

Illinois-ACDA BOARD REPORTS – January 2024

NOTE: The Treasurer's detailed financial Reports are in separate files.

President Elect, Amy Branahl

Recent successes & challenges:

- Excited to be serving in this new role!
- I am working with Paul, Laura, and Ben to get on the same page in this new role.
- Finished the Winter Podium

Activities in progress:

- I am working on creating a manual for all positions on the board. Thank you so much for helping me compile all this information so we can help future board members!

Future plans & goals:

- I have solidified the headliners for the 2025 retreat. Elaine Hagenberg & Dr. Brandon Williams for the Re-Treat!!!! It's going to be epic, mark your calendars now for June 24-26, 2025. June 24th will be the board meeting and the Re-Treat will be on June 25-26, 2025 held at Bradley University.

Secretary, Puja Ramaswamy

Recent successes & challenges:

- Excited to have made it through an entire cycle of meetings!
- Submitted my first Podium article

Activities in progress:

- Creating folders for each board meeting so pertinent information is easy for all board members to find.

Future plans & goals:

- Working on ways to streamline food orders for meetings

Historian, Janet McCumber

Recent successes & challenges: Nothing to report at this time

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Activities in progress:

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Future plans & goals:

Membership Co-Chair, Kayley Smetana

Recent successes & challenges:

- Worked with Paul & Jamie from Kidder to get a raffle sheet into every reading session packet. We will raffle off a few free memberships and this will allow us to collect the contact information for many non-members that attend the reading session.
- Continuing to brainstorm new & efficient ways to increase membership and

disseminate free or discounted memberships.

Activities in progress:

- Membership drive

Future plans & goals:

- Continue to collect databases for directors across the state to provide more outreach to non-members.

Membership Co-Chair, Lizzy Zarley

Recent successes & challenges:

- Introduced a ribbon and lanyard system so directors can find others who work in similar positions to them.
- Assisted Carol Munn with the IL-ACDA Middle/JH Honor Choir (you rock, Carol!)
- Sent out Constant Contact communications to share information about conferences, elections, award nominations, and other events.
 - Updating Constant Contact contacts list monthly so all members are receiving important information

Activities in progress:

- Constant Contact communications
- Continue to help with the list forming of teachers and schools in districts across Illinois.
- Brainstorming more ideas for connecting with directors who need access to ACDA resources

Future plans & goals:

- Ordering tons more ribbons/lanyards, including adding more categories for directors - these worked well
- See if we can set up an IL-ACDA booth at IMEC next year
- Follow up with District Chairs about contacting lapsed members again
- Work on the Missouri Comp Plan Membership Initiative with R&R and District chairs - thank you for all your work on this, Paul!

Assistant Podium Editor/Advertising, Kristin Ramseyer

Recent successes & challenges:

- I had a baby at the end of July and completely neglected my advertising responsibilities over the summer. I so appreciate all of you who were understanding during this summer of major transition for me! Thank you!
- Since then, ads were solicited for the Winter 2024 and future issues. There are 5 ads in the Winter 2024 issue of the PODIUM: 4 ½-page ads and 1 ¼-page ad. There are also 4 ads purchased for the Spring 2024 issue already.
- Also, this Fall, I have been providing invoices to all advertisers whether they request one or not. My hope is this clarifies what the purchaser owes for their ad(s). It will also provide them with something to send along with their payment to Treasurer, Paul Nielsen.
- I've updated the job description and Google Drive folders for whomever succeeds me in this role. All folders and files can be accessed here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ux4r1cAO4ceQP0DczA85l5MFTq3U4xhm?usp=share_link

Activities in progress:

- I will be moving into the Podium Editor position for the Spring 2024 issue so that Amy Branahl can relinquish those duties to focus on President-Elect responsibilities.
- We are still looking for an Assistant Podium Editor/Advertising. Apply here if you are interested:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScUPiLxRCYpfPnO7e6O2Qv42Wr9cjhJOhnAHOSGMtJQCEid1A/viewform>

Future plans & goals:

- The due date for Ads for the Spring 2024 issue is Friday, March 15, 2024.
- Pricing is:
 - 1/8 page advertisement: \$40
 - 1/4 page advertisement: \$70
 - 1/2 page advertisement: \$120
 - Full page advertisement: \$200
 - A 10% discount is offered for those who purchase Ads in all 3 issues of the PODIUM.

