

Georgia NATS
Annual Business Meeting
February 15, 2008
University of West Georgia, Carrollton

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Toni Anderson, who thanked our hosts, Kevin Hibbard and Larry Frazier of the University of West Georgia.

- I. Comments by Linda Banister, District Governor (report attached.)
 - A. Announced that Christina Howell of Emory University has been selected for the NATS Intern program.
 - 1. Christina gave information about the program and application process.
 - 2. Linda Banister, motion: *“I propose that we provide Christina Howell with a stipend of \$300.”* Motion seconded and approved by the membership.
 - B. Two winners from the February 14, 2008 NATSAA state competition
 - 1. Adam Kirkpatrick from Georgia State University
 - 2. Michelle DeBruyn from Columbus State University
 - C. The Summer Workshop for teachers only—Alexander Technique
 - 1. 18 participated. Will plan another workshop in the future.
 - D. A get well card for Lucinda Schultz was available for signatures.
 - E. GA will provide the regional governor. The sole nominee is Toni Anderson.
 - F. Members volunteered to call former members who haven’t renewed.
- II. Minutes of previous meeting, Rebecca Lanning
 - A. Minutes from the 2007 Annual Business Meeting were read and approved.
- III. Membership Report, Sherri Weiler
 - A. The directory and membership cards have been distributed.
 - B. Membership is down by 98 members. This is a national trend.
 - C. The current membership was asked to inform new members about details of Georgia Chapter membership. The loose deadline is January 1.
 - D. New members were introduced.
 - 1. Arrika Gregory @ GSU
 - 2. Joy Rotz @ Shorter
 - 3. Catherine McGuire @ Agnes Scott
 - 4. Richard Kosowski @ Mercer
 - 5. Gina Harvey @ Clayton State
 - 6. Martin Vasquez @ GCSU
 - E. Toni requested that cell numbers be added to the directory.
- IV. Treasurer’s Report, Leroy Bynum (report attached.)
 - A. Balance is approaching \$10,000, which threatens our non-profit status. Suggests we spend some money!
 - B. Audition winners’ checks will be mailed to teachers.
- V. Registrar’s Report, David Thomas (report attached.)
 - A. The auditions continue to grow, with 397 singers this year. Potential problems:

1. UWG provided 11 spaces in the morning and 12 in the afternoon. If only 10 were supplied, the judging would go late into the evening. Future facilities must provide 12 spaces. Current guideline is 10.
 2. Practice rooms: the 10 minute limit is adequate
 3. Categories quite large, some running 3 hours.
 4. Accompanist guideline is currently a 10 singer max. We should adjust to the regional guideline of 12.
 5. As the competition grows, may need to run competition deeper into Saturday.
 6. Future Registrar needs an equipment upgrade. After much discussion, the following motion was made: *Toni Anderson will appoint a committee to study the issue of updating the registrar's program and equipment. The committee's recommendation will be voted upon by the Executive Committee, so that new systems can be in place by 2009 Auditions.*
Seconded and approved by membership.
- VI. Repertoire Consultant: Kathryn Hartgrove
- A. She will make rep clarifications concerning aria/art song controversy and post on website.
- VII. Education Report, Martha Malone and Dian Lawler-Johnson (report attached.)
- A. The Tim Hoekman masterclass was well received.
 - B. Erie Mills will be the master teacher for Fall Masterclass, Nov 7-8, UGA.
 1. The specialty will be English and American literature.
- VIII. Website Report, Pat Callaway (report attached.)
- A. Members were asked to confirm information on the directory as it will be posted on the website.
 - B. Other possible additions to website: archive, on-line registration, an enlarged announcement page
 - C. Matthew Hoch, historian, is designing a page.
 - D. Much research was done regarding ownership of a GANATS website. Motion by Pat Callaway: *"I move that Georgia NATS establish its own website with the GoDaddy.com service provider for a period of one or two years at the \$80 per year level of service and that at the end of that time we evaluate our satisfaction with the service."* Seconded and approved.
- IX. Nominating Committee Report, Linda Banister, chair (slate attached.)
- A. The motion was made to accept the 2008-09 slate of officers. Seconded and approved.
- X. Old Business
- A. Teachers' Workshop: please share ideas with each other and with Toni via e-mail.
- XI. New Business
- A. Bylaws have been updated to reflect current practice.
 1. Change to Article VII. Now reads: "The annual Chapter dues shall be assessed and are payable by January 1st of each year....."
 - B. Photo and Résumé Sessions
 1. Neither was well attended. It is a great idea, but sessions were advertised too little and too late.

2. Try again next year, but with session information in registration packets.
- C. Consistency when judging finals
 1. Singers offer one song of their choosing, no rep sheets required.
- D. Membership was encouraged to attend National Conference in Nashville.
 1. Students may volunteer and thereby attend conference for free.
Membership in a S-NATS chapter is not a requirement.

