

**GA NATS Annual Business Meeting**  
**November 7, 2014**  
**Georgia State University**

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME** (GA NATS President, Wendy Mullen): 7:00 p.m. at Georgia State University (Marriott Courtyard Hotel).
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The agenda was presented and a motion was approved to accept the minutes from November 15, 2013 as written.
3. **INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS**  
Allen Henderson introduced Bill Lavanis, a new teacher at Georgia Southern.  
Deborah Popham introduced Indra Thomas, a new teacher, at Shorter University.
4. **REPORT FROM THE NATS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (Allen Henderson):**  
Allen gave a report about the goings on at the NATS National Office.

He said the National Convention held in Boston Summer 2014 was a huge success. There was great energy at the event. The people in Boston did a wonderful job putting it all together. The next National Conference will be in Chicago 2016! It will be a great time. Please make plans to join. (Allen thinks Steven Smith from Northwestern is going to be a featured presenter.)

One of the big things to happen in Boston was the first student auditions to be held at Nationals. We had several singers from our region travel to Boston and some won prizes. NATS got lots of positive feedback from students and parents. This is going to be an annual event. When there is not a National Convention, the student national auditions will be a part of the national workshop.

This summer, NATS launched several new things. One of them is a book series called "So You Want to Sing." This summer they released "So You Want to Sing Rock 'n' Roll: A Guide for Professionals" by Matthew Edwards. New releases for the series are coming soon such as "So You Want to Sing Jazz." Allen encouraged us to get a copy of Matthew Edwards's book and add it to our libraries. It can be used as extra materials for vocal pedagogy classes and also help singers who are novices.

The live learning center is also new this summer. All the sessions from the summer National Convention in Boston are now available for purchase online. They have also uploaded videos from the past three national conferences. More will probably be added in the near future.

Vocapedia.info is another new item. This is one of Allen's projects. It is a great resource. The voice science committee has pulled together some important resources. When you send your students to this site, you will know it is valuable and correct information. Every resource on this site has been reviewed. You may send something to the national office and ask them to consider adding it to the site. The committee will review it and make the decision to add it or not.

The winter workshop is in Palm Beach, Florida this coming January. Please read the emails that are coming to you about this workshop. It's going to be a really nice event.

The Summer 2015 Workshop will be held at UNCG in Greensboro, NC. National NATS auditions will be in Greensboro, NC.

There is a committee working on rewriting student audition guidelines (especially at the regional level). After the national auditions, there seems to be a need for more common guidelines for the regional auditions. We should be hearing some proposals for this in the near future. They may also want to unify the guidelines at the state level.

Allen talked about copyright laws. We do a great job in our chapter maintaining and staying within the copyright guidelines. We need to make sure we continue to do this.

The FTC (Federal Trade Commission) is investigating our ethics policy. (A little more than a year ago they investigated a GMEA policy.) Specifically the commission is not in agreement with the following:

#### Section III: Ethical Standards Relating to Colleagues

1. Members will refrain from making false claims regarding themselves or their students and from making false or malicious statements about colleagues or their students.
2. Members will render honest and impartial adjudication at NATS auditions and/or NATS competitions and students will not be requested to disclose names of present or former teachers until after the event.
3. Members will disclose at NATS events the name of a student's previous voice teacher if the student has studied with the current teacher for less than eight months.
4. When a member's expertise warrants collaboration, members will work collegially with other professionals (i.e., voice therapists, speech pathologists, and medical practitioners).
5. Rules and regulations of any accredited academic institution take precedence over the NATS Code of Ethics, should there be a conflict.

Allen said the way it was written could be interpreted in a different way than what NATS had intended. So, NATS has negotiated with the commission and will be sending an email notifying us of the changes NATS is going to make in order to accommodate the FTC requests.

#### **5. NATS FOUNDATION REPORT (Diane Lawler-Johnson):**

The Foundation develops and maintains many programs that support the teachers and the students of NATS. Please consider supporting these programs when you renew your membership! One that is near to our heart is the Roy Delp Fund, as he was in our region. You can also just give to the foundation in general! Please consider doing this as you renew your memberships this year.

## **6.COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- a. MEMBERSHIP (Jane Hendrix.):  
Not a lot to say. We have 137. There are 173 who are national members but not state members. It is easy to join now online. Please encourage your colleagues to join!

- b. TREASURER REPORT (Joy Rotz):  
Joy has enjoyed working as the treasurer. We started with \$15,668.69. We have brought in a great deal of money this year. Joy thinks we are doing really well. Our balance is currently \$21,165.83.

