

South Texas Chapter NATS
Southwestern University, Georgetown, TX
October 1, 2016
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order

- A. Daniel Hunter-Holly called the meeting to order at 12:38 pm.

II. Introductions

- A. **Guests** introduced themselves:
 - a. Katherine Altobello, mezzo-soprano, teaches at Southwestern University and privately in Austin.
 - b. Julia Watkins-Davis, soprano, is new to Austin area.
 - c. Lainie Horwedel, soprano, teaches at Vista Ridge High School with Steve White (choral director). Graduate of UT Austin.
 - d. Bruce Cain, baritone, teaches at Southwestern University.
- B. **New Members** introduced themselves:
 - a. Cathy Compton, new to voice faculty at UTRGV this year.
 - b. Allan Armstrong, piano faculty at UTRGV.
- C. Dan Hunter-Holly reminded everyone that joining NATS today will cover chapter membership for this year and 2017.
- D. Dan Hunter-Holly thanked MaryBeth Davison Smith for a wonderful Feldenkrais Method presentation and master class.

III. Appointment of Parliamentarian

- A. Linda Poetschke agreed to serve as Parliamentarian.
- B. Dan Hunter-Holly reminded the group that we did not meet quorum today. Thus, we are unable to vote on any motions at this meeting.

IV. Approval of Minutes from the Spring 2016 Meeting

- A. Spring 2016 minutes will need to be approved at the Spring 2017 meeting, when (hopefully) quorum is met.

V. Reports

- A. **Treasurer's Report:** Susan Olson reported that the chapter is in good financial shape. Spring 2016 NATS brought in a large amount of revenue. Disbursements are normal. In the future, we will incorporate both dues and lunch fees into online payment option. Susan reported that the chapter needed to get insurance at UTSA, which is an extra cost that may need to be considered in the future. Dan Hunter-Holly responded that the national NATS office covered the insurance for the fall meeting at Southwestern.
- B. **Auditions Chair's Report:** Oliver Worthington presented highlights from his report, which includes the number of people who competed in each category. He noted that student information will be cleared from system and will need to be entered again during Spring 2017 registration. Plans are in place to try to make the sign-up for lunches more obvious. The guest judges for the upper levels worked very well.

Oliver thanked the chapter for their patience with all the changes that needed to be integrated to match the national process. Oliver thanked Rebecca Coberly, Dan Hunter-Holly, Melinda Brou, Lisa Clement, Penny Hogan, and Lauren White Arthur for their help at Spring 2016 auditions. He then reported on a few problem areas:

1. **Tardy Judges:** Two judges missed the morning meeting and were late to judging assignments. This created a major delay. Policy to be discussed later in meeting.
 2. **Internet Connection Issues:** At UTSA, Tabulations kept losing internet connection. In Spring 2017, all computers used for Tabulations will have hard-wired connections.
 3. **Student Accompanist Award:** Chuck Dillard was the judge for the Student Accompanist award, but there were only two entrants. In light of declining participation, Oliver suggested discussing the award at the next meeting. If it is something we want to continue doing, how can we increase the number of participants?
- C. **Aspiring Artist Report:** Daniel Hunter-Holly summarized Gary Mabry's work. We had five entrants. John Seesholtz from Colorado State University was the external judge. Winner was Katherine Leidlein, a student of Diana Allan, who attended the Respiro Opera program in New York.
- D. **Joan Frey Boytim Independent Teacher Award Report:** Lauren White Arthur shared her reflections on attending the national conference. Joan Frey Boytim provided 14 substantial scholarships for independent teachers to attend, and there were not very many applicants in this first year of the program. Lauren was able to meet with Joan Boytim in person. They talked about recital programming and repertoire choices for high school students. There is also a Facebook group for award winners. Dan Hunter-Holly reported that, in his opening remarks, Allen Henderson shared Joan Frey Boytim's observation that NATS has become more open and collaborative over the past several decades, and this is a positive trend.

