



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 17, 2017 UNC-Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC
7.30-10.00 pm**

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

David Gresham (DG), NC NATS District Governor
Jennifer Seiger (JS), NC NATS Vice President and Auditions Chair
Ayumi Nakamae (AN), NC NATS Webmaster
Carl DuPont (CD), NC NATS member (proxy for Alissa Deeter, MAR NATS Treasurer)
Cheryl Greene (CG), SC NATS Webmaster
Linda Allison Haslach (LAH), MD/DC Board Secretary
Catherine Porter-Borden (CP), MD/DC NATS District Governor
Kristen Wunderlich (KW), SC NATS Vice President and Auditions Chair
Brian Nedvin (BN), VA NATS President
Barbara Peters (BP), MAR NATS Region Governor
Jill Terhaar Lewis (JTL), SC NATS President
DeMar Austin Neal, IV (DAN), NC NATS President
Chris Mooney (CM), VA NATS District Governor
Deedy Francis (DF), SC NATS District Governor
Lisa Sain Odom (LSO), SC NATS Secretary

**Review of Minutes from Meeting held
Friday, March 18, 2016 at College of Charleston,
Charleston, SC 9.30-12.30 pm**

Barbara A. Peters

- **Discussion and Approval**
 - BAP read through meeting minutes from 2016 Board Meeting.
 - CG moved to accept minutes.
 - AN seconded.
 - Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report Carl DuPont for Alissa Deeter

- **Discussion and Approval**
 - CD reported on numbers from attached document prepared by Region Treasurer Alissa

- BN motioned to accept the treasurer's report.
- CP seconded.
- Motion carried

Old Business

- **Mid-Atlantic Rules and Regulations (Handbook) Mid-Atlantic Region Board**

- **Arabic numbers; sing-off rounds**

- BAP: Sing-off round also a change mandated from National office.
 - Impacts the number of singers we can send from this region.
 - BAP: need to add language about this into our board document.
 - CG moves that we address the sing-off rounds as they affect our competition in board document.
 - JTL seconds it.
 - Discussion about length of song used in one-song Sing-off round.
 - CG suggested limiting length to shorter than five minutes, but we will stop you at five.
 - All agreed.
 - First place singer of each sing-off is invited to sing on HR.
 - Motion to update board document to reflect new changes carried.

- **Website: Square Space Carl DuPont**

- CD reports that Alissa says the change to Square from PayPal was "totally worth it."
- MAR NATS is satisfied with the change.

- **AuditionWare Barbara A. Peters**

- BAP: problem always addressed and answered by Brad, and he says problems will be overhauled.
- JTL: A more user-friendly interface is needed.
- JTL: We would like the results to generate HR (Honors recital) and R (Region Qualifier) by singers based on scores per formulas now needed. There are now two ways to advance to Region and it is easy to miss those with the two region-qualifying scores that don't average a 90 or above.
- BN: Generate the results posting form automatically.
- JS: We could print results after score entry.
- DAN: How is he addressing dual accompanist info, etc., when input is wrong? Issues with duplicates due to misspelling or discrepancies in entry of accompanists.
 - BAP: We had to go through each.
 - CG: I had to delete accompanist to add email after the fact when Barbara sent out the message to update accounts. Should be an easier way to make these changes.
- JTL: Progressive application greatly needed to automatically populate Region and then National auditions. A safeguard to approve the application would eliminate entries that aren't going to continue on.
- CP: Expressed interest in scheduling of auditions to consistently add the two-minute buffer.
 - Other replied: Options available to do this.
 - There is a lot to remember when learning to work within the program.
- JS: Noted that what screen administrators see when inputting our applications is a different screen than what regular members see. This makes it hard to explain it to the others.
 - There is a way to use the website as a teacher.
- BAP: We need to remove the A, B, C, category, option etc.
- JTL: Make repertoire category choice mandatory to avoid unintentional mistakes. Also, indicate which piece in English to avoid disqualifications due to absence of an English-language song. i.e.

- DAN: Bump up the application time to allow more time to adjust when mistakes have been entered.
- DAN: Add video tutorials for the teachers.
- JTL: Express urgency for need for changes to Brad Mills by September 1 to accommodate all District auditions in time.

New Business

- **Verbal Region Report: Barbara A. Peters**

- We are a pretty healthy region. Our Regional Auditions were the largest in the country – larger than Texoma’s Regional Auditions.
- Distance is a challenge.
- Next year will be more accessible for all of us.
- Getting more difficult to complete it in the two days.
- May want to streamline it.
 - Possible video round to streamline?
 - Way to limit?
 - Over 700-800 qualified to participate!
 - BN: Look at the data and possibly rank and limit numbers to come.
 - CG: Longer days become more cost effective.
 - KW: Expressed concern about numbers of students advancing to Region Auditions. It should not be happening where we have three students advancing in one category and 12 in another.
 - JTL: Except if we are judging to meet standard rather than as a competition, it is possible for that to happen.
 - AN: We could limit numbers by advancing only a specific percentage.
 - JTL: We should try to consider what would help to increase membership as we think about ways to expand.
- BAP: Mid-Atlantic region is the most proactive about getting lapsed members to rejoin.
- JTL: Increasing social media presence helps. Postings about results from auditions are having a good effect.
- DAN: Agreed. Schools and parents are sharing posts.
- DAN: numbers re: membership and percentages at Region auditions.
 - SC 111 = 19%
 - MD/DC = 132 = 22%
 - NC 182 + 30%
 - VA(WV+3) 172 = 29%

