

Minutes of NJNATS Chapter Meeting
February 20, 2010
Montclair State University

The meeting was called to order by Susan Rheingans.

The minutes to the last meeting are posted online. No corrections to the minutes were requested, and they were approved as they appear online.

Reports of Officers

The Treasurer's report was not available to be read, so the copy that appears below was emailed to the membership.

2/20/10 NJNATS Treasurer's Report: College Festival at Montclair

Balance as of 2/20/2010 **\$3404.98**

(Lenz Funds in that amount) \$652.50)

Expenses:

TIS Gift Certificates for winners 2/20 **\$375.00**

Dues Deposits:

1/28/10 \$500.00

2/17/10 \$245.00

TOTAL: **\$745.00**

Total in account as of 2/20/10: **\$3774.98**

(Doris Lenz Funds **\$737.50)**

Submitted by Nancy Froyland Hoerl

NJNATS Treasurer

2/19/10

Reports of Committees

Marcia McCoy reported on the Doris Lenz Scholarship Committee. She asked that the membership encourage their students to apply. Last year two awards were presented.

This year there will be two \$300 awards available. A request was made that the membership make donations to the fund so that this scholarship may continue. The deadline for application is May 1, 2010. All application information is posted online at www.njnats.net.

Old Business

The Festival Venue committee still needs a third member. Susan Rheingans again asked for volunteers. The committee is in search of two to four rotating venues to host the Doris Lenz Festival and the Festival of Singing. NJNATS has been very fortunate to find several venues that have been available to us free of charge. Unfortunately, we cannot count on that every year. Margaret Cusack offered to serve as a liaison to Westminster Choir College. There was a discussion of moving the Spring Festival farther into the spring to avoid severe winter weather. Since later timing would conflict with schools' spring breaks and spring productions, this is not always possible. Susan Rheingans noted that we must also schedule the Festival around the NATSAA auditions – on years where the NATSAA auditions are not held we will have greater flexibility in scheduling. Steven Snow asked that he be contacted at stevensnow@fan.net with any suggestions on other possible venues or contacts to pursue. *(After the meeting was adjourned, Jon Garrison volunteered to serve on the Festival Venue Committee.)*

Programs

Plans for a Spring NJNATS presentation are underway.

Suggestions brought up at the November 7 Chapter meeting were discussed. If you have any information on recommended summer programs, please email Susan Rheingans. There will be a webpage created with links to recommended programs which will include a star-rating system, a brief review of the program, and the level of student it serves. An accompanist directory is underway – please email names and address for inclusion to Danielle Sinclair at michael.danielle@netzero.net.

New Business

There was a discussion of drafting a motion to include a separate Music Theater category for the Doris Lenz Festival. The options proposed would be to add a Music Theater category; remove the option of singing any Music Theater repertoire; or leave the requirements as they stand. Scott McCoy stated that there is a national trend to separate the categories. Steven Snow proposed that teachers who feel comfortable with Music Theater repertoire would serve as judges for the category. The point was made that as our college level music theater students are expected to be proficient in a wide range of styles, does it make sense to judge them with separate ears? But since the Music Theater aesthetic is generally more accessible to our young students, and the Classical aesthetic can take much longer to develop, does it make sense to judge them together? Scott McCoy made the point that we have never had a judging workshop or any training for judges. What are the standards? Since we are not permitted to judge our own students, we are often placed in categories outside our strongest experience. It was decided that Danielle Sinclair will create a questionnaire that will be sent to the membership. When the responses are tabulated, and online discussion will be opened where the prevailing opinions will be presented.

Lori McCann, president of the New York City Chapter of NATS, offered reciprocity with NJNATS. Members may attend any of New York City Chapter events, and our students may participate in their auditions. There is a slightly higher participation fee for non-New York City Chapter members.

Scott McCoy announced that the NATS subscription to Classical Singer Magazine is paid through September, and does not need to be renewed now. NATS members received an email from Classical Singer Magazine requesting renewal, but our paid print subscription is valid through September, when you may choose to renew. He also announced that NJNATS is tax exempt, under the umbrella of NATS. The National Convention in Salt Lake City will feature Kelli O'Hara, and not Kristen Chenoweth as previously announced.

Dita Delman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Anastasia Swope.