

# IL-ACDA Fall 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes DRAFT

**September 20, 2025 - 11:00am**

Virtual Board Meeting on Zoom

In Attendance: Amy Jin-Hee Branahl, Benjamin Ryan Luginbuhl, Paul Albert Laprade, Paul Edward Nielsen, Puja Modi Ramaswamy, Catherine Clare Songco, Nikos Koukos, Sean Newman, Sean Hoffman, Cory Boulton, Carol Munn, Roland Hatcher, Ali Kordelewski, Brian Smith, Nythia Martinez, Stephen Eros, Carly Bieda, Alfred Sawyer, Randy Haldeman, Jen Reece, Abigail Risner, Christopher Windle, Maggie Meyers, Patrick O'Shea, Mitchell Barrett, Travis Erikson

Not In Attendance: Nick Brockcamp, Marianna Kosaya, Jessica Heinrich, Andy Bruhn, Julie Sharp, Aaron Mejorada, Keith Hampton

## 1) Preliminary Reports

- a) **11:00 AM** – Call to Order: Amy Branahl
- b) Welcome New Members to the Board. Introduction rounds.
- c) Minutes: Puja Ramaswamy
  - i) Vote on minutes
    - (1) Addendum for Marianna Kosaya - Wants to have lunch/dinner with other directors to help imagine what a Children's Choir conference would look like
    - (2) Carly moves to approve the minutes and Carol 2nds, 24 yeas, 0 nays
- d) Treasurer's Report: Paul Nielsen
  - i) Expenses outweighed income last fiscal year and expected loss this fiscal year of \$8,985. What can we do to increase income?
  - ii) Retreat profit of \$432.48. Many late registrations added to the success.
  - iii) Webhost will now cost \$100/month
  - iv) We are now using Zeffy and aren't having any problems thus far. Saving \$\$ on PayPal fees.
  - v) Collegiate Funds Discussion - Andy B has asked if we can use these funds for student memberships. How do we make it equitable to all colleges? College membership is \$15/year. Should we create an application form to send to college directors?
    - (1) Committee to come up with an application - Andy, Maggie, Cory, Ben, Randy, Catherine Clare
- e) Board Reports (Board reports emailed prior to meeting)
  - i) Roland moves to approve board reports, Travis 2nds, 20 yeas, 0 nays
- f) Verbal Reports, if needed

- i) Discussion about the facebook groups- Amy
  - (1) ACDA Networking Group has unvetted members and a few posts were inappropriate and needed to be taken down. Currently no moderator of this group. Our IL-ACDA page is moderated by us. Can we vet who joins the group or can a board member moderate it? Brian or Roland could moderate it. Helpful purpose of the networking group - emergency leaves, last minute leaves, job vacancies.
- ii) Vote needed to move biennial awards to annual awards-Amy
  - (1) Harold Decker Award has been given every year at the ReTreat. Young Director's Award is biennial. There have been difficulties finding recipients in the past. Outstanding Partnership Award is biennial because it may be too difficult to find a recipient each year.
    - (a) 20 agree to make the Young Director's Award annual

## 2) Regular Business

- a) Membership: Clare & Nikos
  - i) 2-year Initiative
    - (1) We received 10 complimentary memberships this year from National. Half price is \$62.50.
    - (2) Each district representation could find 1 person to award a membership.
  - ii) IMEC- Amy
    - (1) Events
      - (a) Obed & Isaac's: Share purpose and talk with colleagues to get coverage for students so you can have a chance to network.
      - (b) Board Meeting Friday, January 30th.
      - (c) Reading Session support needed
- b) Sponsorships: Amy Branahl
  - i) Tiers
    - (1) Silver - \$250 = 1/8 page in all Podiums
    - (2) Gold - \$500 = 1/4 page in all Podiums and ReTreat exposure
    - (3) Platinum - \$750 = 1/2 page in all Podiums, ReTreat exposure, and IMEC flier
    - (4) Diamond - \$1000 = full page in all Podiums, ReTreat exposure, IMEC flier, and free registration to ReTreat
  - ii) <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/sponsor-il-acda-today>