- **Verbal District Reports**

- **MD/DC Report Catherine Porter-Borden**

- CP submitted written report. (See attached document.)
- CP reported 114 members (2 down from 2016).
- Established advisory track and executive track on the board.
- Officer slate: lost member/secretary to cancer.
- In need of a new VP.
- Fall workshop with Mary Saunders Barton *Bel Canto Can Belto*.

- Spring workshop: *Breath, Body, and Sound: Educating and Empowering Through Music, Movement, and Yoga* and a recital
- Success using sign-up sheet for practice rooms.
- Limited pianists to 8 slots to aid scheduling.
- No Xerox issues this year!
 - Room captains asked about unbound music.
- No CCM categories.
- Timing did not work when they had to schedule auditions in conflict with Virginia which may have affected participation.
- BN: Questions that arise should be checked on the way out of the audition, versus at the beginning.
 - Note can be made by the judges, but nothing said to student.
- **VA Report: Brian Nedvin**
 - BN: consistency in leadership.
 - New secretary; Lucy Owen Hoyt stepped down.
 - Nancy MacArthur Smith elected to Secretary, which left an “at-large” position open.
 - At-large position was filled by Anne Wick.
 - Numbers down, probably due to the District Conference & Student Auditions happening at an earlier time than previously.
 - Next year early February 2/3 due to space limits.
 - To be held at James Madison University.
 - Dues Jan. 1 Registration will open December 1st and will close mid-January.
- BN post meeting: VA NATS may need to move its District event back to January 25-26.
- For ease of turnover to new officers.
 - Created procedure manual to help with new officer duties and timetables.
- Conference: Damien Perkins technician.
 - Successful.
 - Issues with topics for Christian Liberty University.
- In the black, even due to lower turnout.
- Created endowment fund to create income for superlative awards.
 - Best HS Classical, Best Overall, etc.
 - \$50 each award – in addition to other first place awards.
- Can increase funding to host institutions.
 - They have already increased funding to piano tuning, up to \$1,500.00 upon receiving the receipts.
 - They provide lunches for judges as part of fee.
- Technology advisor as part of the board.
- Called lapsed members.
- Established mentoring program for new members:
 - Established members reach out to new members as individual mentors.
 - Way to connect them into the organization.
 - Already working and creating collegiality.
- Website and Facebook page doing well.
- Financially doing really well.
- Ties rulings for VA District Auditions.
 - They have been doing this for a while.
 - They go with the top three individuals.
 - A tie for first gives them 2 first-place finishers and a third place for a total of three. No second place awarded.

- **NC Report DeMar Austin Neal, IV**

- DAN submitted a written document. (See attached.)
- 184 members.
 - 162 Active.
 - 22 (12%) Lapsed.
- Two events.
 - Fall MT/CCM (two-day).
 - Nov.11-12.
 - 44 teachers.
 - 228 auditioning students.
 - First time with CCM.
 - Hope to increase with Master Class choices.
 - Clinician Louise Toppin.
 - Hall Johnson.
 - Also general spiritual/gospel style.
 - Spring Classical (two-day).
 - Works well.
 - 68 (42%) of active membership participated.
 - Would be interesting to investigate who is coming.
 - 349 audition (more college).
 - CCM master class technician to give classical teachers a chance to experience.
 - Poor attendance.
 - 70% did not attend MC.
 - Event/clinician Mike Ruckles was fabulous.
 - Discussion of how to figure fees to help with costs.
 - Discussion of shortening length of events.
 - Lots of surveys to assess interests.
 - Officers: need new secretary: Mollye Otis leaving post; moving to VA.
 - Jennifer Bryan Pedersen: Social Media Chair.
 - Fee for mailing bulky mailing.
 - Research on faculty emeritus status.

- **SC Report Jill Terhaar Lewis**

- Election of officers.
- New officers.
 - Secretary Brandi Icard: Secretary.
 - Vice President and Auditions Chair Amanda Castellone.
 - President Kristen Wunderlich.
- Other officers reelected.
 - Treasurer Loretta Haskell.
 - Webmaster Cheryl Greene.
 - District Governor (appointed) Jill Terhaar Lewis.
- See numbers from auditions in attached document prepared by VP Kristen Wunderlich.
 - 434 total auditions (145 Fall, 280 Spring).
 - 204 earned region-qualifying scores.
- Fall two-day event with late afternoon workshop on Friday, October 28, 2016 then MT/CCM. auditions on Saturday, October 29, 2016.
 - Held at SC State University in Orangeburg.
 - Reinstated workshop after a hiatus due to changes.
 - Clinicians both classical and MT/CCM team: Ann Benson and David Bankston

