

Wisconsin NATS Chapter Meeting Minutes
November 7, 2015
Meeting held at University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

CALL TO ORDER- The meeting was called to order at 12:00pm

MINUTES- The minutes were approved with no corrections.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

PRESIDENT- John Gates thanked the UW Eau Claire hosts for all their efforts organizing the Auditions this year. He thanked Wendelin Lockett and Wendy Rowe for their many years of service on the Board. Both finish their terms after this meeting as the new slate of candidates are voted in. He acknowledged Kathy Duax, past National President and our own long time chapter member.

MEMBERSHIP- Wendelin Lockett reported that as of today we have 115 members. We had 51 members judge on Friday and 41 members attending this meeting. Three new members were introduced: Emily Davis from Silver Lake College, Julie DeBoer from UW Eau Claire, and Rachel Wood from UW Whitewater.

ELECTIONS- Tanya Kruse Ruck headed the nominating committee and introduced Jessica Timmons up for Member-At-Large, Dawn Riesing will move from Member-At-Large to Communications Secretary and John appointed Rachel Warrick to take over Dawn's term as Member-At-Large.

VICE-PRESIDENT- Melanie Cain presented to the membership a ballot of proposals for the Spring Events. After some discussion the chapter decided to postpone a vote until more information can be provided on the proposals. A ballot will be sent via e-mail at a later date.

TREASURER- Kenneth Pereira submitted the attached report. Ken also requested an advisory vote from the chapter regarding the issue of having the Auditions become self supporting/sustaining. The three options were lowering prize money, increasing student application fee, and eliminating guest judges.

STATE GOVERNOR- Kathy Otterson announced NATSAA 2016 will be held March 18-19 at St Olaf College. Information can be found on the National Website. Deadline for application is January 13, 2016. Kathy announced that Dan Johnson-Wilmot is currently the National Auditions Chair. She explained that there were many revisions to our Auditions this year in order to align with the National Auditions guidelines. Also, a big change this year is that anyone can enter the National Auditions-not just District finalists as in past years-and the deadline is February 15, 2016. Entry begins at the Regional level. All the information can be found on the National Website.

NATIONAL PAST-PRESIDENT Kathryn Proctor-Duax spoke on the internship program of which she is in charge. It will be at University Of North Carolina in June 2016. Information is on the National Website.

AUDITIONS- Nathan Krueger thanked the membership for all their help in the Auditions and thanked Dr. Brian Gill, our Guest Judge and Clinician this year. Dan Johnson-Wilmot **National Auditions Chair** shared that the open auditions at the Regional level is an attempt to attract more students and make it more competitive. The rubric sent out from National was very well received. 2/3 of our new members teach alternative styles including gospel, rock and contemporary. Dan asked the membership to embrace new categories to reflect this trend. Nathan said there will be questions posed to membership coming up soon regarding auditions categories.

BYLAWS: Revisions were presented as a motion from the board to the membership. *Combine Treasurer with Membership Secretary, create new board position for Communication and wording that helps regulate Auditions Committee with flexibility.* The motion passed.

LIVE REGIONAL AUDITIONS: President John Gates asked the membership for feed back to present to the Regional Governor regarding the possibility of our participation in a live regional audition. Options: keep our District Auditions and add a possible spring Regional, forego a District Audition and attend a Regional, possibly alternating years. After some discussion, the members gave some feedback.

Idea-District Auditions in Fall and in Spring the finalists would be invited to participate at the Regional Level.

Concern- logistics i.e. pianos, rooms for such a large event.

Concern- what is prompting the live auditions versus the YouTube submission?

Concern- unfunded teachers adding longer travel and other expenses.

Concern- possible inequity of submitting YouTube vs live regionals.

Idea- YouTube may actually afford some students the opportunity that may not be able to afford the expense of attending a Regional, more people may be able to participate.

Concern- we as members are already spread thin with obligations and Spring is a busy time.

Idea- we enjoy having the smaller gathering at the district level allowing us to get to know each other better and don't want to give this up.

Concern- many students in the private studios may not be able/willing to travel any more than they currently do.

Concern- feels too ambitious. We had trouble getting people to our Spring Meeting due to all the busy-ness of the season.

Idea- get student input.

Concern- travelling further may be financially prohibitive.

Idea- using the YouTube format helps students that will have to use the technology as they apply for other first round competitions and graduate school auditions.

Concern- too hard, too expensive, too time consuming. (Kathy Duax)

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Karen Leigh Post will be presenting a lecture/masterclass *The Brain, Music and Optimal Performance* at UW Milwaukee March 2, 2016 6:00-9:00. This event is partially funded by the NATS Spring Event sponsorship. Mimmie Fulmer's First Volume of the Nordic Anthology has been released. Benjamin Schultz has a book on Polish Diction to be released in December 2015. Diane Foust announced the 10th annual Alexander Workshop at Viterbo July 25-30, 2016. Ken Bozeman has an article in the current issue of the Journal of Singing.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 1:10pm

Respectfully submitted by Wendy Rowe