Webmaster, Aaron Mejorada

Recent successes & challenges:

- Successes
 - Very proud of my rework of the Fall Conference page!
 - Added new payment plugins, due to our transition away from Opus
 - Created new payment pages for both Fall & Winter Events
 - Podium page rework to the new website format & added a new pdf embedded preview
 - Updated our Board page several times to better accurately represent our current board
 - Reworked the IL-ACDA Treble Festival page
 - Updated the Two-Year College Festival page, for this year's festival
 - Updated the prices / deadlines / contact information for our Publication Ad Rates page
 - Reworked our IL-ACDA Outstanding Young Choral Director Award by adding new photo panels and a award recipient biography, and updating our past recipient list
- Challenges
 - Several sections of the website have not transitioned well from the old website format to our new one, meaning that periodically, a plugin will go out of date, so pages have to be remade, plugins will have to be changed, etc.

Activities in progress:

- Summer ReTreat page
- New board member additions

Future plans & goals:

- Update the Summer ReTreat page with more event information
- Website completely transitions well to the new format

Children’s Choir, Marianna Kosaya

New to the Board

Recent successes & challenges:

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Activities in progress:

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Future plans & goals:

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University Choirs, Brian Winnie

Recent successes & challenges: Nothing to report at this time

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Activities in progress:

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Future plans & goals:

Community Choirs, Chris Windle

Recent successes & challenges:

- Reading Session at Fall Conference

Activities in progress:

- Beginning a “Community Choir Census” for the state

Future plans & goals:

- Looking to make the census result in some sort of searchable database/resource available through our website for volunteer singers to find a choir to sing in throughout the state
- Exploring some sort of Community Choir festival

2-Year Colleges, Irene Leites

Recent successes & challenges:

- The Two-Year College festival is planned for Saturday, February 10, 2024.
- Things working well with this:
 - o Excellent venue
 - o Enthusiasm from participants

- Things that were challenging with this:
 - Recruiting choirs to this part of the state with the commute involved
 - Finding a donor to sponsor meals for participants

Activities in progress:

- Planning all day-of aspects of Two-Year Festival
- Recruiting a contributor to *Podium* issue for March 2024 deadline

Future plans & goals:

- Updating contact list for Two-Year college directors
- Recruiting two community college directors to attend ReTreat in June

IL-ACDA Junior High R&R, Carol Munn

Recent successes & challenges:

- Successful Junior High Chorus Performance at the ACDA Fall Conference with guest clinician Belford Hernandez on October 29th 2023
- Successful Junior High/ Middle School reading session presented at the ACDA Fall Conference October 28, 2023
- December 2023 Podium article approved and published

Activities in progress:

- Preparing middle school repertoire for IMEC reading session on Jan 26, 2024
- Communicating with ACDA president on planning for Fall Junior High Honor Choir 2024
- Preparing article for Podium magazine March 2024

Future plans & goals:

- Preparing for Fall 2024 Junior High Honors Choir
 - locating a venue
 - hiring a clinician
 - confirming a date

Treble Choir, Ali Kordelewski

Recent successes & challenges:

- Continued planning of the IL ACDA Northern Treble Festival
- Interviewed Brian Winnie for the IL-ACDA Podium Article
- Ran a reading session for Treble Choirs for the Fall Conference

Activities in progress:

- Treble Festival

Future plans & goals:

- Running rep list for all directors to have access to with a breakdown of different categories

Tenor/Bass Choirs, Brian Birch

Recent successes & challenges:

- I have a lead on a few host site options for the TB festival.

Activities in progress:

- Planning for TB Festival.
- I have had some discussions and a number of people interested in participating.

Future plans & goals:

- I'm looking to see if I can get it going for April, but if not, I'll be ready for early next year.

High School Chorus, Ben Luginbuhl

Recent successes & challenges:

- Contacted the chair of last year's 9/10 festival to see if they were planning on another one and didn't hear back. Tabling this festival until next school year.
- We had a very successful HS Honor Chorus at the fall convention. There were over 120 singers from 14 different high schools / ensembles. A special highlight was performing "Praise His Holy Name" with none other than Keith Hampton accompanying on the piano!

Activities in progress:

- Nothing at the moment besides getting a 9/10 festival running again

Future plans & goals:

- Continue to look for opportunities for high school singers with ACDA events.

Show Choir, Sean Hoffmann

Recent successes & challenges:

Success:

- Fall All State weekend in October hosted at Wheaton Warrenville South HS
- Great collaboration from participating groups, educators... real team effort
- Ideas created for future festivals

Challenges:

- Planning and budgeting was new to the chairs
- Communication outreach to all ACDA members, not just show choir
- Short timeline of planning/preparation

Activities in progress:

- 2024 All State Show Choir Festival
- Hosted at Mt. Zion if not attached to the conference - October 24-26th, 2024
- Clinicians Ben and Peter Eklund already in place

Future plans & goals:

- Increase communication and visibility
- Presence at Show Choir Camps of America, ACDA Retreat
- More school involvement

Composition Competition Chair - Donald Fraser

Recent successes & challenges:

- Due to the decline in both number of submissions and standard of compositions received it was determined to develop the Award. (See Future Plans & Goals)

Activities in progress:

- Continuing correspondence with Paul LaPrade and Chris Windle. Awaiting response to latest email.

