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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF SINGING
2020 NATS Virtual Southern Region Conference

Mississippi Chapter Meeting

University of Mississippi Virtual Hosts, via ZOOM
Friday, November 13, 2020 6:00 PM

Amanda Johnston, President
Officiating

Official Minutes

- I. Call to Order – The MS Chapter meeting was called to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. as a breakout session from the Regional Conference meeting.

Members present:

N. M. Balach; K. Broadwater; M. L. Buchanan; C. Coker; S. Hurley; B. Johnson; A. Johnston; J. Lamar Kantack; P. Lewis-Hale; C. Linton; G. Long; N. Perna; C. Roberts; S. Shannon; and K. Davis;

- Review and approval of minutes from last meeting (Kimberley Davis, Secretary)
 - a. Motion to approve Minutes.
Motion to approve the **November 2019 Chapter Minutes** was made by B. Johnson; seconded by C. Coker. The Minutes of the November 2019 Regional Chapter Meeting were approved as presented by all present.
- Welcome and introduction of new officers
No new members for this meeting.

Two new officers were introduced:

Susan Hurley, Treasurer
Jamie Dahman, Auditions Chair (Absent)

- II. Governor's Report – Nancy Maria Balach

Governor Balach reported that they are working on a virtual conference for the spring. As membership is something that has been present on the minds of officers, Balach also reported on survey results that was taken a year ago at the Jonesboro, Arkansas Region Conference. Twenty-one members participated. Questions were varied from "What motivated you to renew your membership" or "Why do you bring students to participate?" There were lots of different answers, but this is information the Board can look at and pull together and connect the dots. Balach provided the following results from the survey:

Satisfied with Chapter: 4.1/5

Average number of students a teacher brought to last conference: Five; anticipate bringing six for spring.

Where is your favorite place to hold the conference? Evenly spread across with preferences for Mississippi College and the University of Mississippi.

If members have more to share or suggest, please reach out to a Board member. She expressed that our voice is important and needs to be heard. Will keep trying. Balach ended her comments stating, "We are a strong Region and we are a strong Chapter."

III. **Auditions Chair's Report – Jamie Dahman (Absent)**

Laurissa Bachlin is no longer with Delta State and, subsequently, not with our Chapter; Johnston believes she accepted a new position in Tennessee.

We extend heartfelt condolences to Jamie Dahman on the loss of a family member in Texas. He has traveled there to be with family. He sent his message expressing how very excited he is to be taking over this position. He has been in touch with Bachlin and feels equipped to take on the daunting task of this office and especially now since our first conference will be in this new virtual format; most assuredly, our Regional Auditions Chair, Adam Philley, as well as Nick Perna and Nancy Maria, with their techno expertise, will all be a great help to him.

IV. **Treasurers' Report – Mary Lenn Buchanan and Susan Hurley**

Johnston started her comments by thanking Mary Lenn Buchanan for her many years of dedicated service. She is stepping down from the Office of Treasurer after 21 years. Johnston wanted to take a moment to offer Buchanan her "wholehearted thanks" for all she has brought to the Mississippi Chapter and to the organization at large. Susan Hurley has been voted in as the new treasurer. Buchannan mentored Hurley over the summer.

Per Johnston's request, Buchanan gave her final report and then handed it over to Susan Hurley, who then explained what the transition has been like over the summer.

After pointing out once correction – top line should read: "Beginning Balance 1/01/20" (not 1/01/19) - \$6,857.41 – Buchanan started by stating that this was a very easy statement to do this time. All that was needed was to collect what came in from the National Office, this time (dues – \$15 is not much but they have helped our account stay solvent). "We have 62 members with \$930 in extra money and that was wonderful." Because she has been in the office so long, the account had become tied to her personal accounts, as it was started before anything was done on the computer or managed on online. Because she was set as the signer, the account was closed and reopened under Susan so that it would no longer be tied to her accounts.

Buchanan explained that she always waited two years before she added uncleared checks back into the account. There was one check from the 2018 conference, which she added back. Then, in the conference of 2019 everyone cashed their checks except for the faculty breakfast at Ole Miss where the check for this was never cashed; this explains the large amount that was reentered. Buchanan continued to explain the expenditures and credits. She closed the account, sent the ending balance amount in the form of a cashier's check in the amount of \$8,284 (as of 9/30/20) to Hurley along with several other documents.

Buchanan thanked everyone for being her friends, expressing how much she has enjoyed serving in this position, for the friendships formed, and that it has meant a lot to her.

Susan Hurley – received the cashier’s check from Buchanan, identified a bank to open a new account and deposit the check where there would be no fee for a non-profit organization account. Although she called ahead to see what information would be needed, she was then met with a series of questions like, “Where is your original Charter?” “What is the original date the MS Chapter was chartered?” “How many Chapters does the NATS Organization have?” She made a series of frantic phone calls and after a couple of days, on Tuesday, October 14th, 2020, she had all the necessary documentation in hand. With her being in Columbus, they arranged for Jamie Dahman to go to a bank in Cleveland to be a co-signer and the new account was opened.

