



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF SINGING

## 2018 Annual Report to Mid-Atlantic Region

Linda Allison, President of the Board

April 15, 2018

### Membership

The MD/DC Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing has 119 members this year, which is five more than in 2017. We made a concerted effort this past year to reach out to members who had lapsed memberships. A success! We also had 2-3 members new to the area join us.

To stimulate membership collegiality beyond the Fall/Spring workshops, we instituted a Holiday Happy Hour, which was snowed out!!! We'll try again in June!

We also instituted **Collaborative Studio Classes** as a preparation for auditions and to stimulate teacher dialog. Of the 3 scheduled, one was held at American University and attended by 3-4 teachers, who deemed it a success. We will try again in the Fall, 2018. We applied for and received \$600.00 grant from national to defray pianist costs. We have yet to use it all. We can request monies as needed.

Our new VP pro tem, Madeline Miskie has instituted a **Member of the Month** piece for our FB page. It debuted in mid-March, 2018.

### MD/DC Board

- In Spring 2017 we reached out to 5 potential new board members and officers for the next 2-year term. They are Madeline Miskie, James Hampton, Dr. Devonna Rowe, Madeleine Gray, and Richard Hartzell. They were proposed at the Spring meeting in June, 2017 and confirmed and introduced at the Fall, 2017 workshop.

#### **Current officer slate as of April, 2018, confirmed Spring, 17.**

- President: Linda Allison
- \_\_\_\_\_, Vice President
- Secretary: Jennifer Cabot
- Treasurer: Deborah Thurlow
- District Governor: Catherine Porter-Borden (already appointed)
- Past President: Polly Baldrige
- Webmaster: Michael Mentzel
- Past Vice-President: Monica Otal
- Past V-P & board member emeritus: Maryann Sewell

- **New board members proposed Spring, 2017:** Devonna Rowe, Richard Hartzell, Madeleine Gray, Madeline Miskie, & James Hampton. Confirmed for 2 year terms July, 2017-2019

We limped along without an official VP for the year, although our 2016 VP Monica Ota again secured Community College Baltimore County in Essex, MD for our Student Auditions in February, 2018. Monica also volunteered to lead the auditions set-up once again, on the condition that the President and District Governor share the load. That did happen. We anticipate several changes in the board going forward into Summer/Fall, 2018 and are now taking suggestions for new members. They will be introduced at our Spring meeting on May 20, 2018.

### **MDDC NATS Board, looking ahead to Summer/Fall 2018**

- President: Linda Allison
- Madeline Miskie, Vice President (proposed)
- Secretary: TBD
- Treasurer: Deborah Thurlow
- District Governor: Catherine Porter-Borden
- Past President: Polly Baldrige
- Webmaster: Michael Mentzel
- Past Vice-President: Monica Ota
- Past V-P & boardmember emeritus: Maryann Sewell
- Devonna Rowe
- James Hampton
- Madeleine Gray
- Richard Hartzell

The current board is active both in the private home studio and in academia. There is a good representation from the District and in Montgomery County and Fredrick County and the Eastern Shore.

For 2018-19, we anticipate needing a new vice-president (Madeline Miskie has agreed to serve), a new secretary (current secretary Jennifer Cabot needs to step down due to family issues) and someone to shadow our webmaster Michael Mentzel in anticipation of stepping into that position for 2018-20.

At this time, we have reached out to 3 current District members who are interested in stepping onto the board for two-year terms in Fall, 2018. They will attend our Spring meeting on May 20, 2018.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

In Spring 2017, we contributed \$1,200.00 to National for a prize in the memory of one of our founding members Myra Tate. These monies were divided into two \$600.00 prizes. We sent two judges down to NAATSA in the Fall of 2017 and helped defray their expenses.

As of April 13, we have \$4,698.75 in the MDDC NATS checking account. This figure reflects all monies paid to date including Mid-Atlantic reimbursement for MDDC student chapter participation, honorarium checks sent to regional MDDC participants, and officer expenses incurred for the Mid-Atlantic Regional. The last expense for the 2017-18 fiscal year will be approximately \$400 for our Spring Workshop and \$500-1000 for officer attendance, and honorarium contributions to any MDDC students who participate in the National Student Auditions at the national convention in June.