We did provide money to six students to travel to nationals!

We did help fund the website overhaul (done by Carolyn Dorff's brother) which has been an amazing and very helpful change!

- c. STUDENT AUDITIONS (Shellie DeBruyn):  
Wendy introduced Shellie and said she has done an incredible job!  
Shellie said we had 395 entrants this year. Last year we had 302, so the numbers were down last year from what they had been in the past. This year we have rebounded! We want to make sure this is not just because we are more centrally located in Atlanta. We will wait and see what happens next year with the number of applicants.

Shellie said it would be easier if the teachers completed the applications for all of our students. This would help avoid problems with names being misspelled, etc.

The judging today went really well. Let's keep it up for tomorrow.

Shellie gave a gentle reminder of the no-show fee that will be assessed should we miss one of our judging days. Please make sure you are where you need to be tomorrow morning.

Reminder: Please don't make checks payable to Shellie. All checks should be made out to GA NATS.

- d. EDUCATION (Christina Howell and Tonya Currier):  
Tonya reported that Matthew Edwards gave a presentation on Audio Technology and the Modern Singer and it was fabulous. We had 15 students, 10 NATS members and 2 non-members. The numbers were down just a bit and this may have been because we had to reschedule the workshop (due to poor weather in the spring).

Christina Howell was excited to announce Dr. Wendy LeBorgne will be presenting for the spring workshop. She can speak about all different styles of music and will also speak to rehabilitation of the voice. Many members knew her and said she was FABULOUS! The workshop will be at Georgia College, Milledgeville, GA Saturday, Feb 21, 2015: 10:00 – 12:00 and 2:00 – 5:00.

Dr. LeBorgne will probably do a workshop discussing more pedagogical aspects of singing in the morning, and then some singers may sing for her later in the day.

Tonya's school will host our Spring 2016 workshop: Georgia Regents University, Summerville Campus, Department of Music, 2500 Walton Way, Augusta GA. Her organization that is housed at GRU (American Opera and Musical Theater Institute) will help be a host as well. The clinician has not yet been chosen.

Please send them suggestions for a singer to come in and do a real master class in the spring 2016.

e. WEBSITE (Carolyn Dorff):

Carolyn thanked her brother for doing such a wonderful job. She encouraged the chapter to not ever hesitate to offer suggestions. This is your website email:

[allmembers@ganats.org](mailto:allmembers@ganats.org)

You may use this email to send information to all chapter members. All emails with attachments will have to be approved by Carolyn first and then she will forward them to all members.

There are no more passwords! Everything that would be dangerous for someone to see has been taken off the website. We are keeping it safe and will come up with a way to store the more sensitive information.

f. REPERTOIRE REPORT (Wendy reported for Kathryn Hartgrove):

Wendy said Kathryn had nothing new to report at this time.

d. HISTORIAN (Brian Bonin):

Brian announced he has been taking pictures at the student auditions to post online. He encouraged us to like Georgia NATS on Facebook. Brian has old winners lists if anyone needs them.

**7. NEW BUSINESS:**

Wendy said the board got together this summer via emails and agreed to help fund students who are going to the national auditions from Georgia. We were able to pay \$250 per student. (The chapter had previously voted to spend up to a \$1000 total for all student travel to national student auditions. However, this summer the board decided to make an exception and award 6 students \$250 each to help with their travel to national student auditions.)

Also, last night the executive board discussed changing the prize money for the prelim winners: First Place \$75, Second Place \$50, Third Place \$35. The floor was opened for discussion on this.

Christina asked how much of a financial difference would that be in total. Someone suggested it would be around \$2000.

Linda Banister made a motion to accept Wendy's new proposal.

Christina seconded it.

Everyone voted yes for this!

Wendy made announcements:

GANATS Workshop February 21, 2015, Wendy LeBorgne, Clinician, Georgia College,  
Milledgeville, GA

SERNATS March 27-28, Auburn University, Auburn, AL

GANATS Workshop February 2016, Georgia Regents University, Augusta, GA

SERNATS March 18-19, 2016, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Dwight Coleman announced November 22, 2014 at the First Presbyterian Church,  
beginning at 10:00 a.m., the Atlanta Opera Guild is sponsoring the Metropolitan Opera  
National Council Audition (MONC). All were encouraged to attend.

Meeting was adjourned by 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tamara Watson Harper, Secretary