

SOUTH TEXAS NATS  
FALL BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA  
SATURDAY, September 30th, 2023  
12:00 PM

**I. Call to Order**

- a. Rebecca Coberly, President called the meeting to order at 12:29 pm
- b. Rebecca made mention of the QR with previous meeting reports and information on the tables

**II. Introductions**

- a. Cynthia Longoria - Vice President & Auditions Chair
- b. Hope Thacker - Vice-President of Auditions/Auditions Chair in Training
- c. Sean Taylor - Webmaster
- d. Minkyung Lee- Treasurer
- e. Richard Trammell - Secretary
- f. Lily Guerrero – Membership liaison

**III. Appointment of Parliamentarian**

- a. Orit Eylon

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

- A. Spring 2023 Business Meeting
  - a. Suzanne Ramo - motioned and Rick Novak seconded to accept the Spring 2023 minutes
  - b. Minutes were approved unanimously

**V. Introduction of New Members**

- a. Chunghui Kim (Zoey) - TLU
- b. Marcus Rhodes - Associate Professor of Music & Choral and Vocal Studies Director at Huston - Tillotson University.
- c. Jihee Han - Northwest Vista
- d. Susan Gouthro - TAMCC

**VI. Reports**

A. President Report – Rebecca Coberly

1. A resounding Thank you to everyone who helped take care of previous business this past quarter. Specifically thanking Orit and organizing the hosting of this business meeting. Also big thanks to the Fall Workshop committee (Natalie Cummings, Rick Novak, Susan Gouthro) Thanks to our wonderful presenters as well! Wonderful morning of presenters.

- A. Shayna Issacs
- B. Richard Davis
- C. Ellen Denham
- D. Julia

Thank you to Cynthia and Sean for spearheading the Honors Recital.  
Minkyung - Thank you for making sure everything was paid for.

2. Aspiring Artist Summer Program Grant - Chaired by Gary Mabry
  - a. Two External Judges - Dr. Diana Allen & Dr. Carol Chapman
  - b. 3 Winners
    - i. 2ND - Alejandro Cuellar (Student of Jourdan Laine Howell)  
\$375
    - ii. 2ND - Cora Winstead (Student of Daveda Karanas)  
\$375
    - iii. 1ST - Addison Kaye (Student of Daveda Karanas)  
\$750

3. The South Texas NATS Fall Workshop Committee met in May to assemble and discuss logistics for the fall meeting. Thank you to all the committee members and Orit as site coordinator and the other faculty at UIW for your work over to coordinate and prepare today's event.

4. Thank you to Mark Alexander for stepping in to play for the Honors Recital in Bill Gokelman's absence.

**B. Treasurer Report – Minkyung Lee**

- a. Balance in April - \$10,442
  - I. Itemized usage from the Spring Auditions - \$5,000 is normal budget
  - II. \$5,500 was used for Spring Auditions (Judges, Students Awards, etc)
  - III. Current Balance - \$4,841
- b. Spoke to any outstanding checks that have not been cleared.
- c. Melinda Brou spoke about the National Office not wanting chapters to carry large amounts of financial reserves being Non-profit entities. Inquired about the \$10 application fees for the "Aspiring Artists"
- e. Approval of report
  - I. Sean Taylor motioned to accept & Ellen Denham/LaDawnPeterson seconded
  - II. Report was approved with no one abstaining

**C. Audition Chair Report – Cynthia Longoria**

- a. Cynthia Longoria could not be present today, the report was read by Rebecca Coberly. Cynthia wanted to specifically thank Sean Taylor for running the Honors Recital in her absence and Blythe Cates for her assistance with the previous Auditions held at ACC.
- b. Spring 2023 - April 1st, 2023 at ACC
  - i. 214 participants
  - ii. 41 teachers with students
  - iii. 56 of the 214 were high school students.
  - iv. Eight students participated in more than one category and

- 48 students participated in the Musical Theater categories.
- v. There has been a 58% increase in the number of students participating in the last several years.
- c. Honors recital (9-30-2023)
  - i. 19 Students performing
  - ii. 3 collaborative Pianists
  - iii. Specifically thanking Mark Alexander for his work with these students.
- D. Webmaster Update – Sean Taylor
  - a. Website up and running, and the chapter’s private Facebook group for latest news, reminders and announcements.
  - b. Upcoming applications and information up to date
  - c. In the spring we started a Poster session and we had one successful poster session. Asked to please encourage students to submit for the next spring auditions.
  - d. Last spring Sean got a big box of old papers with only 30% of older information for an archival area. Please look into the archival section of the website
  - e. Members only page has video recordings and photos from the last four years of fall workshops. Password: larynx Send us your photos! There is a submission form on that members only page or email it directly to Sean.
- E. Membership Liaison Report – Lily Guerrero (Who could not be in attendance, report was given by Rebecca Coberly)
  - a. Membership numbers:
    - i. 92 Full Members (Up from 87 at the last Spring Meeting)
    - ii. 56 Active Members