## 3) Old Business and updates

- a) Podium deadlines: Sean

- i) December 15th article submission deadline - President, D2, D5, D7, Middle School, Show Choir, Children's Choir, Show Choir, Secretary, Treasurer, Advertisements from ALL District Reps, and 1 choral work from each R&R chair
- b) *Composition Contest Award Update*: Chris Windle
  - i) 21 eligible applications this year, 4 publicly anonymous judges. Benjamin T. Martin was the winner and the invitation has been extended. Contractual language is currently being discussed. Announcement on October 1st.
- c) *Join Voices Chicago!* Progress: Nythia
  - i) Happening on October 10th at NEIU with 12 participating schools. Started primarily as a high school event because there is no sequenced choral education at the elementary schools. 3 of the participants this year are elementary schools. Sarah Catt from Elmhurst University is the guest conductor. Structure of event - each group performs and receives a masterclass, lunch is provided, and then there is a group sing with all of the students. Grace Jeong and Dr. Christopher Owen run the event.
- d) Junior High Honors Chorus Progress: Carol Munn
  - i) Over 100 students will be attending. Thank you to Cory for the space at Bradley University. Julie Clemens will be the clinician. 4th year of the event. Structure: students bring their own lunch, \$15/student if their teacher is an ACDA member and \$20/student if teacher is not a member.
- e) All State Show Choir Festival Progress: Sean Hoffman
  - i) Update from Roland. The festival is Oct 16-18 at Wheaton Warrenville South. Most auditions since Covid. Performances at 4pm on October 18th.
- f) North Treble and Central Treble Progress: Ali Kordelewski
  - i) Thursday, February 5th for Treble North and February 12th is February 12th. Hosted at College of DuPage by Patrick. Fees aren't determined yet, but maybe have different amounts for ACDA and non-ACDA teachers.
- g) IL-ACDA Collegiate Choral Festival Progress: Cory Boulton
  - i) Event in February. A big issue at this point is bus funding. Participants are coming from hours away and we may need to reinvent how it looks.
- h) Major Events: Amy Branahl

- i) Regional- Reflections of us in Milwaukee - February 25-28, 2026
    - (1) Illinois Reception- PL will be able to help with that.
    - (2) Honor Choir Deadline - next Wednesday, September 24th at 6pm
    - (3) **Illinois Promo Video Discussion: 60-second video** highlighting the choral activity, spirit, or unique features of your state's choral community. Social Media had great questions- Amy & Carly
      - (a) Ideas - signature ensemble, landmark performances, leaders in our state can talk about topics. Include footage or photos from previous events that can be sent to Carly and Alfred.
  - ii) 2026 Summer ReTreat – June 25-26, 2025 Normal Community High School, Normal, IL
    - (1) Dr. Kristina MacMullen & Dan Davison
    - (2) Committee Needed - Roland, Catherine Clare, Mitchell, Ali, Alfred
  - iii) Illinois Fall Conference 2026: Paul Laprade
    - (1) Committee Needed - Randy, Stephen E., maybe Roland
    - (2) Volunteers for auditioned choirs
  - iv) 2027 Summer ReTreat- June 23-24, 2027
    - (1) Committee Needed - Catherine Clare, Cory, Ali, Alfred
- 4) BREAKOUT ROOMS (If you're not one these areas, feel free to join a room)
- a) District Chairs with Amy, Paul L. and Puja
    - i) Needs or concerns from District Chairs
      - (1) Does a directory exist of the members from each district? We have a complete list from National but need to segment/organize that. Paul L will look into that. Membership also has that information available. Doesn't necessarily include what school(s) they are associated with.
    - ii) Sponsorships: Amy
      - (1) Is there anyone you think would want to advertise in the Podium?
        - (a) Is there a store, music shop, travel agency, etc. that would be able to be utilized by ACDA? What would they get out of it?

- (i) Ideas - Sweetwater, small publishing company, Shure
    - (ii) Past sponsors in kind - Hal Leonard and MusicSpoke
    - (iii) Amy has a template email that she will send out
  - iii) Encourage new members in less represented areas to join. Ask - District chairs send 3 names to Paul by October 1st.
    - (1) Paul will contact the Social Media chairs for IL-ACDA Promo materials - *October 21st deadline*
  - iv) Decker Award 2026 Nominations needed: Paul Laprade- November 1st deadline!
    - (1) 2 letters of support, bio, current resume.
    - (2) 15 years of choral service in Illinois, 20 or more years in choral music
    - (3) Active service in IL-ACDA See [IL-ACDA Bylaws](#) (Article XVI. Awards.) The form is on the web. ([il-acda.org/harold-decker-award/](http://il-acda.org/harold-decker-award/))
  - v) Outstanding Partnership IL-ACDA award November 1st deadline!
    - (1) Help support ACDA by offering a space.
  - vi) Young Director Award nominations- November 1st deadline!
    - (1) 10 years or less. Nominate via a letter. Announce at reading session.
    - (2) Must submit a video of their conducting
- b) R&R Chairs with Amy, Ben, and Paul N, Sean N.
- i) Reading Session info: Ben Luginbuhl
    - (1) Thoughts for the IMEC Reading Session
      - (a) Focus on K-12 singers
    - (2) Flyer for Summer ReTreat 2026 - Reading Session
      - (a) Music by voicing, not age
    - (3) DIC Committee: Nythia
    - (4) Fall Conference Reading Session
      - (a) Include music for college and community groups
  - ii) R&R Festivals, building in membership costs within the non-member structure- Amy
  - iii) What support do you need?
  - iv) Resources from National → <https://acda.org/sessions?event=7159>

