

**Wisconsin NATS
Board Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2016**

Time and Place of Meeting. The WI NATS Board meeting commenced at 10:10 a.m. at Christ Presbyterian Church, Madison, WI.

List of Attendees.

1.	John Gates	President
2.	Melanie Cain	Vice President
3.	Matthew Markham	Recording Secretary
4.	Kenneth Pereira	Treasurer/Membership
5.	Kathleen Otterson	District Governor
6.	Nathan Krueger	Member at Large/Auditions Coordinator
7.	Jessica Timman Schwefel	Member at Large
8.	Rachel Edie Warrick	Member at Large
9.	Dawn Riesing	Member at Large

Documents Introduced.

Treasurer's Report (Appendix A)
Auditions Chair Report (Appendix B)

Summary of the Meeting.

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes. The November 5, 2015 Board Meeting minutes were approved as read.

B. Officer's Reports.

President's Report. John Gates reported that the only office coming up is the Member at Large position of which Nathan Krueger is currently serving. Nathan will remain as the coordinator of auditions.

Vice President's Report. Melanie Cain reported that there were issues raised about the spring events:

- Only 23 members in total voted on the spring events.
- Only two of the three events will actually be taking place. Nathan raised the question of how we would handle this in the future. John Gates suggested that the board and VP decide what will be done. Kathy Otterson suggested that perhaps we do that event the following year.
- Melanie would like to continue forming more specific guidelines for spring events.

District Governor's Report.

- Kathy reported that Alison Feldt will be completing her term as Governor as of summer 2016. Alison completed a two, 2-year term. A related email has gone out regarding this fact.

- There is now a North Central NATS page: www.northcentralnats.org which includes a link to the National site.
- NATSAA will take place on Saturday, March 19, 2016 at St. Olaf. Currently, there are only 5 entrants. (There is no state level NATSAA.)

Treasury and Membership Report. *see attached report*

- Ken Pereira reported that we are up from last year. The funds come in because of having a guest judge. (This is good news!)
- Ken needs to reach out to Wendelin Lockett to confirm, but we currently have 99 active members.

Auditions Report. *see attached report*

- Nathan reported that we currently have 15 rooms reserved for the next student auditions, which will be held in November 2016 at UW-Milwaukee.
- In the past, there was a fee for a hospitality room at UW-Milwaukee but if we reserve it through a student organization we can waive the fee. Kathy recalled that in the past at UW-Milwaukee there was a fee but the most recent time that the student auditions took place at UW-Milwaukee there was not a fee.
- As of yet, there is no space for a chapter lunch.
- Regarding the next guest judge: It was suggested that it be a female. John suggested that the Auditions Committee make the decision of the judge. The board is recommended to send suggestions to Nathan. Melanie recommended utilizing our Chicago connections.
- The Auditions Handbook: a work in progress and Nathan will provide one at the next (summer) meeting. John suggested that those in charge of auditions go to UW-Milwaukee beforehand to scope it out. John recommended to keep the auditions committee as follows: auditions chair/coordinator, someone who does the repertoire check, tally room, site supervisor, and president. Nathan proposed that a Member at Large be trained to step in or “be groomed” for one of the positions on the audition committee.
- John raised the issue of the amount of work at smaller institutions to host the student auditions: perhaps having a Sat/Sun vs. Fri/Sat auditions weekend. Sat/Sun benefits: potentially more space, Lawrence could be involved in the rotation. There was a positive response for this. Perhaps even on alternating years. Kathy raised the issue of Sunday/church jobs. Dawn Riesing suggested UW-Parkside be added to the rotation. Nathan will check on this matter. Kathy can follow up with UW-Madison to see if they are able to be in the rotation, too. John suggested that we discuss this at the next chapter meeting. Melanie suggested that this issue be included in the president’s letter.

C. Other Business.

Financially self-sustaining auditions. Ken informed the board that it was recommended to raise the overall student entry fee by \$5. For multiple student

entries, the fee would remain at \$50. Melanie seconded the motion and reiterated that the fee for additional students would be \$20 total. Ken seconded the motion.

-Melanie asked if we should charge a fee for a music store to come and sell their music at the student auditions host site. John suggested that a Member at Large investigate negotiating that fee. We could benefit from this.

Coordination of Communications Office.

- There was discussion regarding who does what on the website. Dawn sends one item postal mail and occasional emails. Dawn and Ken need to coordinate for member names/info. It was suggested that we have one list of current members. Melanie suggested that we keep this list in a word document.

- John suggested the solicitation of updated photos for the website. Melanie requested the same for the Facebook page.

