

South Texas Chapter NATS
Texas State University, San Marcos, TX
April 8, 2017
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order

- A. Daniel Hunter-Holly called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm.

II. Appointment of Parliamentarian

- A. Linda Poetschke agreed to serve as Parliamentarian.

III. Introductions

- A. Dan Hunter-Holly thanked Rick Rowley for serving as the Outstanding Student Accompanist Award judge today.
- B. Dan Hunter-Holly introduced the final round judges: San-Ki Kim, Deborah Popham and Steven Austin.
- C. New members introduced themselves.
1. **Houston Hill:** From Pflugerville. Retired from TX Workforce Commission, getting back into teaching voice. Taught at Brigham Young University and coached the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Teaches all styles including belt/pop. Studied with Jan Sullivan.
 2. **Stephanie Beinlich:** New to UTRGV. Taught at University of North Dakota and Newberry College.
 3. **Lainie Horwedel:** Teaches at Vista Ridge High School. Attended the fall meeting as a guest.
 4. **Greg Graf:** Director of choral activities at Del Mar College. Playing piano for students today.
 5. **Natalie Cummings** and **Austin Bradley:** Teach at Bradley Music Studio in the Lakewood area, Vandegrift and Westlake High Schools. Interested in learning about college voice programs.
 6. **Randi Wooding:** UTSA graduate. Teaches at Baptist University of the Americas in San Antonio.
 7. **Denise Wathen:** Recent UTSA graduate. Teaches at St. Philip's College in Palo Alto, San Antonio.
 8. **Ariana Reyna:** Graduated from UTSA, former student of Linda Poetschke. Earned MM from Oklahoma City University. Teaches in the Northside District and at San Antonio Music Academy.
 9. **Stacy Strakowski:** Teaches at UT in Austin teaching the Musical Theater students. Originally from Ohio. Attended CCM and New England Conservatory.

IV. Approval of Minutes from the Spring and Fall 2016 Meetings

- A. Guy Wilson made a motion to approve the Spring 2016 minutes. George Hogan seconded. Members voted. Spring 2016 minutes were approved with no opposition.
- B. Lisa Clement made a motion to approve the Fall 2016 minutes. Guy Wilson seconded. Members voted. Minutes were approved without opposition.

V. Reports

- A. **President's Report:** Dan Hunter Holly presented highlights from his written President's Report (see attached), which details the chapter's activities and member involvement during the past two years. We have awarded over \$4000 at spring auditions. Nine chapter members have presented at conferences. We have awarded \$2000 in Aspiring Artist Grants. We received funds from the national NATS organization for the fall 2017 workshop. We are redesigning our website and building our social media presence. We started using external judges for finals of advanced categories. We are working on the South Texas Chapter Resource Network. We have written over 3,000 comments and heard over 4,000 songs. He expressed special thanks to the mentors who helped with his transition into the role of President: Melinda Brou, Linda Poetschke, Diana Allan, Lisa Clement, and others.
- B. **Treasurer's Report:** Susan Olson submitted her report and noted that everything is going well. As Dan mentioned, we received a grant for the presenter in the fall, which cut down the cost. Disbursements are minimal in the fall, so we are in very good shape financially. Dan acknowledged that Susan has served more than two terms as Treasurer, and he thanked her for her service.
- C. **Auditions Chair's Report:** Oliver Worthington submitted a written auditions chair report (see attached).

VI. Old Business

- A. **South Texas Chapter NATS Resource Network:** Angela Irving read notes on the committee's work and comments from the first survey. Three main ideas were noted:
 - 1) Some confusion as to whether we are aiming to create an advertisement or a resource for chapter members. Original intent was to create an in-chapter resource.
 - 2) Should the page be open to the public?
 - 3) Survey received about 30 responses and is still open.
 1. Angela Irving made a **MOTION**. David Sadlier seconded:
 - i. *"The chapter will coalesce our expertise as part of a Resource Network for each of us to use to help with our students."*
 2. Discussion ensued, including the following:
 - i. How would password protection be handled?
 - ii. Databases require maintenance.
 - iii. Could we create something similar to the Neighborhood app?
 - iv. Would members feel comfortable publicly revealing they would like help in a particular area?
 3. Diana Allan proposed an **AMENDMENT**. Guy Wilson seconded:
 - i. *"The Resource Network will be a part of our current website."*
 4. Linda Poetschke proposed an **AMENDMENT**. George Hogan seconded:
 - i. *"Access to the Resource Network will be limited to members of our chapter."*
 5. Members **VOTED** on the **AMENDED MOTION** below. Motion passed without opposition.
 - i. *"The chapter will create a resource on our chapter website, intended for our membership only, which coalesces our expertise."*