- Held at College of Charleston.
 - C of C will not be able to host in 2019.
- Increased interest in hosting our events.
- Implemented the addition of Board to advise and contribute.
 - This created a way for members to become involved in a more limited way than holding office.
- Interested in getting more members involved as officers.
- Good financial outlook. Higher dues and no NATSAA expenses have helped.
- Social Media Posting for announcements.
 - Very helpful for reminding people of deadlines and last minute changes.
- Concerns.
 - Difficulty reaching members who have not paid dues.
 - There is no available contact information for lapsed members.
 - Coordination of information continues to be a challenge with use of different websites.
- Encourage colleagues to join NATS. Seeking ways to generate interest.
- Fall Auditions: October 28, 2017 at Converse College.
- Spring Auditions: February 24, 2018 at the College of Charleston.
- **Schedule options for future Regional Events Mid-Atlantic Region Board**
 - Liberty University next year in Lynchburg, March 16-17 2018.
 - CM: discussion re: content requirements.
 - JTL: SCNATS would like to encourage us to bring CCM and Adult categories to regionals.
 - JTL: We would also like to investigate limiting judging only to days your students are competing.
 - JTL: We should have the Honors Recitals both days.
 - DAN: box to click to indicate day you can be here.
 - CG: wasteful when we aren't needed to be there at the second day.
 - JTL: two honors recital with judges that are at both for awards.
 - CM: In our district, the master class is a delay event while tallying for honors recital.
 - BAP: will send out a survey to solicit information.
 - DG: I do agree to having the Honors Recital on each day.
 - BAP: Let's see what the survey says.
 - Martha Randall: not possible to host at College Park (Maryland) for **2019**.
 - Martha recommends Towson University.
 - CP: Dates may be limited. Unless it is their spring break, may not work.
 - BAP asked CP to look into it.
 - CP post meeting: We are looking into both UMBC and Towson. We have held district SA in both facilities and either will work.
 - BAP will send us the room specifications to help canvass places for the region event.
 - JTL: May want to split it up at two venues to facilitate the larger numbers.
- DAN: It helps with space and practice room demands to assign teachers with a large number of participants to an extra, unused classroom (e.g., Teacher X has 15 students participating; give her a room where all 15 can practice/congregate so they're not taking up 2-4 smaller practice rooms).
- **Canvass Districts for dues and fees across Region Barbara A. Peters and Board**
 - Fees we are paying.
 - NC \$25 dues, \$20 student application fee, \$20 teacher registration fee, \$50 substitute adjudicator

- SC \$25 dues, \$16 application; \$10 lunch; \$10 member, \$20 nonmembers workshop.
- VA \$25, teacher \$40, \$25 student app; \$50 sub.
- MD/DC \$35 dues; no teacher; \$25 student app; \$10 workshop fee; no sub judge fee.
- AN: asked SC NATS Why they charge more for nonmembers?
 - CG: replied because reduced rate was a benefit of membership.
- **NATSAA hosts for 2019, 2021? Mid-Atlantic Region Board**
 - Doesn't necessarily need to be in same place as regionals.
 - Now must be in the Fall. Must culminate in NY winter workshop weekend.
 - Preliminary and Semi-Final Regional Rounds: Oct. 7-8, 2017 UNCG.
 - Semi-Final and Final National Rounds: Jan. 5-7, 2018 NYC.
 - Fall 2019 (MD).
 - Space need: up to 20 singers.
 - Based on numbers as percentage advances.
 - LAH: could be at American University (DC).
 - Friday/Saturday scenario for semifinals and finals.
 - no clinician now as it is divorced from Regionals.
 - ten judges: two from each district, plus an additional 2, using 5 different adjudicators for Regional preliminary and semi-final rounds.
 - Fall 2021 NC UNC Charlotte.
- **Regionals hosts 2019 (MD), 2020 (SC), 2021 (NC) Mid-Atlantic Region Board**
- **Upcoming events and deadlines.**
 - **District written reports due to Regional Governor by April 24.**
 - BA: Submit reports by April 24 (needed by April 30).
 - **Officer slates due to Regional Governor by June 30, or earlier.**
 - BA: Submit by June 30.
 - **NSA Online Screening deadline: April 23, 2017 (top 14 from each category advance to National Semi-final Round in Boulder).**
 - YouTube round.
 - **2018 NATSAA Competition: Application deadline: September 5, 2017.**
Mid-Atlantic Region NATSAA Preliminary and Semi-Final rounds: October 7-8, 2017 UNCG.
National Semi-final and Final rounds: January 5-7, 2018 NYC.
 - Dates and venues announced.
 - **NSA (July 20-21) and NATS 2017 Summer Workshop: July 20-22, 2018 College of Music at University of Colorado-Boulder.**
 - Announced.
- **Adjournment**
 - CG motioned to adjourn.
 - DAN: Seconded.
 - Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Jill Terhaar Lewis, SC NATS President.