

National Association of Teachers of Singing

Founded and incorporated in 1944

The Mid-Atlantic Region

**Barbara Ann Peters, Regional Governor Alissa Deeter, Treasurer and Webmaster**

**NATS Mid-Atlantic Region Board Meeting**

**March 15, 2018 Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA**

**Center for Music and Worship Arts**

**6:00-9:30 pm Room 303, Level 3 Box Supper Served**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Attendees:**

Barbara Ann Peters (BP) MAR NATS Governor

Alissa Walters Deeter (AD) MAR NATS Treasurer

Catherine Porter-Borden (CPB) MD/DC NATS District Governor

Deborah Thurlow (DT) MD/DC NATS Chapter Treasurer

Linda Haslach Allison (LHA) MD/DC Chapter President

Mark Greenawalt (MG) VA NATS District Governor

David Gresham (DG) NC NATS District Governor

Jennifer Seiger (JS) NC NATS Chapter Vice President and Auditions Chair

Wendy Jones (WJ) NC NATS Chapter Secretary

Jill Terhaar Lewis (JTL) SC NATS District Governor (recording minutes)

Kristen Wunderlich (KW) SC NATS Chapter President

Amanda Castellone (AC) SC NATS Chapter Vice President and Auditions Chair

Brian Nedvin (BN) VA NATS Chapter President

Susan Braden (SB) VA NATS VP Auditions Chair, Emeritus

Nancy MacArthur Smith (NMS) VA NATS Chapter Secretary

**Review of Minutes from Meeting held Barbara A. Peters**

**Friday, March 15, 2017 at UNC-Chapel Hill**

**Chapel Hill, NC 7-10 pm**

* **Discussion and Approval**
  + BP read highlights of minutes to members present
  + CPB moved to accept
  + AD seconded
  + Motion carried unanimously

**Treasurer’s Report Alissa Deeter**

* **Discussion and Approval**
  + Lots of money lost this year due to excessive expenses [see the report for specifics]
  + Current balance roughly $900
  + AD: Combed the books looking for changes
  + Expenses
    - This is also a year for NATSAA expenses
    - Supplies/Website/Printing/Mailing $1367.21
    - Total expenses ($18,392.34) increased by 122% from 2016’s total expenses ($15,062), 156% increase from 2015 ($11,828)
    - Squarespace [Web Domain Renewal] fee $216
    - Regional Website Development & Maintenance fee $500
    - UNC Chapel Hill expenses $3810
    - Guests clinicians around $2000
    - Sing-off rounds adding expenses for accompanist fees $775
    - NATSAA had an additional expense: Half of travel for all judges was covered by MAR NATS and the other half was covered by each individual district from which the judge came
    - Additional expense of $400 for National Conference Ad for 2018 national conference booklet
    - Half of travel costs (as is policy) for Regional Governor’s travel to the National Conference was also covered. ($447.79)
  + Income
    - Income was down this year due to an AuditionWare increase in per audition fee from $1 to $2, and a $1 fee per audition assessed by National to pay for processing all monies through the National office. This fee structure was approved at the National Board meeting in June 2017.
    - Total income for 2018, including teacher fees, sub fees, donations, and region fees: $9,489, vs. total income for 2017, including teacher fees, sub fees, donations, and region fees: $10,181
    - Difficult to find who paid sub fees, etc.
    - 2017 State/Chapter $3 per audition monies from VA did not come in, $1332 missing [paid later during the conference]
  + AD: Extra travel expenses: BAP travel to Florida for the NATS board meeting; (Robert usually didn’t go)
  + AD: We would normally collect an additional $500 in donations through Squarespace, but now we cannot collect donations since money is taken in through the National website only.
  + Estimated totals for 2018 Regional conference [at the time of the meeting prior to final totals] $2700 for clinicians; $5700 registration fees; $800 pianist fees; $2866.61 food; $1500 office; $800 travel
  + AD: Expenses at strange times, loss of income and additional expenses incurred contributed to the changes in the Region’s financial status this year.
  + AD: We need to make adjustments.
  + Ideas to fix:
    - BAP: use our Region’s resources for clinicians, rather than bringing in clinicians
    - BAP: Towson requires payment for use of its venue, so we definitely need to trim our sails
    - CPB: Can we charge student registration fees? BAP: The region could charge each student an application fee; SB: It means every fee rises; BAP: Region would not charge the $3 per district audition fee; LA: We could take fee out of stipend paid to students.
  + WJ moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report
  + JS seconded
  + Motion carried