VI. Old Business

- A. **South Texas Chapter NATS "Resource Network:"** Dan Hunter-Holly reviewed the premise of the Resource Network: It would be useful to have a searchable database in which NATS chapter members self-identify areas of specialization. He reported that some effort was made, but no committee has yet been formed. Linda Poetschke suggested the committee should start by creating a survey. Lauren White Arthur and Angela Irving volunteered to serve on the Resource Network committee.

VII. New Business: Items for Discussion

- A. **Policy for Late Teacher/Adjudicator Arrivals at Student Auditions:** Dan Hunter-Holly offered more details on the Spring 2016 Auditions. Two judges were late and their students were disqualified. Discussion followed, including the following thoughts:
1. There was some feedback that the students should not be punished for teacher errors.

2. The above point is understood, but there is also agreement among chapter members that there must be repercussions when members do not show up for their assignments.
 3. There was a consensus that teachers need to model professionalism for our students and accept when we have made mistakes.
 4. Oliver Worthington reminded us that this does not apply to those who had extenuating circumstances.
 5. Dan Hunter-Holly clarified that the Auditions Chair decides whether circumstances qualify as extenuating.
 6. Lisa Clement noted that student disqualification when teachers are late/absent has been a tenant of NATS for many years.
 7. Linda Poetschke reminded the chapter that there is a strict sign-in policy at the start of the judges' meeting at regional conferences.
 8. Oliver Worthington stated he is not sure that there is an actual policy, but suggested entering an official policy into records before the Spring 2017 auditions.
 9. Melinda Brou suggested we make a motion and send an email vote to active members (members who have attended a meeting within the last 18 months).
 10. Dan Hunter-Holly read the definition of quorum from the bylaws:
 - i. *“A quorum will consist of one third of the active membership. For purposes of determining quorum, an active member is defined as a chapter member who is current on their dues and who has attended a meeting within the past 18 months. At any regular meeting, each member in good standing shall be entitled to vote, in person or by written proxy, on any motion or question properly brought before the chapter.”*
 11. Linda Poetschke made a **MOTION**. Oliver Worthington seconded:
 - i. ***“Teachers must be present at the beginning of the judges’ meeting. If extenuating circumstances occur, the auditions chair must be contacted prior to start of the meeting. Students of teachers who do not comply with this policy will be limited in their participation to sing for comments only and will be ineligible to advance to semi-final or final rounds.”***
 12. Linda confirmed that it would be within procedure to vote on this issue via email, and suggested that audition materials clearly communicate this policy decision after the vote. Oliver agreed.
- B. Website/Webmaster:** Dan Hunter Holly explained that Jae Ha from the University of the Incarnate Word has been our webmaster, and has kindly served since the chapter website (a Google website) was created. Dan was recently added as an administrator. The domain name (SouthTexasNATS.org) expired, and the renewal price increased to \$150. Dan polled the officers to ask about a solution and got mixed response, so no further action has been taken at this time (Note: the website is still available through the longer domain name). The .org ending identifies us as an organization. Do we want a bigger, more user-friendly website? Melinda Brou noted that the Aspiring Artist Grant is administered through the website, and a lot of people

find our chapter using that site. It was suggested that a webmaster be added to the elected officers. Discussion followed:

1. Lauren White Arthur asked if the Resource Network would be included in the Webmaster's work. Oliver Worthington clarified that this person would be in charge of social media, the website, and internet activity.
2. Lisa Clement made a **MOTION**. Lauren White Arthur seconded:
 - i. *"The chapter will create the office of Webmaster/Social Media Expert and have it be presented with the slate of officers in Spring 2017."*