### **Chapter Workshops**

- Our chapter continues to offer two workshops each year to our members, charging non-members a \$10 fee. We also are delighted that some members of Virginia NATS have attended the Fall workshops at AU in the past 2 years. We make a point of extending an invitation. We attempt to make this a time primarily to give our members additional education, ideas, and motivation and also try to attract new members to join NATS. American University has continued to partner with us in offering these workshops as long as they mesh with the on-going academic calendar and offer an opportunity for the AU students an opportunity to attend/participate.
- Our fall workshop was on November 5, at American University. Dr. Rachelle Fleming presented. *Musical Theater in the Opera House: Can Classical Singers improve their marketability by developing Musical Theater repertoire?* Dr. Fleming worked with 5 students from the MDDC membership in and outside American University. About 40 people attended. We a short membership meeting to discuss upcoming events and to confirm new board members.
- On April 29, 2018, we will present our Spring Workshop at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, MD. Nancy Krebs will be the clinician for ***WHEN YOU SPEAK, DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE SINGING?****An Introduction to the Lessac Kinesensic Training.* Nancy Krebs is a Master Teacher in Lessac Kinesensic Training.
- For Fall 2018, we are exploring a workshop with the MD. Lawyers for the Arts which will examine the legal ins and outs of the home voice studio. This is still in the planning phase. Other topics may surface at our Spring Meeting.

### **Membership committee:**

The MDDC Membership Committee was formed at the September 17 board meeting and met in October to make plans. We initiated some new projects, including:

***Member of the Month*** on Facebook by Maddie Miskie, and the ***President's Quarterly Report*** to the membership. Also, we planned a social which got snowed out and we will plan again for fall. (submitted by Catherine Porter-Borden, head of membership committee)

### **Collaborative Studio Classes:**

These classes offer an opportunity for teachers to hone their writing skills in an informal studio class setting comprised of teachers and their students. Students (maximum 10 in a 2 hour format) perform one selection and, get written feedback from teachers. This is a great chance for everyone to practice for upcoming auditions. Teachers may give written or oral feedback if the

student desires. Classical and musical theater styles are welcome. There is time allowed for group discussion at end.

The first Collaborative Studio Class was held at American University: January 27

Host: Dr. Linda Allison [lindahaslach@gmail.com](mailto:lindahaslach@gmail.com)

More are planned for the fall. (submitted by Catherine Porter Borden, District Governor)

## **District Student Auditions, 2018**

Our MD/DC Chapter Auditions were February 25, 2017, at the Essex Campus of the Community College of Baltimore County. This was our fourth consecutive year at this location where Monica Otal is department chair. Things went very smoothly. We had 192 students participating, 40 teachers adjudicating and 41 pianists. Over 90 had scores allowing advancement to the Regional Auditions.

### **What worked?**

- Great staffing of the event. CCBC was most hospitable. Student helpers willing and responsive.
- Tally room well coordinated and efficient. We had a larger space this year.
- Good feedback on Tally Time event. A Jazz Ens. With vocalists from CCBC.
- Numbers were up across the board: teachers/students/pianists participating
- No issues with copyright infringement
- Auditions ran to time, in fact we started the honors recital (better attendance this year) early enough that all was finished by 5 pm, including distribution of audition comments to teachers who stayed through the recital.

### **What needs improving?**

- Even more prompt and timely communication with membership on rules/regs for auditions, as well as logistics for the day of. Letter to membership should go out in late 2018 and then repeat in January.
- Scheduling needs to happen via Auditionware as soon as registration closes.
- Do we want to lengthen the teacher meeting on the day of auditions to include a short board meeting to review year's activities and point to spring events?
- Lunches need to be accessible to teachers only!!

We will hold 2019 MDDC District Auditions at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland on March 2. Morgan State is comping the event to MDDC NATS, a huge savings in light of coming expenses associated with hosting MidAtlantic Regional Auditions at Towson State University in late March 22-23, 2019.

## **Upcoming Calendar for 2018-2019**

**May 20, 2018:** Board meeting to review year, introduce potential new board members, planning for Fall workshop, planning for more collaborative classes in Fall, 2018.

**It is anticipated that MidAtlantic Regional NAATSA** will be held in the Katzen Arts Center at American University in Washington, DC the first or second weekend in October, 2019, related to AU's Fall Break. Fees and formalizing of the weekend are contingent on formalizing partnership with AU. Powers that be are slow to deliberate. Head of facilities management at Katzen doesn't foresee a problem, but we have to wait for final decision from department head.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Allison, president of the board for MDDC NATS

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*President of the Board: MDDC National Association of Teachers of Singing*