

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF THE SFBAC CHAPTER OF NATS FOR FEBRUARY 8, 2009

Present: Tina Baird, Dorothy Barnhouse, Alison Collins, Joshua Ian Elder, Wendy Hillhouse, Grace Johnson, April McNeely, Victoria Rapanan

Meeting held at the home of Wendy Hillhouse, President

The Board meeting was preceded by a meeting of the Singing Festival Committee.

Meeting was called to order at 2:40 PM.

I. President's Report:

- A. The President began with a report on the progress on using Conservatory facilities for upcoming activities sponsored by the chapter.
 - 1. We can have a classroom at the Conservatory on June 13 for our annual meeting. We hope to be able to combine this with an opportunity to attend the Lieder Alive masterclass with Marilyn Horne to be held that evening at the Conservatory.
 - 2. We will also be able to use Conservatory facilities for this summer's performance workshop, although we do not yet have a cost estimate. Sharon Kaye has booked us into a theater in Santa Clara for a summer performance workshop in August.
 - 3. The Singing Festival location for 2010 has not yet been decided. It cannot be at the Conservatory.
- B. All are encouraged to attend the Cal-Western Region Workshop in March.
- C. The "Let's Do Lunch" series is off to a good start. Meghan Dibble hosted the meeting in San Francisco; Sue Field will host the meeting at Max's in Redwood City on March 1. The next San Francisco Lunch will be at Leland's Tea Company in SF.
- D. Each Board member should prepare a written description of his/her Board position; this will be given to whomever follows in that position.

II. Membership report:

We have 104-108 paid members at this date, including 8 new members. National could be more helpful with the info coming concerning new national members. Joshua suggested that we have our "late date" 30 days later than the national "late date" in order that there should not be confusion about status of an individual member. Discussion of dues payable was tabled, pending further info and, hopefully, clarification from National. Dorothy Barnhouse agreed to follow up on the 41 members who had not paid by the late date.

III. Corresponding Secretary report:

Alison reported that she has not yet posted the guidelines for email forwarding on the website, but will do so soon.

IV. Singing Festival report:

Plan to be at the Festival on April 18 at SFSU. Preparations are proceeding in a satisfactory manner. Four pianists have been engaged; 2 more are desired. One workshop, "The Business of Your Singing Career," has been scheduled. We hope to schedule at least one more. We are trying to get a room to use as a student lounge; the hallway is not satisfactory.

V. Recitals report:

Three recitals have been scheduled; the information concerning these is in the most recent newsletter. We need to pay more attention to our voted policy of having a Board member present at each recital. April will attend the San Jose recital. The coordinator opens each recital

by introducing any Board members present and then the teachers. There is a good, short speech available which it is desirable to use at each introduction.

- VI. Webmaster's report (read by President Wendy):
- A. The domain name and privacy functions have been renewed. The website is still in the process of re-design.
 - B. Meghan's husband is able to get Microsoft Office Professional 2007 for Board members at 10% of retail cost, so that all Board members will have the same software to be able to communicate and share chapter documents. This will be paid by each board member; if a member cannot support this cost the chapter may subsidize the purchase for that person. April moved; Dorothy seconded that we purchase this software at this reduced price. Unanimously passed.
- VII. Newsletter report:
Joshua will be unable to continue doing the newsletter after June 2009. Volunteer needed.
- VIII. Treasurer's report:
- A. The chapter is in healthy financial condition.
 - B. The Singing Festival Committee has decided on four awards:
 - 1. For singers up to and including age 18, paid from the existing Page Swift fund;
 - 2. For singers between 19-24, paid from the recent Kathryn Harvey Bequest, which may be withdrawn from chapter operating funds and put into a separate fund, pending further research;
 - 3. For advanced singers over 25, paid from the Barlow fund;
 - 4. For singers who began study over the age of 35, paid from the Cohen fund.Because it is not clear that at present these awards can be paid from interest on the funds, April will ask the Festival committee to decide the amount of these awards. Dorothy will then find out whether funds could be transferred from the chapter's operating funds to the scholarship funds. As this still needs to be researched, no decision was made.
- IX. Recording secretary's report:
Tina's e-mail is currently not working; she intends to get a new ISP.
- X. Program report (read by Wendy):
- A. The Spring program will be "Tricks of the Trade," for teachers only. It will be held at Peace Lutheran Church, Danville, from 3-5 PM on Sunday, May 17. Questions should be addressed to Sue Field. Alison will please send a reminder close to the date.
 - B. For the Fall program it is suggested that we re-do the college admissions program, which was one of the most successful programs we have had. Board consensus was that, if this is the program chosen, it should be for both "classical" and musical theater work. Board members are invited to contact Sue about this fall program, including other possible topics.
 - C. Maureen Chowning is setting up a vocal workshop to be held in October. This will be a FREE workshop, as it is being sponsored by Stanford. Maureen believes she can get Richard Miller to be part of this workshop. We cannot co-sponsor this, but we will be careful not to set up any programs on a conflicting date.
- XI. New Business:
- A. It was suggested that we need to have an outreach/membership development person on the Board.

- B. Emeritus status: An emeritus member is not required to pay national dues, but must pay for Journal and Internos subscriptions. It was decided that any member having National emeritus status will have chapter emeritus status.
- C. It was suggested that the newsletter carry a classified ad section, with only ads related to piano or voice; ads to be screened by the Newsletter editor.
- D. It was suggested that replication and distribution of the Oren Brown video be assigned to a volunteer.
- E. It was suggested that the chapter should subsidize members for workshops and conferences, when needed.
- F. It was suggested that pictures of Singing Festival winners should be posted on our website. Also that pictures of Board members should be on the website.
- G. Tina reported that her breathing video is being revised.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 PM.