C. Spring 2017 Elections / Changes to Chapter Dues

1. **Changing Chapter Dues:** Dan Hunter-Holly noted that, at \$20 annual dues, we are on the low end. Some chapters are closer to \$40.
2. **Workshop Fee:** There are expenses involved with the fall meeting. One possible solution is to institute a \$15 fall workshop fee, which would cover both lunch and the master class/workshop. However, all agree we do not want any more deterrents from attending the fall meeting. Oliver Worthington suggested that the fall workshop fee could be eliminated, but chapter dues could be raised to include costs for the fall meeting. There was some consensus that this approach might encourage attendance at the fall meeting. Both topics will be on the agenda for Spring 2017 meeting. Dues are due January 1 for the calendar year, so any changes would go into effect for 2018.
3. **Raising Student Registration:** We raised the student registration fee by \$2 about three years ago. We give a \$40 award for first place. As we continue to raise the fee, do we want to raise the prize amounts, or not? Also, with the convenience of online payment, we lose the 3% credit card fee. If we want to enact any changes before Spring 2017, we would need to vote via email. Consensus was to wait and discuss in the spring.
4. **Elections:** All offices are up for election. Dan Hunter-Holly will set up a nominating committee before the spring meeting. If you are interested in serving, feel free to express your interest to Dan.

VIII. Reminders/Announcements

- A. **Texoma Conference:** West Texas A&M University (Canyon, TX); November 2-5, 2016. Melinda Brou is handling auditions for Texoma conference. She announced that Texoma is converting over to the NATSAuditions.com site run by Brad Mills, which the South Texas Chapter has been using. We have been using a separate Google Doc for tabulations, but that will now be included in the website, which will streamline the process. The school codes have changed. Most of the time the name of the school will now be spelled out. Double check your students' divisions. Keep an eye out for lunches and tickets. That information will be on the left side under judges' profile. If you are planning on getting lunches or tickets, do not pay until you see them. Jason Lester set up checkboxes you can use to donate to specific NATS foundation funds. The registration deadline is October 7 at 11:59 pm. The campus is beautiful and will perfectly suit our needs. Auditions are in three different buildings, but they very close together.

- B. **Young Artist Program Auditions:** Still restricted to programs where a NATS member is associated. The cost is \$20. Students sing for the YAP auditions on the Wednesday before Texoma conference begins.
- C. **NATS Winter Workshop:** Sing the Body Electric: Wellness for Performers and Teachers. January 5-7, 2017, San Diego, CA.
- D. **Spring 2017 Auditions:** Texas State University in San Marcos, TX on Saturday, April 8, 2017.
- E. **NATS Intern Program:** Application deadline is December 15. Dan heard great feedback both from his colleagues at UTRGV and from colleagues at the national conference. It is in Toronto this year. For the first time, collaborative pianists will be included in the program and will work with Warren Jones.
- F. Dan Hunter-Holly thanked NATS discretionary fund for matching the expense of the workshop today.
- G. Orit Eylon recently had a baby boy. Please congratulate her when you have a chance.
- H. Becky Walker wanted to announce that there is a recital at San Antonio College on October 12 at 7:30. She and Madeline Elizondo are participating in that at McAllister Auditorium.
- I. Dana Zenobi announced the Sarofim Vocal Competition for high school students, which is happening on November 12, 2016. Registration is already half full.
- J. Dan Hunter-Holly thanked Hope Thacker, Guy Wilson and Sean Taylor for putting together today's workshop. It was very informative. Dan thanked Dana Zenobi for hosting and taking the minutes.

IX. Adjournment

- A. Dan Hunter-Holly adjourned the meeting at 1:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Zenobi

NATS
SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER
Fall Meeting

Southwestern University,
 Georgetown, TX
 October 1, 2016

Audition's Chair Report
Respectfully submitted by Oliver Worthington

The Spring Auditions were held on April 9, 2016 at the University of Texas San Antonio campus. Thank you to Susan Olson and the rest of the UTSA voice faculty for their organization and support during the day. The setup was done in a timely manner and we were able to run the morning meeting and competition largely on time. We began with 351 students registered. After cancellations we ended with 313 students auditioning in the following categories.