All business being completed, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Lanning, secretary



2008 GEORGIA NATS DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

It is an honor to continue to serve as the NATS governor of the state of Georgia and represent the Georgia Chapter of NATS to the Southeastern Region. The Georgia Chapter of NATS is known in the Southeastern Region for its participation in NATS activities, forward thinking and innovations it has made in the student auditions, and service to its teacher/members their students.

I welcome any comments or suggestions that you might have that should be addressed to the Regional Office. I will see that they reach our Regional Governor, Lloyd Mims.

My report will be brief, and follows:

- On September 21-22, 2007, the Georgia Chapter of NATS sponsored a workshop for teachers of singing with Dr. Christine Isley-Farmer as the guest clinician. The 18 attendees at *Alexander Technique for Voice Studio Use: Practical Applications of the Technique for Effective Studio Teaching* came away with many new insights into ways in which this technique can be useful in their teaching.
- The Fall Workshop with Dr. Timothy Hoekman as the master teacher was held at North Georgia College, Dahlonega, GA, on November 2-3, 2007.
- The Georgia chapter's NATSAA Auditions were held on the Thursday, February 14, 2007, the evening prior to the 2008 Student Auditions.
- I encourage as many of you as possible to sponsor students and attend the Southeastern Regional NATS Student Auditions. This year they will be held on March 28-29, 2008, at Georgia State University in Atlanta, GA. Dwight Coleman is the coordinator of this event.
- Start making plans now to attend the 2008 NATS Conference to be held in Nashville, Tennessee from June 27-July 1, 2008. We should be able to have a large number of Georgia NATS members in attendance because of its location. Please check your NATS Bulletins and Internos for further updates on this event.

If you have met any of the new NATS members, please welcome them to Georgia and encourage them to become members of the Georgia Chapter of NATS, if they have not already done so.

Respectfully submitted:

Linda Banister, D.M.
District Governor, Georgia NATS

GEORGIA NATS

TREASURER'S REPORT

February 2007 – February 2008

Balance Brought Forward (February 2007) \$ 3,964.83

Credits:

NATS Auditions – Reinhardt College (2/16-17/07)
Student/Teacher Fees \$ 5,320.00

Dues (9/07) 20.00

Alexander Technique Workshop (9/21-22/07)
Georgia State University
Participant fees (18 participants X \$65.00) \$ 1,170.00

NATS Fall Workshop (11/2-3/07) \$ 2,100.00
North Georgia College and State University
Student Applicant fees: 21 x \$25.00 = \$525.00
Attendance fees: 29 x \$15.00 = \$435.00
NATS Dues (2008) 7 x \$20.00 = \$140.00
GMTA \$500.00
NATS Discretionary Fund \$500.00

NATS 2008 Dues (as of 02/04/08) \$ 1,740.00

Balance Total with Credits \$14,314.83

Debits:

NATS Spring Auditions Expenses (T. Anderson) - 103.00

NATS Dinner – ARAMARK, Reinhardt College - 700.00
(final payment - \$625 deposit paid in January)

NATS Auditions Cash Awards - 3,565.00

Debits, cont:

Fall Alexander Technique Workshop Atlanta, GA, Dr. Christine Isley-Farmer, Clinician	
Clinician's Fee and Expenses	- \$ 837.33
Postage (L. Banister)	- \$ 66.42
NATS Fall Workshop	- \$1,823.78
North Georgia College and State University	
Dr. Timothy Hoekman, clinician fee:	\$1,000.00
Expenses:	\$ 662.83
Cheryl Boyd Waddell Prize (Mary Beth Quarles)	50.00
Postage, and expenses (M. Malone)	\$ 111.95
Total Debits	- <u>\$ 7,095.53</u>
Balance to Date (2/12/08)	<u>\$ 7,219.30</u>

Respectfully submitted,

Leroy E, Bynum, Jr., Treasurer

Registrar's Report
Georgia NATS
February 15, 2008

If memory serves, our audition registrations numbers were 345 in 2006 and 366 in 2007. The 2008 auditions set a new benchmark with applications totaling 387 students in 23 categories. While numbers of this size are wonderful, it does present some potential issues in regards to facilities usage, practice/warm-up space availability, time demands on category judges, and overall length of the auditions.

Available performing spaces at the University of West Georgia were beyond the minimum 10 required for the auditions. The availability of 12 performing spaces allowed the completion of auditions without the necessity of Friday evening or Saturday afternoon categories. If Georgia's audition numbers continue to grow, the minimum number of performance spaces may need to be increased to prevent the overall lengthening of the auditions.

Practice room availability currently is stretched to the limit due to the large number of students auditioning. In 2007, students were limited to 10 minutes of rehearsal/warm-up time. This limitation provided an equitable amount of time in which each student could warm-up and rehearse before their audition. This also gave the students a feel for auditioning in a real-world setting. This requirement is continued in 2008 and may need to be considered on a year-by-year basis.

