

NATS South Texas Chapter
The University of Texas at San Antonio
October 7, 2017
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
Respectfully Submitted by Dana Zenobi

I. Call to Order

- A. Daniel Hunter-Holly called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm.

II. Appointment of Parliamentarian

- A. Linda Poetschke agreed to serve as Parliamentarian.
B. There are 23 members present, which meets the requirements for quorum.

III. Approval of Spring 2017 Meeting Minutes

- A. Guy Wilson made a **MOTION** to approve the Spring 2017 meeting minutes. Lisa Clement seconded. Membership **VOTED**. Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

IV. Reports

- A. **Treasurer's Report:** Hope Thacker submitted her written report. She noted that dues will come in between now and the next meeting, but that the balance is healthy and the chapter is in good shape financially.
- B. **Auditions Chair's Report:** Rebecca Coberly submitted her written report.
1. **Report on Spring 2017:**
 - i. We had 330 students registered and 305 performed. That is a bit down from the prior year, but within the 300-350 range.
 - ii. She thanked Ron Ulen, Soon Cho and Micah Parker for their help in setting up and running the auditions at Texas State University. Scheduling through www.NATSAuditions.com worked very well, so we will keep using it.
 - iii. Rebecca thanked those who served in the TABS room: Oliver Worthington, Melinda Brou, Lisa Clement, Dan Hunter-Holly, Richard Novak, and Lauren White Arthur.
 - iv. There were three competitors for the Outstanding Student Accompanist Award, and it would be great to see more entries.
 - v. She thanked all who helped bring in external judges San-Ky Kim, Stephen Austin and Deborah Popham to judge categories 9 through 12 and award the Alice Dutcher Thornton Award.
 2. **Changes for Spring 2018:**
 - i. Online registration will take place through NATS.org website. The payment will also be through that website.
 - ii. Musical Theater categories no longer specify Broadway or off-Broadway. The changes will allow more latitude in the MT selections, including musical theater song cycles.
 - iii. Zarzuela arias are now included in the opera and oratorio aria repertoire category.
 - iv. Classical category includes spirituals, traditional hymn tunes and folk songs.
 - v. There is a new transgender policy.

- C. **Aspiring Artist Grant Report:** Gary Mabry reported that we received four complete applications in 2017. Dr. Anne Christopherson from the University of North Dakota assisted with the evaluation of the applications. Of the available \$1000, \$500 was awarded to Katherine Leidlein and \$500 to Caitlin Sanders. Gary notes that we should be receiving more than four applications per year, so we all need to talk it up earlier in the year. He suggested we discuss raising the amount awarded to \$1500. Application deadline will remain the first week of May.

VI. Old Business

- A. **Vision and Planning Committee Update:** The committee was charged with discussing how the chapter handles funds. Dan briefly recounted their decisions regarding membership dues, student audition fees, and award amounts. The committee included Michelle Haché, Melinda Brou, Gary Mabry, Guy Wilson, Linda Poetschke, Minkyung Lee, and Dan Hunter Holly.
1. **Membership Dues:** Dan notes that they have never been raised, and ours are the lowest in the country. The committee recommends raising the dues to \$40, with the understanding that lunch in the fall will be provided.
 - i. Susan Olson made a **MOTION**. John Nix seconded:
 1. *“We will raise the annual South Texas Chapter dues to \$40.”*
 2. Brief discussion followed.
 3. Membership **VOTED**. Motion **PASSED** with unanimous support.
 2. **Student Fees:** Dan reported that the committee recommended we not raise student audition fees. Lunch will not be included for members in the springs.
 3. **Award Amounts:** The committee recommended raising the award amounts by \$10 per award, and raising the special awards as well.
 - i. Lisa Clement made a **MOTION**. Diana Allan seconded:
 1. *“We will raise the regular category award amounts by \$10 per award, bringing the amounts to \$30, \$40 and \$50.”*
 2. Membership **VOTED**. Motion **PASSED** unanimously.
 - ii. John Nix made a **MOTION**. Guy Wilson seconded:
 1. *“The Thornton Award will be raised to \$100, the Stark Award raised to \$75, and the Waldman Award raised to \$50. We will keep the Outstanding Student Accompanist Award at \$50, as it stands.”*
 2. Brief discussion followed, including clarification that this would begin this coming spring (2018).
 3. Membership **VOTED**. Motion **PASSED** with unanimous support.
 4. **YouTube Competition Annual Allocation:** The committee recommended providing support in the form of reimbursement for students who enter the YouTube round of the national competition.
 - i. Diana Allan made a **MOTION**. Susan Olson seconded:
 1. *“We will allocate up to \$500 from our budget on an annual basis to reimburse students who submit materials to the YouTube round for consideration to progress to the semi-finals in the National Student Auditions.”*
 2. Membership **VOTED**. Motion **PASSED** with unanimous support.

5. Aspiring Artist Grant:

- i. Gary Mabry made a **MOTION**. Hope Thacker seconded:
 - 1. *“We will increase the Aspiring Artist Award total up to \$1500, effective spring 2018.”*
 - 2. Diana Allan **AMENDED** the motion to add the following to the motion as stated in point 1. Gary Mabry seconded:
 - 3. *“A minimum of \$500 will be awarded to any one student.”*
 - 4. Membership **VOTED** on the **AMENDED MOTION**. Motion **PASSED** with unanimous support.

