



NATS Mid-Atlantic Region
2018 Annual Report and Financial Statement

Membership

As of April 25, 2018, the Mid-Atlantic region currently is home to 641 active members, including 33 Emeritus members. Sixty-eight members have allowed their membership status to lapse – the exact same number as last year at this time. I and each of the four Districts, i.e., Maryland-District of Columbia, Virginia, North and South Carolina, continue to welcome new members to the fold and to contact lapsed members in an effort to successfully re-engage them in the organization. Three Districts have Membership Recruitment/Retention plans in place with NC bringing up the rear.

NATS NSA: Mid-Atlantic Region

The Region's annual conference and auditions event was held at Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA, March 16-17, 2018. Ca. 160 (up 10 from 2017) member teachers sponsored students; 680 students auditioned (up 120 from 2017), 90 pianists collaborated (up 10 from 2017); 20 substitute adjudicators served for member teachers unable to adjudicate. Clinician Rachelle Fleming presented a master class in cross over audition techniques and a panel discussion focused on choosing appropriate MT repertoire for high school singers. Clinician Luke "Skippy" Harbur presented a lecture on the History of Beat Boxing and a demonstration-workshop about Beat Boxing. National supported these clinician presentations with a generous Discretionary Grant of \$600. Liberty University was extremely accommodating to our very large event, especially since the university was on spring break during this weekend. 144 singers qualified to advance to the NSA.

Mid-Atlantic NATSAA

The preliminary rounds were held at UNC-Greensboro over three days in October 2017. Fifteen singers competed. Member teacher adjudicators from the Region served; travel costs were shared between the Region and each District represented. Baritone Erik Grendahl (VA, student of Kevin McMillan) advanced, and ultimately won at the National level.

Annual Board Meeting

Fifteen Executive Board members met on Thursday, March 15 from 6.00 pm – 9.00 pm. Ongoing active issues are maintaining a current Handbook visibly displayed on the M-A website, increasing on-site teacher participation at annual auditions events, navigating AuditionWare, financial stability, accommodating growing numbers in a 'live', 'peopled' event, changing and recruiting officer personnel. A committee has been established to address how the Region can manage the increase in numbers of participants so that a positive experience is had by all moving forward. The Region's financial position sustained a considerable dip in status, due to the increase in AuditionWare fees, new fees paid to National, plus a large contribution to last year's NSA, and the cost of a promotional ad in this year's Convention booklet. Next year's event at Towson will cost the Region ca. \$2,500 for the use of the facility – the first time the Region has sustained a fee for a facility. Webmaster Alissa Deeter is addressing the need for a Donation page on the Region's website. The Treasurer's Report is attached.

New personnel: In June, Elizabeth Byrum Linnartz steps into the Treasurer post and Emerging Leader Award recipient Jennifer Bryant Pedersen steps into the Webmaster post as Alissa Deeter is leaving both posts and the region to reside in Portland, OR.

District/Chapter News

All four Chapters hold progressive auditions events, annually. NC and SC hold individual, separate auditions events in the fall and the spring for MT/CCM categories and Classical categories, respectively. VA and MD-DC hold annual auditions events in February offering both MT and Classical categories. All events are scheduled and listed on the National Calendar, as well as at www.midatlanticnats.org.

Highlights:

MD-DC has expanded its executive board to include 5 new members. A new officer slate will have been confirmed by end of May, 2018. A membership committee has been formed to address ways to recruit and retain members; fall workshop presented Rachelle Fleming in a master class focusing on whether classical singers can improve their marketability by preparing and developing MT repertoire; spring workshop presented Nancy Krebs, Master teacher in Lessac Kinesensic Training; collaborative studio classes are held twice a year to hone audition and adjudicating skills. Financially, MD-DC NATS is struggling. Their annual Audition event hosted by Community College of Baltimore County- Essex Campus heard 192 singers, with 40 member teacher adjudicators and 41 pianists. Over 90 singers advanced to NSA Regional event. Next year's Chapter Auditions event will be held at Morgan State University, Baltimore, March 2. Chapter Report and Financial statement are attached.

VA-NATS faces a crossroads with regard to how best to accommodate their growing number of participants at their annual auditions event. This Chapter also weathered several unexpected officer vacancies, including their District Governor whom I replaced in March this year. Three new Board members were voted into the at-large posts vacated when personnel stepped up into officer positions. VA-NATS welcomed 20 new members in 2018 and has launched two recruitment and two retention plans for the coming year. Diversity is at the top of their newly created Membership Committee's list. Financially, VA-NATS is very in the black; they've initiated a separate fund to benefit awards offered at their events. In February, Clinician Rodney Gilfry offered two masterclasses and a recital. Next year's Auditions event will take place at Shenandoah University on March 1-2, 2019. Chapter Report and Financial Statement are attached.

NC-NATS membership as of April 22 is at 166 active; 14 lapsed. A membership committee is in the works to address retention and recruitment. Two audition events per year: 2-day event last fall at Meredith College with 48 member teachers, 271 auditionees, including CCM, Youth and Children categories, with Master Class by Edrie Means Weekly; 2-day classical auditions event in February at UNCSCA with 73 member teachers, 383 auditionees, Master Class with Danielle Talamantes and Kerry Wilkerson. NC-NATS remains strong financially, partly due to necessary fee increases. Next year's events: fall MT/CCM at Meredith College; spring classical UNC-Greensboro. Chapter Report and Financial Statement are attached.

SC-NATS has taken the lead with a very detailed and comprehensive Recruitment/Retention Plan (attached) due to strong leadership. Two auditions events were held this year: fall two-day MT/CCM auditions event was held at Converse College, with local member teachers presenting on Dalcroze Eurythmics, Head/Neck Massage for Singing Voice Therapy; Transforming Singers from Gospel Belt to the Classical Sound; Stephanie Samaras, MT Specialist, led a Master Class. Spring 1-day Classical event was held at College of Charleston. Financially, SC-NATS remains sound: the Chapter offered special \$\$ awards for the 1st time to Regional qualifiers and NSA participants. A Memorial Fund has been established in order to distribute awards in people's names at District Honors Recitals. Next year's events: Fall MT/CCM in October at Converse College; spring classical two-day event with workshop at Bob Jones University. Chapter Report and Financial Statement are attached.

Upcoming Events

2019 NATS NSA: Mid-Atlantic Region Conference and Auditions will be held at Towson University, Towson Maryland, March 22-23, 2019

2020 Mid-Atlantic NATSAA Preliminary Round will be held at American University, Washington, DC.

2020 NATS NSA: Mid-Atlantic Region Conference and Auditions will be held in SC, TBA.