

SMW Presto Inc.
General Meeting Minutes
Sept. 8, 2005, 7:00 p.m.

This first meeting of the 2005-06 school year was called to order by President Reid Hillmer, who reminded all present that the purpose of the PRESTO organization was to encourage and maintain an enthusiastic interest in the Shawnee Mission West orchestra and to support the director, Curtis Mulvenon, with administrative tasks as well as fundraising for the benefit of group.

Minutes from the May 9, 2005 meeting were accepted as written.

The Treasurer's report listed current balances as follows:

Checking: \$862.49

Savings: \$3585.91

Certificate of Deposit: \$2489.51.

The report was accepted as written.

Chair Announcements

Reid discussed the positive feedback he had received about the 2005 Spring Banquet and that many had commented on the tasty BBQ menu choice. The group discussed the possibility of looking for a cheaper caterer for this year so that ticket sales would cover the cost of the meal.

Reid also discussed the 2005-06 Back-to-School Orchestra Picnic held at Shawnee Mission Park on Sunday evening August 14. PRESTO paid for the hot dogs/buns; side dishes, dessert and pop were provided by the attending members. Door prizes as well as game prizes were awarded. REW Band and Orchestra donated approximately \$50 in prizes; PRESTO funds paid for a few additional prizes. A PRESTO membership table helped encourage several families to join the organization that evening.

Orchestra T-shirts for this year with the slogan "Get off my Bach!" will be ordered soon. Parents and students are encouraged to buy a T-shirt. A large quantity of extra shirts will not be ordered. A few additional shirts will be ordered with the extra T-shirt money collected.

Director's Report

Curtis Mulvenon discussed leading an orchestra trip in Spring 2007. He expressed his desire that the trip be of educational value, allowing the students to be judged by a professional in addition to receiving comments, criticism and advice from a well-known symphony conductor. He explained the need for near 100% participation for such a trip to be successful and said he had found several organizations that would coordinate that type of trip for a "reasonable cost." (A couple hundred plus airfare instead of the \$2000+ trip to London undertaken by the SMWest Marching Band.) In the future, Curtis would like to offer a trip approximately every three years, but the schedule of this type of trip would depend greatly on the skill level of the current orchestra members.

Curtis also told the group that he will be purchasing musical technique books for the students to use in class.

Standing Committees

Chaperone: Judy Boyd volunteered to head this committee. Curtis wants to take the orchestra to a KC Symphony open rehearsal in October or November.

Communication: Rick and Tammy Karsten requested digital pictures for the website, www.prestowest.org. Also it was noted that the display case in the front hallway is now 100% Orchestra. The key is kept in the school office.

Membership: Roger and Julie Lawrence reported currently nearly 50 families are members of PRESTO. A current roster was handed out to members present for the meeting. A future roster will break down students by grade level. This membership is greater than last year's total of 28 families.

Uniforms: Angie Shelton reported Michelle Kring has volunteered to chair this committee. Uniform fittings during freshmen registration caught a majority of the freshmen. This year fittings during registration were directed to primarily freshmen. Uniform pick up during registration was not conducted for upperclassmen because of the poor showing the previous year. It was reported that a couple more tux coats must be ordered because we do not have a size in stock to fit two freshmen boys. The purchase of additional garment bags was discussed by the group. Approximately 50 formal dress garment bags were found in the closet during clean-out; no garment bags were found for boys' tuxedos. It was decided that such a purchase would help protect the orchestra uniforms and make it easier for students to safely and cleanly get uniforms to school for mid-day concerts as well as final uniform check-in.

Ways & Means: Dave and Beth Cicha discussed the manpower needed for the Homecoming football concession stand, Oct. 14. The decision was made not to have multiple "nickel and dime" fundraisers such as cookie dough, trash bags, and candy bars, but to begin to establish a tradition of charging admission for the Spring Invitational Concert, calling it the Collage Concert. The group felt that if parents were aware of this intention, they would be willing to "dig deep" and make one-time contributions during this concert. With this new thrust in Ways & Means, the Cichas explained that refreshments would only be served at the December concert and the Collage Concert and that there would not be a charge for refreshments at those events.

Old Business

A letter from Alex Bodine, 2005 Orchestra Scholarship Recipient, was read thanking the organization for the \$500 scholarship and its overall support of the West Orchestra.

New Business

After a line-by-line discussion of the budget, including a total for the purchase of additional uniforms and new garment bags imprinted with a SMWest Orchestra logo, a motion to accept the proposed PRESTO budget was made by Judy Boyd and seconded by Robb Dudek. Motion carried. Budget on file.

Meeting adjourned. The next PRESTO meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 4, in room 151 at SMWest.

Respectfully submitted,
Angie Shelton, Secretary

Note: Meeting minutes for the current school year are posted on the internet at www.prestowest.org.