AA	Adult Advanced	9
AB	Adult Beginner	7
AMT	Adult Music Theater	3
I	High School Music Theater Women	17
II	High School Music Theater Men	5
IIIA	Lower High School Women	15
IIIB	Upper High School Women	29
IVA	Lower High School Men	0
IVB	Upper High School Men	9
IX	Upper College/Independent Studio Music Theater Women	7
V	Lower College/Independent Studio Music Theater Women	8
VI	Lower College/Independent Studio Music Theater Men	11
VIIA	First Year College/Independent Studio Women	37
VIIB	Second Year College/Independent Studio Women	38
VIIIA	First Year College/Independent Studio Men	18
VIIIB	Second Year College/Independent Studio Men	21
X	Upper College/Independent Studio Music Theater Men	8
XIA	Third Year College/Independent Studio Women	23
XIB	Fourth/Fifth Year College/Independent Studio Women	15
XIIA	Third Year College/Independent Studio Men	15
XIIB	Fourth/Fifth Year College/Independent Studio Men	11
XIII	Advanced College/Independent Studio Women	3
XIV	Advanced College/Independent Studio Men	4

We again used the online registration system, www.NatsAuditions.com, run by Brad Mills. More preparation was required, as we had to make adjustments for the new requirements from the national office, including the varied number of songs required, varied time limits for auditions, and changes in eligibility requirements. I believe that we have addressed most of these issues and that the process will be smoother for the 2017 auditions. Brad was a tremendous help in making these changes. I have asked him to clear the database before the next competition and require the fields that are necessary for determining eligibility for a division in addition to the fields we traditionally

require. This should produce more accurate information. We also added a PayPal payment button so that checks were not an issue. This worked relatively well and with some additional adjustments should be even more successful next year.

As I reported at the spring meeting, these auditions require a lot of help. I want to thank Rebecca Coberly for taking responsibility for repertoire. She checked to make sure all submissions were in compliance with the new rules, and is compiling information from that process so that it will be available for the 2017 auditions. I also want to thank Dan Hunter Holly and Melinda Brou for all of their support, encouragement and assistance preparing for the auditions.

I was joined in the tabulations room by Daniel Hunter-Holly, Melinda Brou, Rebecca Coberly and Lisa Clement. Scores were entered and divided into semi-finalists and finalists as they were delivered to the office. One of the biggest challenges was maintaining internet connectivity. Every loss of connection resulted in the need to re-enter scores and repeat work. I will try to ensure better connections for next year's competition.

As many of you are already aware, one of the issues that we encountered in this round of auditions was that two teachers who entered students were not present at the judges meeting and had not contacted me or any of the officers to let us know that they would be late or absent. This created a rush to find replacement judges so that each room could begin on time with three judges. After a discussion with the other officers, we decided to compromise and allow the students to sing in the non-competitive preliminary round, but not allow them to advance to the competitive semi-finalist/finalist portion of the auditions. While this was more lenient than the policy that was stated in the emails that I sent, the teachers in question expressed concern that their students were being punished for the teachers' mistakes, so I am pleased to see on the agenda that the chapter will discuss this and agree on appropriate consequences if this is ever an issue again. It is imperative that EVERY teacher attend the morning meeting and be prepared to begin judging at its conclusion to ensure that the auditions run smoothly to the benefit of students and teachers alike.

Chuck Dillard served as judge for the Student Accompanist Award. There were only two competitors for this award. I think the chapter should weigh the value of continuing with this expenditure. There does not seem to be much support as evidenced by the low number of contestants over the past few years.

Barbara Hill Moore (SMU), Kathy McNeil (Baylor) and David Brock (TCU) were the guest judges for XIB, XIIB, XIII and XIV as well as the Alice Dutcher Thornton Certificate of Honor. The use of guest judges for these divisions has been positive.

I am very thankful my first year as Vice President of Auditions went as smoothly as it did; especially given the number of changes this year. I want to thank the chapter for their patience and support, and I am looking forward with confidence to spring 2017!