V. President’s Report – Amanda Johnston

President Johnston began her remarks by discussing the next state conference. We are forced to hold a virtual conference and will learn from the successes of this Regional conference. Originally, Delta State was to be the host. They cannot host in person. Will use tools Balach and Perna have learned in their work organizing the Regional conference to work with Jamie and come up with “something fantastic” for us in spring 2021.

Proposed Moving dates back to March 19-20 (third week of March) from March 5-6, 2021 for ease of preparation. Motion by Nick P; seconded by J. L Kantack.

Asking the membership if those presentation submissions from last time, as well as a guest clinician would be acceptable to continue with for this conference. Spread the word and submit suggestions to her. She does not believe it to be fair to those who prepared their presentations to have to wait an additional year. If anyone has suggestions for a guest clinician, let her know quickly. Perhaps this will give people more incentive to attend the conference. She has already received one unsolicited guest clinician application and will put out an official “Call.”

Bylaws: updated during summer 2020. Officers timeline extended to four years. New term-limits for three positions: Auditions Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, renewable once. Additionally, needed to add what was voted on last time, which was that one must be a paying member to enroll students.

Nancy Maria Balach and Nicholas Perna both made presentations at the 2020 National (Virtual) Conference. Balach stated that her session was pre-recorded and then shared. Perna moderated over Papers and Q & A sessions; he and Sarah also gave their presentation on laryngeal manipulation; they will lead the January NATS Chat. Allen Henderson invited him to lead the bootcamp on technology.

VI. New Business

- **Future regional conference sites**
2021 – University of Mississippi (*pending confirmation) – contingent on SEC Football. If for some reason, they cannot due to conflict of date. Asked if any others would like to host. No one present volunteered.
2022 – Louisiana State University (*pending confirmation) – contingent upon construction.

- **Future district conference sites**
2021 – March 5–6, 2021 VIRTUAL – **Will now be March 19 – 20, 2021.**
2022 – March 18–19, 2022 at Mississippi University for Women – Still on.
Confirmed this morning by her Chair.
- **NATS Virtual Winter Workshop** is January 8–10, 2021.
- **NATS Intern Program** is June 1–10, 2021 (Statesboro, GA).
*deadline: December 15, 2020.
- **Additional topics from the floor:**
 - a. Broadwater – if you have ever written a paper on vocal pedagogy (historical) and you’d like to have it published, let her know. Believes the National Office is discussing a three-year wait and are even talking about starting to pre-post online for a regular space.
 - b. C. Coker – during the time she was serving as registrar for the Region and making the nametags, there were not many names that would have “private study” on there but she has come to understand that a large portion of our membership are in the private teacher or independent category. She is interested in knowing how we could engage them actively somehow. She asked Balach if that type of information was part of the survey she rendered. Balach stated that the survey did not include that type of information but added that with the upcoming virtual conference, it would present a wonderful opportunity to get our private and independent teachers involved. Discussion ensued. Roberts suggested extending invitations and sponsoring guests. Mary L. Buchanan mentioned those on her list that were registered for the 2020 state conference – Cheryl Dunn, Eva Hart, and Lynn Holliman...Perna added that Kristin (Johnson) is also a private teacher. Johnston stated that at one point Balach initiated a Membership Committee and inquired if this topic might be something on which they could focus their attention; since we have this in place, that would be a way of looking into this matter.
 - c. Buchanan mentioned Jo Orr being ill and taken to the emergency room. K. Broadwater gave an update from Ben on FB, stating that “Jo is back. Conditioned improved overnight; still a fight ahead. Prayers appreciated.” Coker added that UAB has an alternative type of treatment to provide for her. Buchanan added how dear she is and encouraged us keep her in our prayers.
 - d. Perna – Colorado State soon to release new set of data regarding masks - <https://source.colostate.edu/enter-cautiously-csu-study-looks-at-how-the-performing-arts-can-return-in-a-healthy-manner-during-covid-19-pandemic/> . Dr. (John) Volckens was on *Vocal Fry* giving the best overview of the best science for masks. Perna named the session, “Masks, Aerosols, and the Performing Arts.” Volckens wants to release their full data-set the first full week of January. Watch the NATS COVID-19 Resources page. <https://smt.d.colostate.edu/reducing-bioaerosol-emissions-and-exposures-in-the-performing-arts/>
 - e. Davis announced she is doing a Master Class on *The Art of Performing the Spiritual for Classical Singer Magazine*, Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 6 p.m.

VII. Adjournment – 6:32. Motion to adjourn was made by M. L. Buchanan; seconded by N. Perna.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberley Davis

Secretary, MS Chapter of NATS

November 2020