

Minutes

2013 Georgia NATS Annual Business Meeting

February 15, 2013 ~ 7:00 PM ~ Columbus State University, Columbus, GA

The meeting was called to order by President Rebecca Lanning at 6:55 PM.

1. Accepted 2012 business meeting minutes with one correction: Allen Henderson is the executive director of NATS, not the national president as was stated.
2. New members were introduced: Kelly Balmaceda (Private Studio and Georgia Southern University), Emily Grundstad-Hall (Armstrong Atlantic State University), Eric McCluskey (Shorter University), Carolyn Dorff (Kennesaw State University), Bob Dawkins (Truitt-McConnell College), and Bob Smith (Private Studio).
3. Comments:
 - a. **Dian Lawler-Johnson, District Governor:** Southeastern Regional NATS 2013 is at Stetson University, March 22-23. Deadline reminder was given. Next year's SER NATS auditions will be held at Columbus State University, March 28-29, 2014.
 - b. **Allen Henderson, NATS Executive Director:** Overview of National NATS conference and general trends at the national level.
 - i. First national Musical Theater competition was a success. Second one is coming up in Boston summer of 2014.
 - ii. Exhibitors at the national conference (July 2012) included Adam Kirkpatrick.
 - iii. A committee is currently in discussion on the best way to handle the proposed national auditions for students. First, second and third place winners at the Regional level will be eligible to advance. National Semi-finals and Finals will be held at the National conference in Boston, July 5-8, 2014.
 - iv. NATS 2013 Summer workshop will be Spokane, WA.
 - v. International Congress of Voice Teachers will be held July 2013 in Brisbane, Australia. Those attending/presenting from the GA State and SER region include Allen Henderson, Kurt-Alexander Zeller, and Matt Hoch.
 - vi. Regarding pianists using i-pads for accompanying: Meeting with the Music Publishers Association yielded no results thus far. Looking for ways to work together, but as of yet, not successful in doing so.
 - vii. Weekly Intermezzo e-mail from NATS was suggested for both teachers and students. Sign up for it on the NATS website.
 - viii. Info on the NATS website for Songfest Mentor Program.
 - ix. NATS is working on a new website which will include search capabilities for the complete *Journal of Singing*. Hoping to be up and running in summer of 2013.
4. Committee Reports
 - a. **Membership Report (Wendy Mullen, in absentia):** Membership has been steady (2008-130, 2011-118, 2012-117, 2013-115). Current challenges include communication with the National Office on membership renewal. Address changes should be made with both the National Office and the GA NATS Membership Chair.
 - b. **Treasurer's Report (Leroy Bynum):** Balance on 2/16/12 was \$10,476.92 and the balance on 2/14/13 is \$9,459.10. The difference in the balance is likely unreported dues and \$600 from discretionary funds yet to be applied. Encourage students to cash checks for NATS winnings promptly as it has been an issue in the past. Charged no fees for the Fall Master Class, just spent. Some schools hosting GA NATS do not have a budget for the hospitality

room. Therefore, GA NATS is paying for the expense, as the balance shouldn't be above \$10,000 due to federal tax issues.

- c. **Registrar's Report (Rich Kosowski):** 398 registrants for 2013, down a bit from last year. Looking at new online registration programs and will have something in place for next year. Please limit pianists to 10 auditions over two days as it becomes nearly impossible to schedule. The latter information will be in the outgoing letter next year and 10 auditions per accompanist will be strictly enforced.
- d. **Education Report (Kathryn Hartgrove for Christina Howell and Tonya Currier in absentia):** This year's GA NATS Master Class took place in November 2012 at Clayton State University featuring vocal coach, Ksenia Leletkina, and was concentrated upon Russian Diction. 19 NATS members, 15 students, and 2 non-members took part in the lecture and master class. Discretionary funds were secured from both SER NATS and the National Office. In response to when to hold the master class in the 2013-14 school year, since GA state auditions are moving to November, Leroy Bynum suggested we keep this weekend in mid-February free for the master class. The motion was approved. A survey of teachers will help to determine the needs of the chapter as far as future themes for master classes.
- e. **Webmaster's Report (Carolyn Dorff):** An Allmembers e-mail list has been set up (allmembers@ganats.org) and is undergoing refinement. Questions, comments, and e-mail updates should be sent to Carolyn at dorffc@comcast.net. Documents and pictures are in the process of receiving approval for posting.
- f. **Repertoire Consultant's Report (Martha Malone):** About 14/15 inquiries were made and Martha thanked the members for being logical and conscientious.
- g. **Archives Report (Julie Megginson):** Like our page on Facebook. A picture of the winners with their teachers will be taken at 1:30 PM on Saturday before the winners' recital and will be posted on the FB page.

5. Old Business

- a. New dates for Fall 2013 GA NATS auditions are November 15-16, 2013 at Mercer University. It was suggested that we try this new date for 3 years before deciding whether to switch back to Spring.
- b. Acknowledgement of past officers: Kyle Hancock and Pat Callaway.

6. New Business

- a. New Registrar is needed for 2014, and it was suggested that this person mentor with the current registrar next year (Fall 2013). Shellie DeBruyn volunteered for the post and was consequently nominated.
- b. Online registration program was addressed in the Registrar's Report.
- c. Accompanist student-load guidelines were addressed in the Registrar's Report.
- d. Consolidated Schools were noted in the agenda.
- e. Announcements including upcoming dates were noted on the agenda.

7. Call for New Business and Announcements

- a. Discussion following whether the membership agreed with no longer having a classical requirement in the Musical Theater categories now that we've lived with the decision for a couple of years.
 - i. For the National NATS Musical Theater competition, a classical selection is not required. We will eventually want to conform to the national requirements.
 - ii. Many students study only musical theater.
- b. Repertoire question: If operetta is allowed in the Musical Theater categories, is it allowed in the Classical categories as well? The answer given was that operetta counted as opera and it should be done in the original language (for example, *Fledermaus* should be in German for the Classical categories.).

- c. Question regarding a formal process for application for summer study by members outside of the Intern Program.
 - i. There is currently no formal policy on gifts from the Chapter.
 - ii. This has not happened in the past, but the chapter could consider widening funding to all NATS activities.
 - iii. Suggestion was made to the executive board to include this matter on their agenda for the next meeting. In the meantime, it was also suggested that members request funding if needed.

Meeting was adjourned by President Lanning at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shellie DeBruyn
Secretary