



PHI BETA MU ETA CHAPTER - TENNESSEE

Meeting Minutes

Gaylord Opryland Hotel – Nashville, TN

April 11 & 12, 2025

The ETA Chapter Meeting was called to order by President Brother Lafe Cook.

The membership was asked to check in for attendance using the QR code and was reminded of the Fraternity's attendance policy.

Attendance at Meetings *(from PBM International Constitution)*

Members who are absent without acceptable excuse from two consecutive regular business meetings shall be dropped from active membership.

To be officially excused from attendance at a meeting, a member should present a written excuse to the Chapter Secretary/Treasurer before the meeting time. Such an excuse will be reviewed by the Chapter Secretary/Treasurer at the regular meeting. Members who have been dropped from active membership may petition the chapter for reinstatement.

In cases involving personal emergency, the Membership Committee may suspend the attendance requirement on a case-by-case basis so that a member may retain membership in spite of unavoidable absences.

For the ETA Chapter, two consecutive meeting would be two years. The two meetings we have at the TMEA conference each year is considered one meeting with a recess from one day to the next. A written excuse may be sent via email. Our Chapter has not been diligent about following this policy but is committed to do so moving forward.

Minutes and Financial Report were approved as emailed. Motion by Sister Jo Ann Hood and second by Brother Rick Murphy. POINT OF ORDER from Brother Randy Box. (Jo Ann, we know you are anxious be able to make a motion after being the Chapter Secretary/Treasurer for 35 awesome years, but you cannot make the motion to approve the minutes and financial report that you wrote!)

Motion by Brother Randy Box and second by Brother Rick Murphy.

OLD BUSINESS

Brother Justin Scott gave a membership committee report. There were nine nominations this year. Michael Stewarts was tabled until next year. Seven new members will be inducted on Saturday, April 12.

Nominations for 2026 will be submitted at Saturday's meeting. Membership nomination forms will be available at the meeting.

Chapter Awards: We had a very successful debut of three awards presented at the PBM/TBA Awards session at the TMEA conference. Congratulations to the following recipients:

Emerging Director Award – Jay Wilkerson, Collierville Middle School

Director of Note – Ben Channell, Lebanon High School

Outstanding Contributor – Music for All, Cam Stasa and Ben Zolkower

NEW BUSINESS

Brother Cook presented a motion of adding two additional awards for young directors. Understanding that young directors are leaving the profession at a high rate, we want to recognize and encourage the young directors in our state.

Motion from Brother Cook:

Create the “*Crescendo Award*” to recognize young band directors who are in their 1st to 5th year of teaching, who receive straight superior ratings at CPA (not distinction, just a superior from all judges).

2nd to the motion, Brother JR Baker

Motion passes

Motion from Brother Cook:

Create the “Go-Getter” Grant (working title). Phi Beta Mu will award a \$500 professional development Grant to 3 young band directors to use towards any PD experience of their choosing. The recipients would then give a panel discussion at the TMEA Conference about their experience and the importance of PD.

2nd to the motion, Sister Nola Jones

After some discussion, it was decided to table the motion until next year to allow board members Lisa Burden and Susan Waters to work out the details.

All-State Conductors Report – Brother JR Baker

2026 9-10 Band - Darrin Davis

11-12 Band - Not Contracted

2027 9-10 Band - Not Contracted

11-12 Band - Steve Davis

(Update: At the time of the meeting, the 2026 11-12 conductor had not been contracted. Since then, Eric Wilson has been confirmed)

Vote for All-State Conductors – After a review of voting procedures, the result is as follows:

9-10 Band

1. Elva Kay Lance – 37
2. Rebecca Phillips – 34
3. Clifton Grooms – 33/26
4. Amy Acklin – 33/21
5. Matt Temple – 32
6. Arris Golden – 28
7. Diane Koutsoulis – 15
8. Andrea Strauss – 13

11-12 Band

1. Rodney Dorsey – 41
2. Jamie Nix – 39
3. Jason Fettig – 38
4. Ryan Nowlin – 32
5. Kevin Sedatole – 31
6. Emily Threinen – 23
7. Damon Talley – 21
8. Mallory Thompson – 21
9. Michael Haithcock – 11
10. Linda Moorhouse – 6

The chapter recognized Sister Jo Ann Hood for her 35 years of service as the Eta Chapter Secretary/Treasurer. Sister Hood was presented with a Chapter Leadership Award plaque by Brother Cook and Brother Rick Murphy recited three limericks that captured what Jo Ann has meant to the Eta Chapter and the band director community.

