

South Texas Chapter NATS
The University of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, TX
October 6, 2018
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
Respectfully submitted by Blythe Cates

I. Call to Order

- A. Orit Eylon called the meeting to order at 12:05pm.

II. Introductions

- A. Daveda Karanas just began teaching applied voice at Texas State University.
B. Nancy Munn just began as an adjunct professor of voice at Texas A&M Kingsville.
C. Dianne Taylor is new to the University of Texas Rio Grande Edinburg music faculty where she teaches applied voice.
D. Blythe Cates is a returning member to the South Texas NATS chapter and is teaching applied voice at Texas State University and UIW.

III. Appointment of Parliamentarian

- A. A Parliamentarian was not chosen for this meeting.

IV. Approval of the Minutes from the Spring 2018

- A. Orit Eylon made a **MOTION** to approve the Spring 2018 minutes. LaDawn Peterson seconded. Membership **VOTED**. Minutes were **APPROVED** with no opposition.

V. Reports

- A. President's Report – Orit Eylon submitted her report and timeline highlighting scholarship and service chapter activities over the past year. She discussed her goal to involve as many members as possible in committee work. Orit mentioned that one major change this year is the addition of the Strategic Vision and Planning committee, which resulted in several changes to our operations:
- Our current membership stands at 96 members with 8 new members
 - The NSA YouTube Round was a big success. Each winner was awarded prizes ranging from \$75-\$150. Congratulations to NATS Members Guy Wilson and Michelle Hache for their students' successes at the NSA finals at the NATS National Conference in Las Vegas.
 - The Aspiring Artist Award – Special thanks to Gary Mabry for chairing. We were able to give Sarah Neely and Evan Jackson awards of \$750 each to attend their chosen Summer programs.
 - NATS TEXOMA – We have several speakers from the South NATS chapters presenting at TEXOMA this year, please watch out and attend their presentations.

- Host sites for Spring Auditions – We need host sites for future Spring Auditions. We would like to work towards a central, east, north and south location that rotate on a normal basis.
 - Spring 2019 South NATS Auditions will be held on April 6, 2019 at Del Mar College.
- B. **Treasurer’s Report** – Hope Thacker reported that our balance is \$15, 479.64. Dues since October totaled around \$2,000 for about 99 members which is great. Fees for last semester’s auditions brought in just over \$3,000. Most of that will flow back out to our students. Our fall meeting cost just over \$800. With the increase in dues, we will remain in great shape financially and will be able to continue to help our students.
- C. **Audition’s Chair Report** – Rebecca Coberly acknowledged the many people that made the Spring Auditions possible and specifically Melinda Brou and Daniel Hunter-Holly for assisting with last minute tabulations, Rick Novak for verifying all of the repertoire and Lisa Clement for being a wonderful onsite-host. Rebecca stated that we had 251 registrants of which 236 actually showed up, this number is lower than the previous year which Rebecca suspects is due to distance. We continued to use Auditionware for all registrations and this made the registration process smooth.

VI. Old Business

- A. **Website** – Orit Eylon gave members a brief tour of the new website and functions. She asked members to direct all informational items, announcements, photos, prospective members and contact links to our webmaster, Sean Taylor.

VII. New Business: Items for Discussion

- A. **Guest Judges for the Spring Auditions** – It has been suggested by several members, former judges and past judges that the South NATS chapter needs to raise their honorarium rate because judges are traveling farther.
- a. Orit Eylon made a **MOTION** to discuss a honorarium raise for Spring Judges from \$250-\$350. Daniel Hunter Holly Seconded.
 - b. Discussion ensued. Melinda Brou asked our Treasurer, Hope Thacker if the chapter had the available funds to make this possible. Hope responded that we do have the funds available and further discussion ensued regarding whether to raise the Accompanying Judges’ fee.
 - c. John Nix made an amended **MOTION** to approve an honorarium fee increase for only Audition Judges from \$250 to \$350. Accompanying Judges will remain at \$240. Blythe Cates seconded.
 - d. Members **VOTED**. Motion **PASSED** without opposition.
- B. **Distance Learning**
- a. A discussion regarding whether or not we should move to and/or utilize distance learning tools in our Fall Meetings was brought to the floor by chapter President, Orit Eylon.
 - b. Discussion ensued.
 - c. At this time it was determined that the chapter needed more information about the process and members were concerned about losing in person

memberships and the money involved. The idea has been tabled at this time and no motions were made.

VIII. Reminders/Announcements

- A. **Aspiring Artists** – Gary Mabry reminded members about what the program and hyped members about the program is about. Had 5 applicants last year. Deadline is May 8, 2019.
- B. **NSA Award** – The top 5 winners of each category at TEXOMA are eligible to move on to the NSA awards of NATS however \$75 application fee for the second YouTube round, plus the travel fees for the actual final national rounds.

IX. New Business

- A. **Guest Judges** – We need to increase our base of judges, need to increase the honorarium as they are coming farther.
 - a. Daniel Hunter-Holly made a **MOTION** to approve a raise in pay for our guest judges at the spring meeting.
 - b. Discussion ensued. Melinda Brou wanted to know from the Treasurer if we indeed had the funds available to afford the raise in pay for our guest judges and accompanying judge. Hope Thacker, our Treasurer responded in the affirmative.
 - c. John Nix made an amended **MOTION** to approve the raise in pay from \$250 to \$300, but leave the accompanying judge at its current rate. Rick Novak seconded.
 - d. Membership **VOTED**. Motion **PASSED** without opposition.
- B. **Distance Learning**
 - a. Orit Eylon opened the meeting up to discussions involving distance learning for future meetings.
 - i. Members expressed concerns about losing quorum if we move to distance learning as well as problems with technical issues and especially problems with hearing the voice itself. Other members felt that distance learning would allow us to bring in bigger named individuals who do not have the time and/or money to come to our chapter meetings. At this time the overwhelming amount of chapter members do not want to give up the live experience.
 - b. NATS Winter Workshop at Florida
 - c. TEXOMA at Baylor, deadline is Wednesday
 - d. National Conference at Louisville 2020

X. Reminders and Announcements

- A. Fall Texoma Conference – The Fall Conference will be held at Baylor University in Waco, TX on November 7-10, 2018.
 - a. Many of our South Texas chapter members are speaking in the conference.
- B. Spring 2019 Auditions
 - a. The spring 2019 will be held at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi on April 6, 2019.

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