Time demands on judges are a concern as many categories or sub-categories are over 2 hours in length, with several approaching 3 hours in 2008. At this point, the solution is not clear. Accompanist issues may also surface as our numbers increase. Currently, an accompanist may play for 10 students at the state auditions, but 12 students is the standard at regional auditions. We may need to consider increasing our state numbers to that of the regional, alleviating some potential issues.

Changing the overall length of the auditions to include Friday evening and/or Saturday afternoon auditions may be the best solution, given our continued growth. Moving the Winner's Recital to a time later on Saturday would allow extra time for auditions and cause fewer problems. Friday evening auditions would severely impact our business meetings and make a very long day even longer.

I have one final request to make. After serving as registrar for the last 3 years, I need to find a replacement. Due to increased administrative responsibilities at my institution, I will be unable to provide the proper attention to detail that is required in this position. The job of registrar is extremely important to our organization and I have found it highly rewarding. I hope our next registrar finds the job a challenge that is well worth the effort.

Thank you for your time and support.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. David M. Thomas
Registrar, Georgia NATS

NATS Fall Workshop – Nov. 2 - 3, 2007 Dr. Timothy Hoekman, Clinician
North GA College and State University (Dahlonega)
Martha Malone and Dian Lawler-Johnson, GA NATS Education C0-Chairs

Attendance

Friday, November 2nd	
NATS Members	16
GMTA	17
Students (non-performing)	3
Students (performing)	12
General	5
Friday Total	<hr/> 53
Saturday, November 3 rd	
NATS Members	12
GMTA	9
Students (non-performing)	5
Students (performing)	10
General	3
Saturday Total	<hr/> 39
TWO-DAY TOTAL	92

Workshop Credits

Student applicant fees	21 X \$25.00 = \$525.00
Attendance fees	29 X \$15.00 = \$435.00
Discretionary funds	\$500.00
Georgia NATS (matching funds)	\$500.00
TOTAL CREDITS	<hr/> \$1,960.00

Workshop Expenses

To: Mary Beth Quarles	\$50.00
(Cheryl Boyd Waddell Prize)	
Martha Malone	\$111.95
(Postage, materials, etc.)	
Dr. Timothy Hoekman, clinician	\$1,662.83
TOTAL EXPENSES	<hr/> \$1,824.78

12 singers were selected to participate in the Master Class, from 21 applications.

2008 Fall Master Class: Nov. 7-8, at UGA (Athens); Erie Mills, guest clinician

Pat Callaway, Web Chair

At the November 2007 Executive Committee meeting I was assigned the task of researching the possibility that Georgia NATS would own its own website. For a number of years we have been hosted by Georgia State, thanks to the good offices of Dwight Coleman, and our website has worked well. The Georgia State web people have been easy to work with, and their original design for our website has been good looking and has done the job.

The idea that we need a website of our own comes from our growth over the past few years and from our wish to add an archive to the website. Adding an archive, especially one with pictures, is quite likely to require space and activity that will be more convenient on our own site. Matt Hoch, our historian, is designing an archive webpage that we can add which will have photos of your students that you will be able to download, and a more orderly collection of information about past events than we have been able to keep so far.

We would also like to enlarge our Announcements page with announcements from members about upcoming special events or, especially, opera workshop performances. Many of us would like to see the opera workshop performances at other schools, but finding out about them requires thinking about them at the right time of year and remembering to Email our colleagues.

The first person with whom I exchanged Emails in my research activities was Daniel Solberg, a pianist and webmaster who maintains Kathryn Hargrove's website. Daniel took a look at our website and determined that his services and the size of the websites he operates would be overkill. He suggested that we try one of the smaller organizations that provide service for non-profits like us, and that we can copy our whole website onto a CD and just move it as is.

Christina Howell came up with GoDaddy, a very inexpensive service, and it looks like a good fit for us. There are two levels of service after we register. Registration involves paying an annual fee of \$7.19 to register the domain name ganats.org and to pay the small fee to the international organization that keeps track of domain names.

The basic service costs \$3.79 a month (about \$45.50 a year) for which we get 5 GB (gigabits) of space and 250 GB of "transfers", which is when people download materials from our site. They also offer Email service that can be forwarded to one's own Email account. For example if we chose to use president@ganats.org, the Emails could be routed to Toni's normal Email address. In the basic service we would receive 50 of these forwards.

The deluxe service costs \$6.64 per month (about \$80 per year) for which we get 100 GB of space and 1000 GB of transfers. The Email forwarding service at this level is unlimited.

There are additional discounts for various parts of their service if we sign up for more than one year at a time. There are additional services included that we may choose to use. For example, we can add the archive page using their photo gallery feature if that's the way Matt decides to go.

My recommendation is that we sign up with GoDaddy for a one-year period of service at the deluxe level, unless we find that there would be significant savings from signing up for two years.

MOTION: I move that Georgia NATS establish its own website with the GoDaddy.com service provider for a period of one or two years at the \$80 per year level of service and that at the end of that time we evaluate our satisfaction with the service.