Future plans & goals:

- We need to agree on 'language' in regard to the 'new look' competition.

Suggested text:

In order to develop the aims of the IL-ACDA Composition Competition, that is to promote new choral compositions, it has been decided to make the award a commission as opposed to a 'best piece submitted' formula. This will be approached in several ways. a) Professors of university/conservatory music schools that have Composition departments will be contacted. Professors will be invited to have students submit a series of works (not necessarily choral works) for IL-ACDA to decide on a Commission Award. Individual composers will be executed to do likewise and contact with all Illinois associated composers will be able to receive information of the Award process via our website, ACDA website and any other advertising means deemed appropriate.

District 1 Representative, Nythia Martinez

Recent successes & challenges:

- DIC
 - monthly meetings
 - agenda items (multi-district membership)
 - Mission Statement
 - Brainstorming community building, recruitment, and continuing education
 - JVC Chicago - multiple sources of support - THANK YOU!

Activities in progress:

- Join Voices Chicago - future reorganization
 - ILMEA to host? Combination of supporters?

Future plans & goals:

- Continued celebration of diversity in IL-ACDA and ACDA
 - Interested in creating more entry points for ensemble-singing appeal
 - Plans for contemporary a cappella featured in ACDA initiatives?
 - Increasing collaboration between DIC and executive board

District 2 Representative, Dr. Cory Boulton

Recent successes & challenges:

- A wonderful partnership of Choral Conducting Masterclasses at McKendree University and Bradley University. These were not ILACDA sponsored, but many attendees loved them so much they talked about joining ACDA and wanting more offerings like these masterclasses.

Activities in progress:

- Conducting Masterclass in April 2024 for all area teachers/directors—ACDA sponsorship?
- Planning the ILMEA All-state preparation workshop in September 2024
- Going through and contacting all D2 directors to make sure I have up-to-date information about who is teaching at these really small and transient schools/communities. Creating an email database to invite them to events.

Future plans & goals:

- I believe that the main tasks and responsibilities have been three-fold:
 - 1) to find ways to connect the teachers/students in the district to each other, to IL-ACDA, and to the art of choral singing in ways that help recruit and retain members.
 - 2) to help with keeping membership lists updated, and members coming back.
 - 3) to help create and organize events to further choral education in the district
- Here are the plans in place so far:
 - ILACDA Summer Conference planning in Summer 2025
 - Working with First Federated Church to write a grant to do a student composition competition for district 2 students—wondering if ILACDA would also want to sponsor/partner?

District 4 Representative, Nick Brockamp

Recent successes & challenges:

- Attempting to recruit members, but it is a challenge! Continuing to spread the word.

Activities in progress:

- Show choir season!

Future plans & goals:

- Find more folks to join IL-ACDA as well as have more options to offer to local members to make membership more affordable and more enticing.

IL-ACDA District 5 Representative, Juliane Sharp

Recent successes & challenges:

- Challenges- When taking over the D5 IL- ACDA position this year, it became apparent that increasing membership in District V needed to be a priority in 2023-2024 due to low participation numbers.

- Recognizing a need to connect with our local university students going out in the field, a presentation was made to the Eastern Illinois University ILCMEA Chapter regarding “The Benefits of Joining Professional Choral and Vocal Music Organizations Post-Graduation” on November 7th, 2023. While various professional organizations in the choral/vocal music field were discussed, IL-ACDA was a focal point during our time together.
- A presentation was made on IL-ACDA at the ILMEA District V General Meeting at the ILMEA District V Music Festival on November 17th for all choral directors in attendance. Paperwork was distributed describing who we are, what we do, upcoming events, etc. and a discussion about the benefits of membership, attending conferences, etc. took place, followed by a question and answer session. It was a positive session and seemed to renew interest in some of the directors who were former members while getting the word out to those that were unfamiliar with what we offer.

Activities in progress:

- I am currently working on updating the contact information for the K-12 D5 public school choral music educators in our area. Much of this appears to be out-of-date or incomplete within our state records.
- Recognizing a need to provide financial support for our college and university student members, I am working with IL-ACDA President, Paul Laprade, and IL-ACDA Collegiate and Lifelong Chair, Randy Haldeman, in creating solutions to break down barriers and create more access for their membership and attendance at conferences.

