

Wisconsin NATS Chapter Meeting 11/4//23

In attendance:

Emily Alvarez, Julia Rottmayer, Karen Leigh-Post, John T Gates, Rachel Wood, Ann Schoenecker, Diane Foust, Dan Johnson Wilmot, Lukas (SNATS President), Jennifer Conrad- Proulx, Lauren Gordon, Kathy Otterson, Jessica Schwefel, Cayla Roshe, Gabrielle Simpson-Hass, Matthew Markham, Brian Leeper, Kourtney Austin, Stephen Austin, Joanne Bozeman, Ken Bozeman, Mimmi Fulmer, J. Adam Shelton, Rachel Warrick
Via Zoom - Nathan Krueger, Colleen Brooks

Meeting comes to order at 12:32

President's Welcome - Matthew Markham

The minutes from our last chapter meeting were sent out October 14

Motion to approve the minutes - Ann Schoenecker made the motion, Jessica Schwefel approved

President's Report - Matthew Markham

Thank you's - this fall has been challenging with the registration system that was changed late in the game

The scheduling was quite difficult as well

Thank you, Nathan, for doing a lot of work in the beginning stages

Round of applause to the board members who worked tirelessly on the auditions

Thank you to Viterbo - Dan and Ann, Dean Rick and all the custodial staff, the students, the door monitors, the singers congratulating each other

SNATS President Lucas organized all of the door monitors and student help

IT helper, Kathy, all the teachers that were flexible and understanding

Guest Adjudicator and Clinician - Steve Austin

In September our treasurer resigned. Thank you Antonina Johnston for your service. Adam has stepped in - thank you Adam!

Vice President's Report - Jennifer Conrad-Proulx

NATS grants that we offer for different parts of the state

2023 - October 6 Daniel Fung's masterclass at UW Stevens Point

Susan Bender - gratitude for supporting Daniel Fung's masterclass. Open call for applicants - 3 applications from Brian Leeper, Cayla Roshe and Susan Bender.
Free masterclass - 3 singers

2023 - Linnita Crawford - September 27/28 Tauson Maryland
Guest Artist Class - Specialist in American Song Literature and Cabaret
UW Madison students worked on the repertoire with her
"The lesson inspired me to learn more about the songs I sing. " Composer, background, etc."

Two grants in 2024

1. UW Milwaukee - Melissa Foster specialist in CCM

Performer's Guide to Hip Hop and Rap

Thursday February 22 and Friday 23rd

Colleen Brooks - thank you for sharing the fund

UWM paid for Melissa's fee but the transportation and accommodations are possible because of the NATS grant

Melissa will walk us through the respectful approach

DooWop, Motown, Disco, R&B, and Rap

Walk through historical context of how the genre came to be

That helps us find authenticity

Question and Answer

DEI

Lecture on pop/rock styles in Musical Theatre

All classes are open to the public

During the day, but the hope is to gain permission to record and share out

Viterbo students had fantastic experiences with her, Ann Schoenecker reported to us.

2. Bach Around the Clock

Masterclass for singers with Sarah Brailey on the art of singing Bach

Anyone can submit an application to sing

Thursday, March 7 in Madison

No charge for singers

There is a half sheet with information

QR Code is on the sheet

All singers welcome including NATS teachers

Performance by Just Bach on Wednesday, Thursday masterclass, Concert on Thursday evening by Brenda Rae, Friday more events
Saturday is the marathon day of Bach

Membership/Communications Report - Jessica Schwefel

We have a new social media manager

Lauren Hartniss was taking pictures yesterday

We have an Instagram account

Public-facing Facebook page

Private Facebook page

If you ever have information to share, Jessica can share it on the website

A slide show will go up of pictures from the last 2 days, if you want to send any pictures to Jessica you can email.

If you are not receiving emails, please email Wisconsinnats@gmail.com

Auditions Report - Nathan Krueger

Thank you to everyone for helping get the auditions up and running in less than a week.

He found out on Friday that the new system would not be scheduling students or judges.

Not sure what will happen next year, it did not work out as expected this year

We are supposedly having our CCM and Children's Division online, but they are not yet able to register, he will keep us updated.

We will have auditions at UW Milwaukee next year, Nathan will be communicating and working with Colleen Brooks and Matthew Markham

Thanks to the teachers and pianists!

Questions - What was the necessity to change the registration system? What was the rationale?

Now it will be owned by NATS, it will be built into all the fees that we pay to NATS

There were negotiations with Audition Ware, there were lots of problems from other chapters. NATS decided to do their own system, a committee met all last year. Folks from all over describing what the system needs to do. It didn't get done on time to launch.

We were also launching the Children's and CCM categories, and the National Board wanted to attract new members, so they launched the new categories.

Hoping that this will all settle down and help us gain new members.

Ann Schoenecker proposes that we move to First Year Lower College MT and Second Year Lower College MT. There were 60 students in that category and 25 in the semifinal. We could combine the first two-year classical categories if they don't have as many singers.

Jennifer - Some communication needs to happen about the rubrics, people didn't realize that 90 and above moves on to semifinals.

The board will talk about this at our next meeting.

Colleen - in Chicago they run different divisions on different days so that students only sing on one day. We will discuss this as a board

Wisconsin has also been a pioneer in the country with implementing new categories, etc.

Treasurer's Report - Adam Shelton

We are in a difficult position as a chapter

We do not have significant record keeping to make accurate predictions

If you would like to sponsor a category you can donate

\$375 to support 3 winners

Annual review of the finances

Adam and Jennifer will audit the records from 2016 and forward

In 2022, one winner cashed her check twice

We switched to a non-profit Public Checking Account

We will look into other banks

This year's total expenses is \$14,000

We lost \$5,000 on these auditions

We have lost about \$10,000 in 6 years

In 2025, we are raising our chapter fee to \$35

As things become more positive financially, we will consider accepting grants again.

Send receipts to Adam if you have done something with NATS

We need to keep receipts if we get audited

There is a Google Drive that is password protected

All the financials will be in one location so that the next treasurer will be able to step in easily.

Singers have 180 days to cash their checks.

Discussion about audits - we send a form to the national office but not sure when our last true audit happened.

If we have the finances, we can ask for an audit soon.

We received discretionary funds from the national office.

District Governor

Good year for new membership!

Highest number of new members in the country

Pop-up socials were great, thank you

Keep reaching out to new teachers

We waive the chapter fee for K-12 teachers for their first year

IDEA Toolkit - DEI work, Modules 1 and 2 are available, Module 3 coming soon

Scholarship Program - Jennifer Conrad-Proulx and Julia Rottmayer - Vocal

Scholarship was launched this year with Heidi Wylie, \$12,000 was raised. Brian

Leeper has one of the students - he has been the most ideal, delightful student.

Motivated and excited.

Jodi Ann Curtis has another - the student was here at the auditions and made it to finals.

This year 2 scholarships went out, hopefully more will come. Share the info if you know of people who might support scholarships in the future. Tell high school choir directors so that they can nominate students.

Winter Workshop

Art Song Competition Award

NATS Intern Program

We have a quorum. By vote we have new board members.

2 New Member at Large - Amy Hartsough and Cayla Roshe

New Treasurer - Adam Shelton

Emily Alvarez is the new secretary

Kathy Otterson Lifetime Achievement Award - for all of her service as president, teacher, announcer. Congrats and thank you Kathy!

Meeting is adjourned at 1:31.