

Illinois ACDA
Summer Open Meeting
2007 ReTreat
Friday, July 13

John Jost convened the meeting in Presser 161 of Illinois Wesleyan University at 1:40 pm to discuss the offerings and impressions of our 2007 Summer ReTreat.

Todd Cheek reported 130 ReTreaters attended this year! There were quite a few "first-timers" this summer. John Jost was congratulated on a wonderful 2007 ReTreat.

Expressed by our ReTreaters:

- We should try not to schedule reading sessions of elementary/children versus junior high/middle school if at all possible. Many people wear both hats, or are interested in both genres.
- We should try not to schedule advanced high school versus the worship/church music reading sessions. Many people wear both hats.
- Maybe the worship/church session should be repeated at another time during the ReTreat to accommodate our needs.
- We should seek to have a "beginning" children's choir repertoire session, or early elementary reading session to assist in finding accessible, good literature. Music would be for our younger and impressionable students.
- If our headliners want us to bring back their packet for additional sessions, they need to communicate that so we will have their music. (*With the housing off site this year, we ran into the fact members thought the clinician was done with the packet and left it in the hotel.*)
- The variety of the interest sessions was exceptional this year!
- Next year, we would like to see a session on choral assessment. (Brett Nolker was a possible name for consideration, or even a panel discussion would be great.) What types of things are "testable"? What methods of accountability can we follow?
- Could there be a session on personal vocal health? Karen Brunssen touched on this in her visits to us, but we need to have bi-yearly discussions/sessions on this important matter.
- Invite Tim Fredstrom to present his "E-rehearsal". (It was given at the National, but many members could not attend that presentation, or the National for that matter.)
- Vocal Jazz session, inviting Mr. Wiedenhofer from Millikin?
- It would have been nice to have more informal access to Ms. Spevacek.
- Rick Bjella working with conductors was wonderful. More, please!
- A panel discussion of "how to commission a choral work for my group?" would be appreciated.
- A panel discussion of "how to make my rehearsal room feel as a safe haven" ...or "what should I do on the first day, and during the first week?".
- The director's chorus was moved to Thursday evening with great acclaim. More ReTreaters were able to stay to perform. The balance this year of secular music was appreciated. The headliner must understand balance is important of literature and difficulty of literature is important for ALL of our ReTreaters.
- Could we have a men's piece and a women's piece for the director's chorus?
- Rick Bjella was a wonderful inspiration to ReTreaters. Bring him back for the director's chorus in the future!
- Could we have mixed seating sometime for the director's chorus to challenge us?

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- Ensembles led by our own membership would be a great addition to the ReTreat. They could start in a general session and be dispersed throughout the schedule with a performance at the end. (This was a very successful endeavor with the members of Western Wind many ReTreats ago.)
- Suggested clinicians for the future included:
 - Sheri Porterfield
 - Henry Leck
 - John Jacobson
 - Randy Pagel
 - Pat Liebergen
 - Greg Gilpin
 - Randy Swiggum
 - David Rayl
 - Pam Edwards
- ReTreaters present greeted the “hotel situation” warmly. Somebody besides Todd Cheek (he has plenty to do) might step up to coordinate roommates to help with ReTreater’s costs. Actually, if ReTreaters shared a room they were paying approximately the same amount charged by Wesleyan to be in the dorms! (*Todd has reserved a bank of rooms for next year at the Hampton Inn.*) Maybe additional hotels can be suggested.
- ReTreaters were asked to suggest additional options for exhibitors and send them to Jeff Wilson. The rooms used for the exhibitors was much more conducive to their success. We just need to make sure to allow time to visit/visit yet not all at once.
- John Jost encouraged ReTreaters to complete the blue critique forms of the 2007 ReTreat to help in the preparation for our future activities.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Boyd
Secretary