

# YCMEA Minutes- Saturday, May 17, 2025

## **Call to Order: 10:06 am**

**Present:** Jenny Thompson, president, Jose Ramos, vice-president; Chris Wright, treasurer, Melanie Lynch, secretary, Kayla Solorio, Randy Wright, Shannon Bates, Megan O'Brien, Eloisa Arviso, Brandon Coz

## **Approval of Minutes-**

Jose Ramos moves to approve the minutes from the last meeting, Kayla Solorio seconds, passed unanimously

## **Treasurer's Report-**

Balances:

Checking Account-\$5,987.59 (after paying for food, scholarship, etc)

Main savings (Business)- \$1,406.11 (donations from DBF and CoS went in here)

Second Savings (Ernest Ortega)- \$2,366.44 (after paying for Curry Camp Scholarship)

Recent Cash donations:

Desert Band Festival (both days)- \$738

Celebration of Strings- \$288.15

Deposit from Snacks for Desert Band Festival-

Thursday- \$81.25

Friday- \$721.47

Snacks cost a little under \$200 to purchase.

We started taking electronic donations through Square prior to our 2 largest festivals (Celebration of Strings and Desert Band Festival)

Square Donations:

Celebration of Strings- \$50

Desert Band Festival Day 1- \$160

Desert Band Festival Day 2- \$125

Donation made at a separate time- \$40

Total: \$375

Missing Payment from festivals:

Yuma Catholic owes at total of \$35 for Solo and Ensemble for 2 solos and YCMEA membership fee

Fourth Avenue Junior High School still owes for Celebration of Strings and Desert Band Festival as well as the membership fee.

## **Savings accounts are used for scholarships.**

Large expenditures:

There were no large expenditures.

Dues are \$25 at the beginning of each year. \$15 of this goes towards the costs of 501c3 or other projects. Dues can be paid separately or can be added on any festival registration. In order to register for any event or festival, you will need to also be a member of the organization.

Any checks should be made out to YCMEA.

Please send dues, registration forms, and payments to:

Chris Wright  
2980 S. Rainbow Ave  
Yuma, AZ 85365

## **Old Business**

### **Celebration of Strings**

1. One school pulled out from the festival as well as several students who did not show up- reminder that registration fees still have to be paid as we have to pay the cafeteria and other expenses.
2. The AWC Chamber Orchestra performed for the students.
  - a. This was a great opportunity for recruiting and for our students to hear higher level musicians
3. Everything went well

### **Desert Band Festival**

1. Over 400 performers combined between the two days..
2. The Yuma Big Band performed on Thursday, 5Axes on Friday
  - a. Students really enjoyed both performances.
3. Kayla Solorio took over the elementary for Thursday as another director had a change of schedule. Chris Wright did Friday, Randy Wright and Sheryl Clifton conducted both days.
4. Randy said the students were very well prepared and well behaved
5. Directors agreed that the festival was very organized this year
6. Fourth Avenue was unable to provide snacks this year, so YCMEA purchased snacks and sold them during the break.
7. Snacks were sold in the entrance to the Gym/Cafeteria and this spot worked well especially with the restrooms right there.
  - a. Jenny wants to know what we should do with the snack money. Shawn suggests that we come up with a proposal for what we would like to purchase with the \$700 for snacks.
  - b. This expenditure will be discussed next school year.

8. We had great chaperones
9. We could bring a bigger table or an additional table to have more points of sale for snacks.
10. We might need a new location for next year.
  - a. Randy suggests the board meets with Duane Sheppard and asks about a solution.
  - b. Someone will reach out to set a meeting
11. Jenny proposes a 15 minute game before dinner or something to get their energy out.
12. Chaperones are needed for restrooms
13. Eloisa asked about using City facilities
  - a. It would be a great idea, but we need 3 large spaces and they would likely charge.

### **End of the Year Social**

1. Only 4 people showed up
2. We paid \$36 for the space plus costs for water or whatever is purchased

### **Scholarships**

1. All scholarship recipients have been registered for camp.
2. All additional paperwork has also been submitted
3. Certificates were given to students at their end of the year concert.
4. Jose has a gas card for a group who carpools.

### **New Business**

1. Jenny has been talking to VP of JH/Elementary for ABODA
  - a. He would like to have some rural festivals and Yuma is on the list
  - b. They would like to host a festival in Yuma on March 19th
    - i. We will need a high school auditorium and facilities to make this happen.
  - c. ABODA would take care of most of the logistics.
  - d. We need a minimum of 6 groups needed to perform; this is how many groups performed at large group this year.
  - e. This festival would replace large group festival.
2. We should send out a message to directors that they do not need to pay the YCMEA membership fee prior to coming to the meetings and there is no pressure to take on tasks.
3. Randy suggests we look into grants to help with costs of some of the festivals- transportation, food, etc.
4. 60 Minutes to Play provides food for field trips.

5. Randy- Ron Snowbarger passed away in October. A lot of music was brought to the meeting. Leftovers will go to the college.
6. There is still no Yuma High Band Director, Jose is filling in for marching band for now..
7. Gila Ridge got a new Director- Dr. Allyson Lawson
8. Brandon- Yuma Catholic went Heritage festival in Anaheim and received a Gold Rating and Spirit Award
9. San Luis HS is still looking for a director as well
10. Somerton HS is starting a jazz program
11. Scholarship applications- for next year, make sure it's the parent's phone number, a place to mark if translator is needed
  - a. Randy still will come to schools to talk to the kids.
  - b. Scholarship award winners are going to work on a video to show students for next year.
12. Crane Summer Band Camp starts 6/2
13. District 1 Summer Music Camp starts 6/4

**Suggested Dates for Next year:**

- First meeting and social: August 16, 10 AM, Social start: 12:00 PM, Crane Middle School
- Honor Band Auditions: December 6th
- Light Parade: December 13th
- Scholarships
  - Applications go out in November
  - Due Date: January 16th
  - Committee will meet in January to select finalists
  - Early March audition date
- Festival of Excellence- February 28th, tour 5th
- ABODA Festival- March 19th
- Choir Festival- March 12th
- Solo and Ensemble- April 18th
- Celebration of Strings - May 1
- Desert Band Festival- May 7 and 8

We would like to have more events to support teachers. Share your ideas!

**Officers for next year:**

President- Melanie nominates Jenny, Chris Wright 2nds, Jenny accepts, approved unanimously  
Vice President- Melanie nominates Randy, Chris 2nds, Randy accepts, approved unanimously  
Treasurer- Jenny nominates Chris, Kayla 2nds, Chris accepts, approved unanimously  
Secretary- Randy nominates Melanie, Kayla seconds, Melanie accepts, approved unanimously

Jenny will take care of the paperwork to change over the board on our non-profit

Christine Wright moves to change our bank to Washington Federal as they are open later in the day to allow for transactions. Melanie seconds the motion. Motion approved unanimously

Meeting adjourned 11:42 AM.

Next Meeting: August 16, 2025, 10:00 AM, Crane Middle School