Come back together

5) *Future Board Meetings-Save the dates!*

- i) Winter 2026 Meeting at IMEC: Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup> – in person! Location: Four Points by Sheraton - 11:30am-1:30pm; meals by Puja. Room: Holt Room
- ii) Summer 2026 Board Meeting - Tuesday, June 23, 2026 4pm  
Normal High School, Normal IL
- iii) Fall Board 2026 Meeting Sat., September 19th, 2026 – 10am-12pm -  
Location TBD

6) ADJOURN:

**Thanks for serving Illinois ACDA**

**Gracias por servir a Illinois ACDA**

**Merci d'avoir servi Illinois ACDA**

**Tak fordi du tjente Illinois ACDA**

**일리노이 ACDA를 위해 봉사해 주셔서 감사합니다**

**Dziękuję za podanie il ACDA**

**What other languages do our board members speak that need to be added?**

## **IL-ACDA BOARD REPORTS – September 2025**

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

### **President- Amy Branahl**

See Agenda for items!

#### Recent successes & challenges:

- ReTreat 2026 rocked. Thank you everyone for all your help and support!

#### Activities in progress:

- Onboarding new board members
- Membership Initiatives
- Getting the word out about IL to the larger Midwest Region.

#### Future plans & goals:

- Meeting with Midwest ACDA About Regional.
- Continue supporting you all, do not hesitate to reach out.
- <https://calendly.com/amybranahl/ilacdaconnect>

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## **IL-ACDA President-Elect, Ben Luginbuhl**

### Recent successes & challenges:

- ReTreat seemed to work very well at my school (NCHS)
  - For ReTreat 2026, I would like to establish some rotations of board members to help with logistics (meal setup / cleanup, hospitality, etc).
- I am working with Amy and Paul on continuing the business of the organization
- I am working with the R & R Chairs on music submissions for IMEC and future reading sessions / lists

### Activities in progress:

- Reviewing submissions for IMEC Reading Session for January 2026
- Currently brainstorming ideas for ReTreat 2027...have settled on the theme and need to get moving on contracting headliners. I would like a committee to help me out, especially with finding a voice teacher / professor who would be a dynamic speaker on how the voice ages (like Karen Brunsson from many years ago). Who wants in?
- Working on best format for reading sessions at ReTreat

### Future plans & goals:

- Continue supporting our board in whatever ways possible!

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## **IL-ACDA Past-President, Paul Laprade**

### Recent successes & challenges:

- Transferring items to Amy and Ben

### Activities in progress:

- Assisting with the Composition Contest details
- Beginning the awards process for 2026 (Decker, etc)

### Future plans & goals:

- I am taking first steps toward a possible Fall Conference in 2026 (I am now in the venue identification stage.)

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## **Secretary, Puja Ramaswamy**

### Recent successes & challenges:

- Collected board reports for Fall 2025 meeting and reformatted the order.

### Activities in progress:

- Developing a Secretary checklist for each meeting so nothing is forgotten!

### Future plans & goals:

Discuss CPS vendorship application with Paul, Amy, and Ben

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## **IL-ACDA Social Media Co-Chairs, Carly Bieda & Alfred Sawyer**

### Recent successes & challenges:

- Professional Dashboard = 10.3K Views
- Created a new [Linktr.ee](https://linktr.ee)
- Posting Board Features
- Posting Midwestern ACDA Audition Information

Activities in progress:

- Continuous posting board features
- Promoting “Sponsor a College Student at the Summer Retreat”
- State Choral Highlight video

Future plans & goals:

- Post and Promote IL-ACDA Junior High Honors Chorus
  - Raise money for our “sponsor a college student...”
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## **IL-ACDA Membership Co-Chair, Nikos Myrogiannis-Koukos**

Recent successes & challenges:

- Communication with ACDA members whose membership has recently lapsed.
- Discussions with colleagues in District 6 on joining ACDA.

Activities in progress:

- Establishing a student chapter in my institution (Southern Illinois University Edwardsville).
- Applying the Missouri paradigm of membership rates for IL-ACDA.