B. Website Update: Dan Hunter Holly reported that some research is being done about website redesign. This was sparked when the SouthTexasNATS.org domain expired. Sean Taylor was elected as Webmaster in the spring, but it fell to the Vision and Planning Committee to discuss the budget for the project. It was suggested that we may need to spend up to \$1500 to create a new website. Melinda Brou shared that both greater Houston and Greater Dallas are undergoing similar redesigns with similar figures.

- 1. John Nix made a **MOTION**. Angela Irving seconded:
 - i. *“We will allocate up to \$1500 for the exploration and design of a new website for the chapter.”*
 - ii. Discussion followed including the following points:
 - 1. What would the maintenance fees be?
 - 2. How would we select the designer? A committee?
 - 3. How do we currently use the website? How might we use it differently? Is that worth the expense?
 - 4. Primary users are the chapter members, so why do we need a fancy one just for us? Sometimes it is the first time people encounter the chapter.
 - 5. Our materials should match similarly-sized chapters.
 - 6. Perhaps we should hold off for a year or two, as we have added quite a few expenses today.
 - iii. John Nix **AMENDED** the **MOTION**. Lisa Clement seconded:
 - 1. *“We will reserve up to \$1500 for the purpose of future design and build of a website. Prior to that, we will impanel a committee of people to explore what our needs are.”*
 - 2. Brief discussion followed.
 - 3. Membership **VOTED**. Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Bylaws: Dan Hunter Holly reported that the bylaws need to be amended to include a description of the Webmaster and Social Media Expert officer positions. No motions were made.

B. Locations for Future Spring and Fall Meetings:

- a. The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor will host the Spring 2018 Student Auditions and Business Meeting on March 24, 2018. We will decide the following fall and spring locations and dates at the Spring 2018 meeting. Dan asked members from interested schools to try to hold dates until March 24 if

possible. Dan noted that the officers are working on descriptions of the facilities and logistical elements schools hosting fall and spring chapter events would need to provide.

VIII. REMINDERS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. **Texoma Conference**: Melinda Brou reminded us that the Texoma Regional Conference takes place November 8 -11 at Texas A&M University Commerce.
- Melinda reminded us that the registration deadline is Tuesday, October 10 at 6 pm – not midnight. Ability to complete registration depends on national verification of 2017 dues. That takes overnight to process.
 - She noted that the definitions for categories are clearer. The drop-down menus will match the entered age, gender, and length of study information for each student. Also, national NATS has converted to arabic numerals for categories. Definitions for repertoire have also been clarified.
 - Regarding transposition, it is very rarely allowed in arias and oratorio. However, for art song, any published key will work. You cannot take the music into finale and make your own key. It has to be a published key. Melinda will clarify transposition policy via email.
 - The facility is excellent. There are two buildings that are five minutes apart. There will be a quiet room for judges and teachers.
 - Hotels are excellent. The one in Commerce is the oldest one. It dates from the 1970s.
 - We will have lunch vouchers instead of box lunches.
- B. **Young Artist Program Auditions**: Diana Allan reported that the YAP Auditions will take place the Wednesday before the conference (November 8). The NATSAA region preliminaries are also on that Wednesday. Diana reported that there were over 180 singer entries throughout the country, 27 of whom registered through Texoma. That is the largest number ever. The regional finals can have six or more singers. Melinda Brou reminded us that the Hal Johnson Competition is occurring on that Wednesday as well.
- C. **NATS Winter Workshop: *Polishing the Apple***: January 5-7, 2018 in New York City. Dan Hunter Holly shared that the winter workshop will address many different topics, such as bridging classical and musical theater. He mentioned that Chuck Hudson, opera director, is amazing. Ricky Ian Gordon is doing master classes. Some artist representatives will be there as well. The NATSAA semi-finals and National Musical Theater semi-finals and finals will take place at the Winter Workshop.
- D. **South Texas Chapter Spring Auditions**: Saturday March 24, 2018 at The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.
- E. **NATS Intern Program**: Deadline is December 15. Dan Hunter Holly notes that it is common to have to apply more than once.
- F. **Additional Announcements**:
- Sarofim Vocal Competition at Southwestern University**: Dana Zenobi announced that the Sarofim Vocal Competition for high school students will take place Saturday, December 2. More information at <https://www.southwestern.edu/music/vocal-competition/>.
 - Phishing Scams**: If you ever get an email from somebody in NATS asking you for money, it is a scam. There was a professionally administered scam that impersonated

Dan Hunter Holly's email addresses. So, officer contact information has been removed from the chapter website.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Linda Poetschke made a **MOTION** to adjourn. Lisa Clement seconded.
- B. Membership **VOTED**. Motion **PASSED** with unanimous support.
- C. Meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.

ADDENDUM: List of Members in Attendance

- Allan, Diana
- Brou, Melinda
- Clement, Lisa
- Coberly, Rebecca
- Compton, Catherine
- Eylon, Orit
- Hache, Michelle
- Horwedel, Lainie
- Hunter-Holly, Daniel
- Irving, Angela
- Johnson, Teri
- Lee, Minkyung
- Longoria, Cynthia
- Mabry, Gary
- Nix, John
- Novak, Richard
- Olson, Susan
- Poetschke, Linda
- Taute, Irma
- Taylor, Sean
- Thacker, Hope
- Wilson Jr, Guy
- Zenobi, Dana