*“Your achievements are better than most
Even though you’re the last one to boast
So allow us these hours
To give you your flowers
Jo Ann, you’re the one that we toast!”*

Brother Cook recognized and congratulated Brother John Zastoupil and the University of Tennessee Wind Ensemble for their performance at the CBDNA National Conference.

Brother Joel Denton gave a passionate and tearful speech about mentoring young directors, stating the rate young directors are leaving the profession is alarming. He gave a challenge to all of us to give back by giving sessions at the conference and taking care of our young directors.

Meeting recessed until Saturday at 6:00 PM

Saturday, April 12, 2025

President Brother Lafe Cook reconvened the meeting.

Brother Joel Denton made a motion to induct Alexis Yatuzis-Derryberry as an Honorary Member. Brother Mike Aymett seconded the motion and the motion passes by unanimous decision.

Brother Lafe Cook presided over the induction of our new members. The membership formed our circle and re-affirmed our fellowship by participating in the oath of membership with the nominees. New members were introduced, pinned and welcomed by the membership.

Congratulations to the Class of 2025:

Kelly Burroughs – Ocoee Middle School

Evan Burton – Fred J Page Middle School

Vanessa Cobb – Montgomery Central High School

Carolyn Hankins – Fred J Page Middle School

Dennis Hawkins – Middle Tennessee State University

Carter Noblin – Wilson Central High School/ Wilson County Schools

Carol Strayer – Fred J Page Middle School/ Retired

Procedures for nominating new candidates was reviewed and nominations for membership for 2026 were as follows:

<u>CANDIDATE</u>	<u>NOMINATOR</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>
Ben Channell	Ron Meers	Nola Jones Debbie Burton
Carroll Gotcher	David Aydelott	Lisa Burden Benjamin Easley
Ben Reagh	Richard Lutz	Darrell Boston Mike Aymett
Alex Rector	Eric Baumgardner	Meagan Christian Jim Burton
Tim Simpson	David Chipman	Patrick Bolton Barry Trobaugh
Brian Webster	Erich Zimmerman	David Talbert Stacy Jernigan

Welcome to our 2025 All-State Conductors:
9-10 Conductor, Robert Herring
11-12 Conductor, Col. Don Scholfield

Recognition and thanks were given to our Brothers and Sisters who are a part of the TMEA Conference team.

Brother Joel Denton – TMEA President
Brother JR Baker – TMEA President-Elect
Brother Lafe Cook – TMEA Immediate Past-President
Brother Michael Chester – TMEA Executive Director
Brother Carter Noblin – All-State Instrumental General Chair
Brother Justin Scott – Instrumental Conference Performing Chair
Brother Phillip Gregory – Audio and Sound Chair
Sister Debbie Burton – Assistant Conference Coordinator

Congratulations were given to our conference performing groups: Hendersonville High School Jazz Band – Brother Chris Seger conductor, and Collierville High School Jazz Band – Brother Thomas Richardson conductor.

Sister Susan Waters gave an update on the health issues of Sister Jan Dossey and Sister Bobby Jean Frost. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Welcome to Brother Solie Fott, Honorary member inducted in 1985.

Welcome to Gretchen Bowles, special guest from the Theta Chapter (South Carolina).

Congratulations to Brother Barry Trobaugh and Brother Zack Williamson for their induction to the TBA Hall of Fame, Class of 2025.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Sister Lisa Burden, second by Brother David Butler

Meeting Adjourned!

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Sister Debbie Burton