

Minutes of NJNATS Chapter Meeting
October 30, 2010
The College of New Jersey

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: Nancy Froysland Hoerl reported that the NJ NATS account stands at \$3,331.48. Over \$800 is held in the Doris Lenz Scholarship Fund. Last summer Jarrett Porter won the DL Scholarship, and the committee hopes to present two awards in 2011. Doris Lenz's son and daughter presented a \$200 donation to the Scholarship fund, and donations from members are also sought. Membership was asked to consider adding a DLF donation to send in with the 2011 NJ NATS dues payment.

Other expenses incurred were renewal of the NJ NATS website and email accounts, and the purchase of NJ NATS lawn and table signs. The Hopewell Valley Vineyard event went well, and we hope to find other opportunities for similar member events. Please present any event ideas to Susan Rheingans.

Reports of Committees

Marcia McCoy reported on the Doris Lenz Scholarship Committee. Last summer's scholarship winner, Jarrett Porter, spent the summer studying with American Musicians Abroad, and he sent the membership a lovely thank-you note. Nickie Miller was the alternate. Marcia McCoy thanked Laura Greenwald and Dauri Shippey for their work on the committee last year. Next year, a new chairperson will have to be found, as she will be awaiting the arrival of two grandchildren. Information and flyers will be posted on the NJ NATS website. Ms. McCoy asked that the membership encourage their students to apply. With sufficient funds available, there should be two \$300 awards presented in 2011. A request was made that the membership make donations to the fund so that this scholarship may continue.

Steven Snow reported on the Venue Committee. The committee met on October 1, with Steven Snow, Linda Krupa and Jon Garrison in attendance. There was discussion on the difficulty of booking space at schools due to their uncertain financial circumstances. This difficulty is increased when an outside group is seeking space. However, if the school has a SNATS chapter, NJ NATS would not be considered an outside group. The possibility of developing more SNATS chapters on New Jersey campuses was discussed. We hope to develop contacts at all New Jersey campuses through our membership database, and make schools aware of the benefits of hosting NATS competitions and attracting outstanding local students.

Options for 2011 venues include Caldwell College and Rutgers Camden campus. The 2011 Festival of Singing will be held at Rowan University. Discussion is still underway on

developing venues in the north and south of the state, and alternating locations yearly. There was also a discussion on increasing student fees to help offset the cost of venue rental.

For all auditions and festivals, a viable venue must have a minimum of nine rooms with acoustic pianos. There also needs to be a theater or recital hall, and the spaces need to be free of outside noisy activities. Community Colleges might prove to have suitable facilities. Performing Arts magnet schools are also a possibility, especially since as a neutral site we could attract other colleges for presentations to the student participants.

Susan Rheingans suggested we poll membership as to whether we would prefer rotating venues in central New Jersey, or alternating north and south locations.

Old Business

Discussion is still underway on drafting a motion to include a separate Music Theater category for DLF. This discussion will be tabled until after the 2011 Festival of Singing.

Plastic, clip-on nametags should be available to membership in time for the 2011 Festival of Singing.

New Business

Rochelle Ellis has been asked to stay on another term as Regional Governor. We will need to identify a candidate for the following term. Ms. Ellis addressed the problem of teachers sending students to DLF and not participating in the judging. Susan Rheingans suggested we raise the non-attendance fee, which is already \$50 in the New York Chapter. In the application the payment of fees needs to be stated more clearly. Marcia McCoy asked if a motion was needed to change the rule, and it was determined that it is in the province of the Regional Governor. Rochelle Ellis will be able to implement this increase in time for the February Festival. A suggestion was also made that if a teacher cannot be available to judge, he or she could offer suggestions as to another teacher who would be free to participate in his or her place. There is also the hope that earlier notification of audition dates and locations will allow more teachers to participate.

The meeting was adjourned.