Future plans & goals:

- Goals for the coming year will be to continue to grow our membership within the K-12 directors in D5. This summer, the goal is to start reaching out more to College and University, Private School, Community Choir, and Music in Worship directors and updating our contact information in those areas.
- In order to increase professional development opportunities in the D5 area as well as create opportunities for our D5 choral directors to collaborate, I am currently working with the Doudna Fine Arts Center in organizing a High School A Cappella Festival on September 28th in collaboration with Eastern Illinois University. It will be an all-day festival with masterclasses for high school and directors. Sessions on arranging, vocal technique, vocal percussion, choreography, branding and social media, etc. will be presented throughout the day followed by an evening concert featuring local a cappella middle school and high school ensembles, EIU’s a cappella group, Blue Fusion, and culminating with a concert by Chicago-based a cappella group, Radius. Information on the event and tickets for the concert will be released in April. We are hoping that IL-ACDA will help support this project.

District 7 Rep, Roland Hatcher

Recent successes & challenges:

- Unable to find venue for 9/10 festival this year - working with Ali Kordelewski on cementing event and event details for future. Possibly considering a survey of some kind to determine WHERE would be best to host something, and WHAT people would attend
- Meeting many people/engaging D7 at ILMEA District Festival

Activities in progress:

- 9/10 Festival '25 (or another festival type TBD)
- Getting to know as many D7 directors as possible
- Updating membership lists in D7/examining for potential gaps

Future plans & goals:

- Potentially creating a D7 specific event (benefit concert, bring in guest vocal group, festival of some kind?)
- Would love to collaborate with DIC moving forward
- Would love to assist with any/all other projects that may fall into D7 purvey

ILMEA District 8 Representative, Abby Risner

Recent successes & challenges:

- meeting other D8 members at the fall convention!
- Unsuccessful attempts to get other D8 non-members to join ACDA - many teachers feel they get what they need from ILMEA and do not want to add another fee despite the discounts we offer for first timers.

Activities in progress:

- continued recruitment
- Continued brainstorm on what more we can offer that uniquely applies to teachers from D8

Future plans & goals:

- Figuring out some kind of event for D8 that is both a social and workshop opportunity for teachers and their students.

Student Representative, Ryan Jones

In this board report I will be saying what the Augustana College ACDA chapter has done this year so far to give you a perspective of what college chapters may be doing

Recent successes & challenges:

- Successes
 - Having a majority of members coming to meetings and participating in events
 - Making sure to have guest speakers at the meetings to give students different perspectives on Choral Music
 - Making sure to incorporate the members ideas by having a few leadership positions and also asking them for feedback, things to do better

- Challenges
 - Finding incentives for our members to show up and keep showing up without having to use a lot of the funds in our accounts
 - Ideas?

Activities in progress:

- These will be the activities that we have done each year; will also put if it was social, service, or fundraising
 - Beginning of the year Ice Cream Social (Social)
 - Augustana High School Choir Festival Game Night (Social/Service)
 - Battle of the Choir Penny Wars (Fundraising)
 - Music Wide Christmas Caroling at a Nursing Home (Service)
 - This was planned by the ACDA Chapter
 - ACDA Hot Cocoa Christmas Movie Night (Social)

Future plans & goals:

- Charity Benefit Concert (Service)
- Will be with all of the music groups on campus
- Anyone can go up and sing/perform
- Professor Bake Off in the Music Building (Fundraising)
- End of the Year ACDA Bonfire (Social)

IL-ACDA R&R College/Univ., Liza Calisesi Maidens

Activities in progress:

- Looking forward to supporting the various college/univ. festivals and events this year.
- Serving as clinician for the IL-ACDA Treble Choir Festival in Feb. at College of DuPage.

Future plans & goals:

- UIC is launching our music education degree in Fall 24 — with a mission of preparing students to teach in city schools. I'll be thinking about how my chair position, as well as District 1, and the DIC can collaborate to provide offerings that continue to engage all college/university constituents in the state to get active with IL-ACDA and our state-wide student chapters.
- Compile list of IL-ACDA Student Chapters. Does this exist?

IL-ACDA Diversity Initiatives Committee Chair, Kate Lee

Recent successes & challenges:

- First ever BIPOC affinity space reception at the 2023 Fall Conference
- Successful Join Voices in October 2023, led by Grace Jeong

Activities in progress:

- Crafting a mission statement
- With the help of Robyn Hilger and Arreon Harley-Emerson from National ACDA, writing an MOU to outline the relationship between ACDA and Join Voices Chicago as well as establish the Join Voices Chicago Committee

Future plans & goals:

- Advocate to have the DIC be a standing committee
- More BIPOC affinity spaces at future conferences
- Recruitment and retention of BIPOC-identifying ACDA members
- Have our work encompass all aspects of ADEIB - Access, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging - and have this as a lens through which we do all work in ACDA