

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA
CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF SINGING**

4:30 PM Saturday, June 13, 2009
Room 207 San Francisco Conservatory of Music

Meeting called to order at 4:35 PM by President Wendy Hillhouse

Maxine Bernstein (founder of Lieder Alive; not an official member of NATS or the Conservatory) invited us to attend the Marilyn Horne master class being held at the Conservatory at 6:00 PM and told us something of the Lieder Alive program.

President's report:

Wendy considers that NATS provides valuable opportunities to reduce the isolation that working alone in a studio can create. She stated that SFBAC is one of the most looked up to chapters in the nation and that it is one of the largest geographically. She suggested that we have sufficient members to create sub-chapters, for instance, particularly in the Santa Cruz area.

She considers the "Let's Do Lunch" program a step in the right direction.

She invited us to a party at her house on Sunday, August 2 at 4:30 PM. This will be preceded by a Board meeting at 3:00 PM.

The By-Laws state that the Board is responsible to see that vacancies are covered. Under this aegis, the Board will vote to approve that Anja Strauss will fill the remainder of Joshua Elder's term as Newsletter Editor, and the position of Vice President, Programs now held by Sue Field will be filled by Aleicia Bynes.

Wendy reminded us that the 2010 National Convention will be held in relatively near-by Salt Lake City and encouraged us all to attend.

-Wendy Hillhouse

Membership Chair report:

Grace said that we now have 144 active members; 4 of these have yet to pay their dues for this year.

-Grace Johnson

Corresponding Secretary's report:

Alison says that members should use her office for announcing concerts, job openings, upcoming symposiums, availability of tickets, and any special items of interest to the membership at large. For example, a library of music scores needed a new home. The website is the better place for chat or for particular opportunities for us to develop as professionals and artists.

-Alison Collins

Vice President, Singing Festival report:

This year's Festival was the biggest ever; 188 students participated, with 288 time slots filled. Eight students were disqualified for various reasons; 33 failed to show. There were only 44 teachers to help, which resulted in two divisions having only 2 adjudicators. There were a number of problems most of which were the result of the difficulty of finding a venue for the event.

All in all, the Festival cost the chapter about \$1100, which seems a fair price for the major event of the chapter.

There were 6 people on the Singing Festival committee; we need more. Next year's time and venue have been set: April 24, 2010 at San Francisco State.

-April McNeely

Recital Chair's report (read by Wendy, in Victoria's absence):

I am currently in contact with 3 possible new Recital Coordinators. Hopefully we will have some new venues to look forward to. Also, with a record number of Festival participants, I still wonder why more of these singers are not performing in our student recitals? I will keep on posing this question to the chapter. I hope to motivate people again in the Fall.

-Victoria Rapanan

Webmaster's report (read by Wendy, in Meghan's absence):

This year the webpage has undergone a few changes. We are utilizing the home page for important announcements such as the newly instituted Let's Do Lunch, Singing Festival Updates, Annual General Meeting Updates, and next year's Board Meeting Dates.

This month you will be able to download the audio for two seminars presented this year. Janet Campbell's Seminar entitled "Marketing Yourself for A Career In Singing" and the spring symposium "Tricks of the Trade" with Lucy Beck and Wendy Hillhouse. Some of these files have been audio-enhanced by Michael Field. An email announcement will be sent out when the files are available. Remember to check your information on the Directory page to ensure your information is correct. I am looking for a couple of members who would be interested in implementing the new website over the summer. Progress on putting the site together has been slow going as I learn some new techniques which will help bring our very large chapter together.

Any ideas and suggestions are always welcome. Feel free to email me anytime, especially if you are interested in helping!

-Meghan Dibble

Newsletter Editor's report (read by Wendy, in Joshua's absence):

My last newsletter was mailed Monday, June 8. It covers June, July and August. I met with Anja Strauss on Friday, June 4 and walked her through the process of editing the newsletter. She has agreed to take over the position and serve on the board if she is voted in today. It has been a pleasure serving on the board and I hope to do so again in the near future.

-Joshua Ian Elder

Treasurer's report:

The chapter finances are in a healthy state. There has been a small discrepancy in the funds-in and funds-out which is in our favor.

(Subsequent to the annual meeting, Treasurer Dorothy Barnhouse found the source of the discrepancy.)

The Board needs to discuss reimbursement for incidental (postage stamps, stationery. etc.) expenses. These costs should not be borne by Board members who are already giving their time.

-Dorothy Barnhouse

Program Chair's report:

The October symposium, attended by students and teachers, was "The Anatomy of Wholeness" conducted by Babette Lightner. This was well received by those attending. Sue kept the costs down by using her own home as the hotel for Babette's stay.

The spring symposium was "Tips and Tricks of the Trade" and was held in May in Danville. This was also an appreciated program and cost the chapter nothing, as our own members provided the information panel.

Our fall symposium will repeat our very successful program "Inside Admissions" and will be Held at the SF Conservatory from 1-5 on September 27. This will be in conjunction with the Conservatory Admissions Department.

Sue is unable to continue as Program Vice President; the Board will vote to approve Aleicia Byrnes to take over the position.

-Sue Field

SFBAC is holding a summer performance workshop from August 3 through August 7. This will be in Santa Clara and the panel of teachers will be from our own chapter. We are, after all, a highly talented, skilled and experienced bunch. Meghan will have applications for this workshop on our website soon; the application deadline is July 1. Tuition for the week will be \$350.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Baird, Recording Secretary