- B. Changes to Chapter Dues, Workshop Fee, Student Registration:** Dan Hunter-Holly reviewed the discussion from the fall meeting. Our balance is healthy. Our chapter dues are on the low end of the spectrum.
1. Initial discussion followed including the following:
 - i. If we cap the auditions, we can easily project the amount we might award.
 - ii. If we institute a workshop fee, would it be charged to NATS members or the students who attend the workshop? Both could be proposed.
 - iii. What is the intent of having a standing balance?
 - iv. If we have a webmaster regularly making changes to the website, that will be an additional expense.
 2. Linda Poetschke made a **MOTION**. Angela Irving seconded:
 - i. *“We will raise our chapter dues to \$25. We will add a workshop fee of \$15 for faculty and guests who will be having lunch. Student registration will remain unchanged.”*
 3. Discussion followed, including the following points:
 - i. We have a 501(c)6 status as a chapter the national organization. There is no tax liability on the standing balance.
 - ii. Perhaps a committee should discuss what to do with our standing balance.
 - iii. Why does the chapter carry a standing balance?
 - iv. Susan Olson reported that our standing balance is about \$10 to \$12K. She reminded us that we do not have enough members attending in the fall. Therefore, we lose money on lunches.
 4. Linda Poetschke proposed an **AMENDMENT**. Ken Williams seconded:
 - i. *“The President will appoint a new strategic planning committee that will work on chapter dues, workshop fee, and student registration fees. We will have a vote via email before the fall 2017 meeting.”*
 5. Discussion followed including the following points:
 - i. Dan Hunter-Holly reminded us that if we want to change 2018 dues, we need a policy by October 1, 2017. Otherwise, we would have to wait until next spring.
 - ii. The fall meeting is difficult for some members to attend. Perhaps we abolish the separate meeting date, or combine our fall meeting with the Texoma regional conference.
 - iii. Incorporating the fall meeting with the regional conference would be difficult for teachers who work with high school students.
 6. Members **VOTED** on the **AMENDED MOTION** as stated in point 4. Motion passed without opposition.

VII. New Business: Items for Discussion

- A. **Fall Meeting Attendance Issues:** Dan Hunter-Holly reported that we did not meet quorum in the fall, but were close. Attendance is typically 20 to 25 people. Our quorum is a third of active members (members who have attended a meeting in the last 18 months). We have around 90 members, 60 of whom are active.
- a. **Brief discussion followed.** It is both a geographic and a calendar issue. No suggestions for how to improve it.
- B. **Scheduling Meetings:** Fall meeting choices include UTSA and UIW on 10/7, 10/14.
7. Angela Irving made a **MOTION**. Ken Burns seconded.
 - i. ***“We will have the fall 2017 meeting on October 7 at UTSA.”***
 - ii. Members voted. Motion passed with one opposed.
 8. Dates for the spring 2018 meeting were discussed: April 14 at UIW, March 24 at UIW or April 21 at UMHB.
 9. Becky Walker made a **MOTION**. Ross Bernhardt seconded.
 - i. ***“We will have the spring 2018 meeting on April 14 at UIW.”***
 1. Members voted. In favor: 25, Opposed: 15
 2. Motion passed with 25 in favor, but some members abstained.
 10. David Sadlier made a **MOTION**. Motion was seconded.
 - i. ***“We will have a vote that distinguishes between two possible dates, March 24 or April 21, in order to get a more accurate picture of membership preference.”***
 1. Members **VOTED**. Prefer March 24: 26, Prefer April 21:21
 2. ***Spring 2018 meeting date was set for March 24 at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.***
- C. **Outstanding Accompanist Award:** Dan Hunter-Holly reported that we typically have two to four participants in this program. There is discussion about whether we should keep doing it. Rick Rowley was in support of continuing it. Dan encouraged members to enter student pianists. He asked for recommendations on how to increase participation.
1. Becky Walker made a **MOTION**. Angela Irving seconded:
 - i. ***“Eligibility for the Outstanding Accompanist Award will be expanded to include high school juniors and seniors.”***
 - ii. No discussion. Members **VOTED**. Motion passed without opposition.
- D. **Spring 2017 Elections.**
1. Lisa Clement thanked Melinda Brou, Linda Poetschke, and Rick Novak, and for their work on the nominating committee. She made a **MOTION**. David Sadlier seconded.
 - i. ***“We will amend the bylaws to strike phrase ‘that officers should not be from the same institution’ and replace with ‘that officers should not be from the same campus.’***
 - ii. Discussion: Lisa noted that recent mergers mean that faculty members at one institution can work on different campuses. UTRGV has campuses 70 miles apart.
 - iii. Members **VOTED**. Motion passed without opposition.
 2. Lisa Clement made a **MOTION**. John Nix seconded.

- i. *“The chapter approves the list of officers:*
 - 1. *President: Daniel Hunter-Holly (second term)*
 - 2. *Vice President and Auditions Chair: Rebecca Coberly*
 - 3. *Vice President /Auditions Chair in Training: Richard Novak*
 - 4. *Treasurer: Hope Thacker*
 - 5. *Secretary: Dana Zenobi (second term)*
 - 6. *Web Master and Social Media Expert: Sean Taylor*
- ii. Members **VOTED**. Motion passed without opposition or abstention.

VIII. Reminders/Announcements

- A. **Fall Meeting Proposal Review:** If you want to serve on a committee to review presentation proposals for the fall meeting, let Dan know. Dan thanked Guy Wilson, Hope Thacker and Sean Taylor for serving this past year.
- B. **Aspiring Artist Grant :** Gary Mabry has been handling this for several years and will continue if needed, but if you are looking for an opportunity to become more involved, let Dan know.
 - i. David Sadlier asked if we could use some of our savings to help out students with larger grants. This task will be assigned to the strategic planning committee which will be formed to address chapter dues, workshop fees and student audition fees.
- C. Diana Allan reminded us that April 23 is deadline for Texoma finalists who wish to move on to the national competition.
- D. Linda Poetschke made **MOTION** to adjourn. John Nix seconded.
 - i. Members **VOTED**. Motion passed without opposition. Meeting adjourned at 2:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Zenobi