

**2015 Great Plains Chapter of The College Music Society  
University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD  
Annual Meeting Report**

As opposed to the conference and Common Topic discussion, only a handful of participants/members attended the annual meeting. Many departed Sunday morning because of increasing chances of snow in the general area, which left only the Sunday morning presenters as the meeting attendees. We plan to locate our business meeting more centrally at our 2016 conference. Like our 2014 business meeting (and despite our vastly increased participation at our 2015 conference), discussion revolved around the decreasing number of active, dues-paying members of CMS at our regional chapter. The Great Plains chapter has long been one of the most active, but in recent years participation has steadily decreased at the chapter meeting. We all agreed that the measures to shore up leadership and make it more consistently executed helped immensely in our forward progress witnessed in 2015. A more central item was approving officers for the upcoming 2015-2017 term. Because of our sub-standard leadership (reported on in 2014) we sent out an “emergency” call for nominations for the 2015-2017 term. Despite these efforts only two nominations (both for Secretary and both for the same person, Dave Thurmaier, UMKC) were offered. Thus we proposed that the interim president (Tony Bushard) remove his “interim” designation, present Treasurer (Dave Moskowitz) stay on in that office, and Dave Thurmaier as Secretary, all for the 2015-2017 term. Those in attendance acclaimed this proposal so the President for 2015 is Tony Bushard, UNL; Secretary is Dave Thurmaier (replacing Dawn McConkie who never actually came to a meeting to serve as Secretary during her term); and Dave Moskowitz, Treasurer. In addition, we began to identify names of potential student representatives and later in the spring of 2015, Laney Boyd (MM music history, UNL) agreed to represent the Great Plains Chapter at the fall meeting in Indianapolis, IN.

We also presented the meetings sites for 2016 and 2017 at the business meeting and those present approved UMKC as our 2016 site and UNL as our 2017 venue. We’ve also received interest from representatives at Pittsburg St., Pittsburg, KS, as a 2018 site. While weather and ill-advised scheduling hindered our attendance at our annual business meeting, we are highly optimistic that we will increase our attendance at UMKC in 2016.

While hopeful for the future, we continue to be concerned with the lack of participation relative to our Great Plains membership (400+) on both student and faculty fronts. We also believe that student composers could be more active in the society, especially if composer committees embraced jazz and/or big band arranging as worthy “compositions.” Certainly work by CMS members like Mark Olivieri can be a model here. We also continue to be mindful of scheduling issues like SAM and other major conferences as well as the ways that undergraduate auditions and municipal orchestra concerts oftentimes restrict attendance at chapter conferences. We hope to address all of these issues at our meeting next spring.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tony Bushard, President, Great Plains Chapter, College Music Society