEA, MSCF) regarding growing local leaders for middle school choral directors
- 3) Traveled to OK with Committee leaders who listened to CDs for MS Honor Choir acceptance
- 4) Continued to sponsor Middle School activities such as REAL MEN SING throughout our area

- 5) Mentored college students who are declared choral music students interested in the Middle School student
- 6) Wrote article for Choral Journal on Growing Local Leaders - May 2008
- 7) Hosted Choral Conducting clinics for new directors and college students - Dr. Anna Hamre taught classes
- 8) Sponsored Pre-Festival choral clinic - CA
- 9) Adjudicated and Cliniced choral festivals - CA
- 10) Had students perform in Honor Choir
- 11) Commissioned song for REAL MEN SING! - Brothers In Song by Lon Beery

Ongoing Projects

Middle School Choral Forum (MSCF) has the support of Division President - Dean Semple. He has requested that I continue with the monthly meetings, as networking at the local level builds strong leaders for choral music.

Concern - There is no R&S for Jr Hi/MS in Nevada, which is one of my areas. I have contacted NV president, David Weiller, and have offered my assistance. I have also provided him with the name of a young gentleman who has expressed an interest in the position, and has come highly recommended by several area reps. I would like to help Prof. Weiller in any way I can to make his ACDA state active and vibrant.