

Fall Chapter Meeting of the Ontario Chapter of NATS



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF TEACHERS OF SINGING
ONTARIO CHAPTER

GENERAL FALL CHAPTER MEETING
November 15th, 2013
University of Western Ontario
London, Ontario

MINUTES

1- Call to order

2- Opening remarks

Interim President Elizabeth McDonald welcomed members and esteemed guest speaker Richard Margison. Elizabeth also paid tribute to recently deceased long-time members Lynn Blaser and Donna Sherman, both of whom made enormous contributions to NATS Ontario, calling for the creation of a legacy page on the website where such big contributors can be acknowledged. Elizabeth then thanked those members who wrote dedications to Lynn and Donna which were then posted on the website.

3- Approval of minutes for May 4th, 2013 Spring meeting. Motion forwarded by Catherine Robbin, motion seconded by Dan Lichti. Motion passed. Note: Mary Lou Fallis questioned the \$17.50 late-joining membership fee mentioned in the minutes, stating that the fee should be raised. Michelyn Wright and Linda Condy explained the rationale behind this fee, which is primarily a mechanism by which recently graduated teachers can join and register their students for the auditions. It was acknowledged that this issue would warrant further discussion in the future.

4.1- Elizabeth McDonald reported on behalf of District Governor Torin Chiles:

The 2014 NATSAA competition will be held in London on February 8th. Registrations can be completed at nats.org. The second round will be held on February 21st, at Ball State University, Indiana. Winners will then move on to the semi-finals in Boston in July. Torin also wanted to remind members that he would be meeting with the strategic planning committee in the Winter—if anybody would like to raise an issue for this meeting, please forward your request to Torin.

4.2- Reports from officers

VP of membership Shannon Coats reported that we now have 97 paid members, 14 unpaid members and 19 emeritus (chartered) members, for a grand total of 135 members. Shannon reiterated Elizabeth's mention of a planned heritage page for the website. This page will highlight the rich heritage of the association and honour past members. Shannon encouraged members to offer content for the heritage

page.

A new membership protocol has been established for joining our chapter. In the past, there was no mechanism in place to identify Big NATS members teaching in Ontario. The Ontario chapter will henceforth be notified when Ontario-based teachers join big NATS. There will now be quarterly reviews of membership. Using the RCM teacher directory, Shannon was able to identify circa 200 private studio voice teachers in our area. Taking her cue from the NATS conference she attended in Australia, where high level masterclasses in Pop/Rock, Classical and Musical Theatre singing were concurrently held, Shannon underlined the need to welcome teachers working in all styles and aesthetics of singing into the chapter, to foster a continuing healthy dialogue among voice pedagogues. A dynamic discussion ensued surrounding the importance of inclusiveness in growing the chapter. Shannon also mentioned the desire to include choral conductors, voice coaches and high-school music teachers in the membership. Mary Lou Fallis suggested that there should be a stronger connection to other NATS chapters in Canada—this would not only solidify our identity and sense of national pride in the high quality of Canadian singers being trained in Canada, but could give Canadian NATS more clout in the USA. Elizabeth McDonald suggested we first take stock of all chapters in Canada and reach out for possible shared events. Shannon suggested that we identify members with ties to other provinces to help with making connections. Kimberly Barber pointed out that the chapter needs to continue to make efforts to communicate with all members so as to avoid the perception that the chapter is Toronto-centric in its outlook. Elizabeth suggested that new technologies (webcasts) could help to make members in distant locations feel involved in chapter events, such as meetings and PD events.

4.3- Financial officer (treasurer) Linda Condy gave the following report:

Linda gave a brief report/description of the 3 chapter bank accounts (administrative, charitable and GIC). Paypal continues to grow in popularity. We had \$1495 in donations this year. We will be handing out about \$5500 for the auditions. Donations included: Linda and Michelyn's 3rd annual fundraiser (\$500), Joan Heels foundation (\$400), Amanda Brunk choral event (\$320), Catherine Robbin, Elizabeth McDonald, Daniel Lichti, Barbara Collins and Linda Fletcher. We still do not generate enough income to pay for events such as auditions. We cannot hold big events without dipping into our capitol. Mary Lou asked if there have been attempts to find patrons to establish endowments for scholarships. Michelyn pointed to chapters in the USA such as in Texas where private and corporate donors play a large roll in financing auditions. Shannon suggested we find out if other chapters designate a position dedicated solely to fundraising—a model we should perhaps explore.

4.4- VPs of Projects Marc Daboll and Alison Moodie gave the following report:

Marc listed the impressive number of institutions (Western, UofT, York, Randolph (thanks to Michael Donovan for bringing Randolph into the fold), Cosi, Queens) participating in the recruitment fair. Marc also mentioned that Music Plus would also have a table at the fair. We now invite any suggestions or ideas from members for our upcoming event at the Spring 2014 meeting. Location is yet to be determined.

4.5- Auditions officer Michelyn Wright gave the following report:

We are looking forward to a great day of auditions—enrolment in new musical-theatre categories has been a big success. Michelyn also declared “I am done,” referring to her long-time tenure as auditions officer—the search must now begin for her successor(s). Systems for registration and tabulation are so refined and integrated that it is now less daunting to contemplate a succession. It will take 2 years to train new people. Kim Barber suggested we approach Amanda Bunk and Angela Burns as possible replacements.

5. New business

Linda Condy proposed the introduction of a reinstatement fee for members who have not paid membership fees for a year or two. The suggested amount for this fee is \$10. Motion unanimously approved by membership.

6. Kimberly Barber moved meeting to be adjourned. Meeting adjourned.