**Old Business**

* **Mid-Atlantic Rules and Regulations Mid-Atlantic Region Board**

**(Handbook) Updates**

* + Revise membership requirements for participation at Regional events
  + Pg. 3 Allen Henderson said anyone who joins the National organization is automatically an active member of a region; is able to serve as judge without being a chapter member
  + Strike second part of statement to update to follow this guideline.
  + Non-attending teachers: BN and SB responsibility is on the teacher and KW agreed clearer language needed; SB new members are possible exception
  + DG: BAP did the connecting of subs to sponsoring teachers in need
  + Voted to change language; BN motioned; DT seconded; motion carried
  + BAP showed other numbering changes
* **Website Alissa Deeter**
  + Roughly 600 views on website, will increase when we have auditions
  + AD: Do we want to make any changes or use our website to do other things?
  + BAP: Informational once per year site
  + AD: Social media, stay current
  + JTL: Idea of pre-vetted clinics offered by members to post on websites
* **AuditionWare Barbara A. Peters**
  + BAP: National portal shut us out so many times, Mills created BAP personal access which helped speed up the process
  + BAP: In general, a friendlier interface
  + BAP: Money handling will not change
  + JTL: Ability for teachers and students to easily access student rep along with audition times, etc., desired.
  + The way to stop the flood of emails to a reviewer to get message every time someone checks messages was questioned and discussed.
  + AC: Assign judges screen needs to be bigger with name of studio and what they teach on the grid page
    - BAP that is an option in the setup judge option
  + SB: VA NATS: Pre-vetting accompanists: teachers were able to put in info for accompanist and check box for official NATS pianist; now it charges teachers $50 per accompanist; made a mess for payment of pianists; also had fake names for accompanists and then used one accompanist
  + BN solution: At District level: no one except VP-Auditions Chair can put in name of accompanist
  + JTL: Preapprove the list prior to opening audition, then let the application be incomplete until accompanist is approved.

**New Business**

* **Addio to Alissa Deeter, Regional Treasurer and Webmaster Barbara A. Peters**
  + Moving to Oregon
* **Introduction to new Regional and District Officers**
  + **Mark Greenawalt, incoming DG of VA-NATS**
  + **Jennifer Bryant Pedersen, incoming Webmaster of Mid-Atlantic Region**
* Ill and unable to attend
* Just won an emerging leader award
  + **Elizabeth “Beth” Byrum Linnartz, incoming Treasurer of Mid-Atlantic Region *in absentia***
* **Verbal Region Report Barbara A. Peters**
  + Growing region
  + All areas experiencing growth
  + Outgrowing facilities – particularly in VA
  + Make manageable event for all involved
  + Options to manage numbers
  + CPB: Limit those attending regionals
  + BN: Keep honors as it is, but limit to top five
  + JTL: Do we need to split to two regions?
  + AD: Seems like we may be punishing students because there are more of them by limiting numbers for size, not quality.
  + SB: Don’t offer clinicians, but keep it strictly about adjudication
  + BAP: No other facility in this region that can accommodate this weekend (we are currently using all 26 rooms offered)
  + BAP: Allen said he is not interested in the idea of video rounds; live auditions preferred until NSA level
  + JTL: We need a subcommittee to review hard data and not go on what we feel before we make these decisions.
  + Subcommittee formed: JS, BN, LHA (or Michael), AC to review data and make recommendations about how to proceed
* **Verbal District Reports**
  + **MD/DC NATS** LHA
    - $35 dues $25 application per category; honors recital pianist $200
    - Membership is up by five members; effort to reach out to lapsed members
    - Holiday happy hour scheduled, but snowed out.
    - Collaborative Studio Classes to stimulate teacher dialogue
      * Different areas
      * Three classes
      * Open dialogue with 4 teachers about singing to 2 singers
      * Small grant ($600) received from nationals to defray piano tuning costs
      * Need to plan way in advance to find acceptable date and get commitments for “collaborative studio class”
      * Try to schedule eventsin different areas
    - New VP pro tem, Madeline Miskie
    - Miskie instituted a Member of the Month piece for the Facebook page
    - 92 singers, 40 teachers (out of 119) and 36 pianists; 9:30-2:00, jazz band with singers for tally time recital; 11-14 year olds invited to sing and compete
    - Two workshops
    - Fall: Rachelle Fleming MT in the Opera House
      * 40 students
    - Spring, April 29: Nancy Krebs will be the clinician for ***WHEN YOU SPEAK, DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE SINGING?*** *An Introduction to the Lessac Kinesensic Training.* Nancy Krebs is a Master Teacher in Lessac Kinesensic Training.
    - Contributed $1200 to nationals in memory of Myra Tate for a prize in NSA. Divided into two $600 prizes.
    - NATSAA in fall 2019 probably at American University
    - DT: Financial: Same kind of trend: Some new members; membership has been down in the past, but not sure why; $8800 in the bank, lower than normal, but not worried
    - SB: Trouble keeping track of special events like a banquet fees
    - We would like more clarity of numbers from national office as we don’t know where money is going.
  + **VA** **NATS** BN
    - $25 dues; $40 per teacher includes lunch for two; $25 app per category
    - BN: Incorporated happy hour
    - New DG: Mark Greenawalt; Kathleen Bell new VP, Auditions Chair
    - Judges meeting at 8 am and the membership meeting which increased voting.
    - Wanting to increase minority membership.
    - Added 20 members; reached out to lapsed members
    - March 1 and 2 at Shenandoah University; trying to stabilize registration
    - VA NATS allows rep changes
    - Switched to honor recitals both days which made them shorter and more positive experiences
    - JMU joined forces with VA NATS to bring in a clinician for master classes and recital
    - Looking into splitting 451 auditions: 25 categories, Friday and 18 on Saturday
    - Very in the black so starting an investment fund
    - Board members donate; other members donate with VANATS matching up to $1000
    - Keeping a cushion, using funds for awards
    - Kudos to SB on her bravery and her show about her cancer experience
  + **NC NATS** DG
    - $25 dues; $25 teacher registration fee; $25 per application per category
    - 167 active members up 5
    - 654 total auditions up 97 from last year
    - 271 for fall up 28 (beginning high school women biggest) 48 teachers, clinician Edrie Means Weekly: CCM presentation and master class
    - 383 for Spring up 34 students 73 teachers, clinicians Danielle Talamantes and Kerry Wilkerson; UNC-G paid for part of fee for clinicians
    - Dues and fees structure is working very well. [See Treasurer’s Report for further detail.]
    - Master classes better attended (no longer offering cross pollination classes)
  + **SC NATS** KW
    - $25 dues $20 per student application; no charge for teachers; lunch a la carte
    - KW everyone in a new role except Cheryl Greene (Webmaster) and Loretta Haskell (Treasurer)
    - Advisory board of four members, way to reach out to new members: Meredith Bailey (also a panel member with Rachelle Fleming) Patti Edwards, Jonathan Doyel, and Seth Killen
    - See Treasurer’s Report for financials
    - 143 region qualifiers from fall auditions
    - Big boost in spring with 15 more teachers; 156 region qualifiers
    - Fall workshop Stephanie Samaras and SC NATS member presentations
      * *Dalcroze Eurythmics: An Application to Voice Pedagogy*-Dr. Tricia Oney
      * *Head/Neck Massage for Singing Voice Therapy and Overall Wellness*-Dr. Deanna McBroom
      * *From the Black Church to the Opera Stage: Transforming Students from the Gospel Belt to the Classical Sound*-Dr. Lori Hicks \* (also accepted as Natl NATS Presentation)
    - Experiencing increased interest in host sites
      * Fall SC State or Converse College
      * Spring Feb 23 Bob Jones University (BJU)
    - Reg 2020 University of SC, BJU, or College of Charleston
    - New added expenses due to votes on awarding student monies
      * Voted to give $20 to every region qualifier regardless of participation at Regionals, which has made budget tight.
      * Also voted to award $75 to each student who advances to Las Vegas
    - Two committees formed
      * Memorial Fund
        + Donor page set up on the website with approval and directions given from the National office.
        + Cap of $2000 per month for donations
        + Donations may be made in people’s names and given as awards
      * Membership Committee report from JTL
        + Committee assembled of JTL, Seth Killen, and Shellie Beeman
        + Ideas:

Small scale masterclasses and clinics in areas of state less served; taught by SC NATS members

Combine teaching credit opportunities for HS teachers with the clinics to reach out to SC NATS HS teachers as well as other HS teachers that are not members

Maintain a database of clinics that can be offered by current SC NATS to help connect people in need of clinicians as well as help our SC NATS members

Group master class that is for clinicians working with students, but also working with teachers in small groups to evaluate the students, too; kind of discussion-based masterclass

Committee concentrating on regular members and less on student membership or collaborative pianist membership; committee did not see a big demand or benefit for these two types of members in our current structure of SC NATS

CPB offered recruitment letter idea

* + - * KW noted that audition chair should have clearance to email from website
* **Schedule options for future Regional events Mid-Atlantic Region Board**
  + Towson, MD
  + Mar 22-23, 2018
* **NATSAA hosts for 2019, 2021? Mid-Atlantic Region Board**
* **Regionals hosts 2020 (SC), 2021 (NC) Mid-Atlantic Region Board**

**Upcoming events and deadlines:**

* NSA Online Application (by email invitation, only, following Regionals) April 13, 2018
* District written reports due to Regional Governor by April 22, 2018
  + Copy JTL to fill in details in the minutes
* 55th National Conference June 22-26, 2018 Las Vegas, NV
* Officer slates due to Regional Governor by June 30, or earlier
* NATS Student Auditions: Chapters: 2019-2020 dates and venues?
  + Get events dates to BAP and she will forward to AD and post on National Event web page
* NATS National Student Auditions: Mid-Atlantic Region
  + March 22-23, 2019
  + Towson University, Towson, MD
* 2020 NATSAA Competition
  + Application deadline: September 7, 2019
* 2020 Mid-Atlantic Region NATSAA
  + Preliminary round: first or second weekend in October, 2019 MD, likely at American University
* 2020 National Music Theater Competition
  + Application Deadline: September 15, 2019
* 2020 Winter Workshop, NATSAA Semifinals and Finals, and NTMTC FINALS
  + January 3-4, 2020
  + Palm Beach Atlantic University

**Other general comments**

* BAP: This year’s Regional event very tightly scheduled. Longest part of scheduling was resolving pianist conflicts.
* May need to limit pianists to 10 or fewer students because of the conflicts
* KW motioned to adjourn
  + DG seconded
  + Approved

Respectfully submitted by Jill Terhaar Lewis