## **VII. Old Business**

- A. Aspiring Artist Program Grant and NSA Youtube Reimbursement
- B. Daniel Hunter-Holly reminded of the Aspiring Artist Program Fund - When the amount was raised to \$1500 of grant money, it was decided that no student would be given less than \$500 per the Spring 2017 NATS Chapter Minutes. Melinda Brou and Dan Hunter-Holly spoke about previous operations and how we can structure this moving forward. Daveda Karanas briefly gave us an insight to her student’s experience.
- C. Auditions Process Committee - Sean, Rick, Cynthia, Hope and Rebecca joined forces to work together to help proactively improve auditions moving forward. Rebecca spoke about some of these discoveries and conversations about what can be better.
  - I. Some insight into potential improvements
    - a) More signage in and between all entrances
    - b) More detailed Instructions from the site coordinator
    - c) How meal plans needs to be set up

- d) Making sure all rooms stay set up and maintained until the end of the finals round
- e) TABS - adjust the announcement schedule to allow a little more time in between rounds
- f) Ensuring there is a numerous amount of assistance in the Tabs room from members with experience.
- g) Balance in Tabs room of “Quickly” & “Accurately”

## II. Some Further Discussion -

- A. Announcements came 50 minutes late. Hiccups printing judges schedule. Cynthia has taken measures to make sure we avoid this moving forward.
- B. Cynthia has asked for additional feedback about what worked and what didn't
- C. Decisions at that time after covid was to improve the tabulation time and process, which created the idea of the student-led poster session.
  - 1. Things that improve the TABS Room
  - 2. Activity for teachers and students during the down time.
  - 3. How do we make the Announcements?
    - i. Stephen asked about structuring an idea of how much time and if we can set a meeting time so we can not just wait around.
    - ii. Two Volunteers to put out a survey - Wayne and Rebecca will work together to send out.
    - iii. LaDawn Peterson inquired about the TABS room process for our Chapter Auditions. Rebecca and Melinda provided clarification.

## D. Clarification of Announcement Procedures & Potential Changes

- 1) Having a visual representation of where people need to go - How to possibly release this information sooner
- 2) Changing how we make Semi finals announcement
  - i) The following members gave insight, question and suggestion;
    - (1) Stephen (Additional time before Final Round)
    - (2) Marcus (a TEXT system)
    - (3) Melinda (Insight regarding new system)
    - (4) Rebecca (Posed additional procedural concerns)

(5) Sean (Efficiency Task Force)

E. Melinda Brou suggested “Does it matter if the list is posted, or do you want an announcement with the feelings?”

F. Two options for posting were posed

- 1) Post Semi Finalists at a designated time/place.
- 2) Post them whenever they happen?

G. Names of Semi-Finalists and Finalists (Unranked, Randomized Names) will be posted in a visible and/or accessible location as soon as the categories results are available.

I. Wayne - made the motion to accept

H. Rick Novak and Melinda Brou - voiced concerns about the implementation of these changes at this time.

II. A Vote for line item “G” was taken

A. Wayne made the motion to accept

B. Ellen seconded

1. 7 Votes in Favor
2. 9 Votes in Non-Favor/Opposed
3. 4 Abstained
4. Please send Rebecca and Wayne a list of questions and survey our chapter for suggestions on how to move forward.

I. Texoma NATS Fellowship Program Update

A. Melinda updated that the application closed on the day following this meeting.

### **VIII. New Business**

A. NATS HS Fellowship Fundraiser

- Becky Walker - wants to shoot for supporting two student fellowships and asked for teacher performers and help. We will send out more information on that soon. A signup sheet went around the tables.

B. Texoma Linda Poetschke People’s Choice Award

- Diana Allen, Rebecca Coberly and David Portillo are working together to set up this award. The Chapter was asked if they would participate in donating to

this award. Melinda informed us about this award. Rebecca added information to the google drive documents. We will talk more about this at future meetings.

#### C. Spring 2024 Office Elections – Upcoming Nominating Committee

- Rebecca spoke about many positions that are finishing their terms and positions that will be opening soon. More information about positions will be forthcoming.

#### **IX. Reminders/Announcements**

- San Antonio Summer Opera Program (Becky Walker)
- Texoma NATS (November 1-4 at UNT) – Registration Deadline: October 4
- South Texas NATS Spring Auditions: April 13, 2024, at Texas A&M Kingsville
- Dan Hunter-Holly gave us some reminders for registering our students for our upcoming Texhoma Conference

#### **X. Adjourn**

- a. Suzanne Ramo motioned to adjourned the meeting
  - b. Becky Walker seconded
- C. Chapter President - Rebecca Coberly adjourned our FALL 2023 Chapter Meeting