

September 8, 2017

Dear Southern Region NATS members,

We are getting close to opening registration for the fall NATS conference. Our target date is Sept 15. I thought it would be good to give you some information as you prepare to register you and your students.

As you may have heard, the national NATS office is mandating a change to a new standardized registration system for Region conferences this year in order to expedite the transfer of information from Region to National competition. The new registration system was released last week and a few edits are still being made. This means there are some changes in this year's process that Wendy and I are still figuring out and will be working on with Shawn Roy to help facilitate a smooth transition.

A couple of items to know as we move forward with this:

- The new system will be accessed through the NATS.org website, and you cannot register if your NATS membership is not current, so make sure your membership is up-to-date and you have your login info.
- The student fee will increase from \$15 to \$18 to pay for the new registration system and credit card fees. You can pay with a credit card through this system.
- Make sure you have correct email addresses, phone numbers and birthdates for your students. The registration system will require those. (Birthdate is used to verify the category.)
- There have been some changes to the rep requirements, and especially to the Musical Theatre categories. Please look over this document that explains some of the repertoire changes for this year's auditions: https://www.nats.org/Library/NSA_Files/Regulation_Changes_NSA_Committee_7_11_2017.pdf
- There are more details on the nats.org website, under "Competitions," "National Student Auditions."

There are some really nice features in the new system that will help our process, even though it may be a little tricky this year. I will do my best to help you through the process, and please let me know where there are things I did not anticipate.

Looking forward to a great conference!

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