NATS Sponsored Events Guidelines. (also see above under Vice President's Report)

- Clarifying and codifying the details. John made the following suggestions regarding a timeline for spring events: 1) that there be a deadline for submission of proposals, 2) that the application show how many people will attend, 3) that the person responsible for the event be able to give a report at the next chapter meeting, 4) if there is an admission fee, there should be a discount for NATS members, 5) if the event is taking place at a specific institution, it should be open to all NATS members, 6) it should be clear as to the cost of attending, discounts, materials (50% with a max. charge of \$25), 7) Vice President has wiggle room in the matter, and 8) call for proposals link to be on the website with a closing deadline of Oct. 1.

Auditions Handbook. (see above under Auditions Report)

-There was a discussion regarding the term lengths for those involved with the auditions. Everyone was in agreement that a member at large be groomed for one of the positions.

Addition of non-classical category.

- New category at student auditions called "CCM" (Contemporary Commercial Music). Melanie suggested that we have someone on auditions committee who knows about CCM.
- Suggestion made that a survey be sent out to the chapter about this category in April. (We need to check with the National Office to see where they are with this new category.)
- Idea was suggested that one of the spring events be on CCM

Office Handbook.

- The purpose of this is to track what each office does. This will help the future officers.

DropBox Storage of Chapter Documents.

- Docs could include: Officers Handbook, Auditions Handbook

- Melanie suggested a secret facebook page (The board established this page at the meeting.)
- Also, the board was in favor of a weebly password protected page on the WI NATS website. The recording secretary will post minutes to the new weebly page (password protected).

D. New Business.

- Kathy reported that WI NATS will be represented and sponsored at the National Conference in Chicago summer 2016.
- Discussion about Dates/Deadlines: 1) Student Auditions will be Nov. 4 & 5, 2016 at UW-Milwaukee, 2) President's letter will go out in early August, 3) Sept. 1: membership renewal deadline (Oct. 1: deadline for new chapter members), 4) Sept. 1: on-line registration will be up on the website, 5) Oct. 7: online registration closes, and 6) Oct. 21: deadline for repertoire changes.

E. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Matthew Markham, Recording Secretary
Wisconsin Chapter – National Association of Teacher's of Singing

Attached:
Appendices A & B

**Wisconsin Chapter - National Association of Teachers of Singing
Treasurer's Report - March 4, 2016**

Beginning Checking Balance November 1, 2015 \$23,458.09

Receipts

- Dues \$2,730.00
- NATS Discretionary Funds \$412.08
- Auditions Payments \$120.00

Total Receipts \$3,262.08

Disbursements

- Wendelin Lockett – Chapter letter \$167.59
- Galloway Grille – Chapter Board Mtg. \$103.17
- Shopko – power cords/powerstrip \$32.24
- Audition Awards \$6,550.00
- Melanie Cain – NATS reimbursement \$5.26
- Kathy Otterson – NATS reimbursement \$254.29
- Green Mill – Tally Room Pizza \$29.36
- Edgewood College – copies \$80.00
- Brian Gill – honorarium \$500.00
- Brian Gill – travel reimbursement \$487.34
- Clarion Hotel – Brian Gill \$224.74
- UWEC – piano tuning \$699.00
- Sam Skogstad – Tally Room helper \$200.00
- Lori Cruciani – Master Class pianist \$100.00
- Sodexo – luncheon \$683.50
- Deluxe Business Systems – checks \$132.18
- Audition Ware LLC \$376.00
- NATS – Journal of Singing Luncheon Ad \$350.00

Total Disbursements \$10,974.67

Ending Checking Balance as of November 1, 2015 \$15,745.50

Beginning Savings Balance March 31, 2014 \$1,505.55

- Interest \$0.75

Savings Balance as of December 31, 2015 \$1,506.30

Total Funds \$17,251.80

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth J. Pereira

Treasurer Wisconsin State Chapter NATS

Appendix B

Auditions Chair Report - 3/4/2016

1. Audition Rooms for chapter auditions at UW Milwaukee have been reserved, as well as space for a Tally room and hospitality suite.
2. Tanya Kruse Ruck inquired about a room reservation fee for rooms. To my knowledge, room reservation fees were not paid in the past, but I will research.
3. As of this date, we do not have a space for the chapter lunch. I will work with Tanya on that this month.
4. The auditions committee needs to decide on a guest judge/master teacher for the 2016 auditions. I would like to identify a female teacher (the last two have been male). I am open to suggestions from the board.
5. The auditions handbook is still in progress. My goal is to have a draft done by the summer meeting for board approval.
6. If the board approves the Auditions chair description that is submitted, I would like to recruit a member to assist the Auditions committee to take over the Auditions chair after the 2017 chapter auditions.