

VANATS – Report from Brian Nedvin

Overall: Unlike last year, when we only turned over the position of the Secretary, we had a lot of turnover this year. Our Vice-President, Susan Braden, requested to leave the board for various personal reasons, so our Technology Advisor, Kathleen Bell, was voted into the office of Vice-President. When our Technology Advisor position opened up, Anne Bell, who was a member at large, was voted in as our Technology Advisor. With Anne's new responsibilities and title, and with two other members (Kathleen Harden and Greg Parker) of the at-large board leaving, we had three new members voted in to the at-large positions. These three individuals were voted in by over sixty teachers of our membership at our morning membership and judges meeting. The three new individuals are: Sarah Hamilton, Melissa Chavez (our new membership director), and Jessica Spafford. As our District Governor also stepped down for personal reasons, our Regional Director – after consulting with the President of VANATS – requested that Mark Greenawalt take this position, and he obliged.

Our conference, February 2nd and 3rd at James Madison University went really well and ran smoothly. Susan Braden did a most excellent job running the conference and spent a lot of time with Kathleen Bell – who was learning the ropes. We had a unique opportunity by combining money from NATS and JMU and we were able to bring in Rod Gilfry to do a master class on Thursday night, a magnificent recital on Friday night, and another master class on Saturday.

Dates for next year at Shenandoah are: March 1st and 2nd.

Treasurers report: We are currently in the black and have \$27,576.82 in our bank account. Last year we started a fund to benefit the awards categories in our Chapter, which continues to grow through private donations. We are looking into different options for investing the fund in hopes that it will grow and generate enough interest that will fund the awards categories.

It came to our attention that we had failed to pay our regional dues last year. This was rectified at the Regional Conference & Student Auditions. Both last year's dues and this year's dues were paid in full.

Membership report: VANATS gained twenty new members in 2018, and we have two recruitment and two retention plans in place for the current year. VANATS President Brian Nedvin is working to recruit a more diverse VANATS membership through reaching out to historically black colleges and universities. Current membership secretary, Melissa Chávez, is organizing two VANATS social gatherings ("happy hours") in separate regions of the state in the fall to promote membership. To retain current members, we are continuing our mentoring program, created by outgoing membership secretary Greg Parker, by connecting current VANATS members with the new members. We do this with people in the same geographic area and this has been working out well, especially since we are such a large chapter. Melissa will also develop a membership newsletter highlighting member achievements and news to help facilitate a better sense of community within our chapter. Additionally, board members have been reaching out to lapsed VANATS members so we can both invite them to return and also to learn how to better serve the membership.

Our **Technology Advisor**, Kathleen Bell, reports that our membership is keying into our NATS website and our Facebook page, so we are continuing to work on getting ways to reach our membership. We have discussed other forms of social media but have not added anything else.

Officers:

VA Governor: Mark Greenawalt

President: Brian Nedvin

Past President: Dorothy Maddison

Vice-President: Kathleen Bell

Secretary: Nancy MacArthur Smith

Treasurer: Alison T. Rizzuto

Technology Advisor: Anne Wick

Members at large:

Cynthia Donnell

Jessica Spafford

Byron Jones

Kevin McMillan

Melissa Chavez

Sarah Hamilton