Future plans & goals:

- Initiate the longevity project.
  - Order materials for IMEC.
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## **IL-ACDA Webmaster, Aaron Mejorada**

Recent successes & challenges:

- Updated our Board Page, which includes all of our new board members
- Posted our Summer ReTreat 2026 information, replacing this past year’s
- Made this year’s IL-ACDA Junior Honors Chorus page, which is later this month
- Reordered and renamed events on our central Events Page
- Added a few new photos to our front page photo slider
- Removed all payment of our options from our events payment pages, while we shift over to Zeffy

Activities in progress:

- All State Show Choir Event

Future plans & goals:

Learn about Zeffy and how to set up payment pages

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## **IL-ACDA *Podium* Editor, Sean Newman**

Recent successes & challenges:

- *Podium* Volume 52, No. 1 will be published by the end of the month
  - New “Favorite Choral Works” section will be added to this issue (just like the beginning days of the *Podium*)
  - Still need advertisement from Bradford Systems (Mike Dawson donated \$500 for ¼-page ad)—have followed up twice and still have not received advertisement.
  - A draft will be sent out before its publishing for one more look.
  - Thanks for your patience on the publishing of this issue.

### Activities in progress:

- Music in Worship Festival: tentative date of Saturday, November 7th, 2026 (8:30am-6:00pm)
  - Host church: Pilgrim Congregational Church (460 Lake Street, Oak Park, IL 60302)
  - Recruiting for participation through church *and* community choirs to increase
  - Format of concert will be slightly different with mass choir singing verses on hymns (with congregational singing), diverse repertoire, testimonials from church choir members' experience
  - More than one guest conductor
  - Different option (from 2018's festival) for lunch catering to lower costs
  - Want this to be an annual event, regardless of who is on the IL-ACDA board

### Future plans & goals:

- Recruit, organize, and coordinate a successful Music in Worship Festival in 2026
- Next *Podium* issue (Vol. 52, No. 2) articles are due Tuesday, December 15th, 2025 from:
  - President
  - District 2
  - District 5
  - District 7
  - Middle School/Junior High Choir
  - Show Choir
  - Children's Choir
  - Treble Choir
  - Secretary
  - Treasurer
  - Advertisements from ALL District Reps
  - One choral work from each R&R choir (like the "Favorite Choral Works" section in the beginning years of the *Podium*)
  - Any other ideas for the final issue of the 50th year of the *Podium*?
- Goal is to get *Podium* published one month after the article submission date (Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup> for the next issue)
  - Still need articles by the due date so everything can be edited and formatted in a timely manner.

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## **IL-ACDA Student Representative, Maggie Meyers**

### Recent successes & challenges:

- Continuing to work on the IL-ACDA Collegiate Lists & Chapters spread sheet by confirming chapter faculty contacts and chapter information. The first round of contact emails went out at the end of July. There were only a handful of responses; I assume some professors were not avidly checking email during the summer.

### Activities in progress:

- A second round of contact emails will go out to professors within the next few weeks with the hope that school being in session will yield more responses.
- Continuing to update the spreadsheet as more information comes in.

Future plans & goals:

- I would like to collect student testimonies of their experiences at the IL-ACDA retreat as well as their general experience in ACDA to put together a “Start an ACDA Chapter at YOUR College” initiative to encourage more student chapters. These testimonies could also be used to sponsor a student for the summer retreat initiative.
  - Making a document with a list of professionals that student ACDA chapters can use as a resource for finding speakers at their meetings.
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## **IL-ACDA Historian, Janet McCumber**

Recent successes & challenges:

- I wrote an article on the early years of IL-ACDA for the fall issue of the Podium

Activities in progress:

- n/a

Future plans & goals:

- n/a
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## **Composer Award Chair, Christopher Windle**

Recent successes & challenges:

- Composer Award submissions:
  - 21 eligible submissions (submissions from within the specified region, properly submitted)
- Judges for 2026
  - As usual, judges remain anonymous, but were chosen with an eye toward a diversity of perspective.
  - This year: 4 judges, from 4 different states. Judges have varied careers and experiences as composers, singers, and conductors, and were asked to take all of that into account.
  - This year was – as usual – judged completely blind. Composers removed all identifying marks from scores. I assigned each composer a number, and judges evaluated the submitted portfolios without knowing the identities of any of the candidates.
- Winner:
  - Benjamin T Martin
  - Waiting for him to accept – congratulations was extended on Mon 9/15
  - Graduate Student in composition at the University of Chicago
  - Clear overall favorite of the the judges

Activities in progress:

- Waiting for acceptance of the award
- Sending IL-ACDA commissioning contract to the winner
- Coordinating announcement with IL-ACDA Executive Board, IL-ACDA Social Chairs, Midwestern Division, and WFC leadership – target date: Oct 1, 2025

- Coordinating with the winner on the composition of the piece with the intent of delivery of final score by Jan 1, 2026

Future plans & goals:

- Premiere of new work on Saturday, February 21, 2026 at the Episcopal Church of Our Saviour (503 W Fullerton Pkwy, Chicago)
- Building on this success for next year's Award – getting even more applicants.

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## **IL-ACDA A cappella R&R Chair, Travis Erikson**

No updates

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## **IL-ACDA Children's Choir Repertory Chair, Marianna Kosaya**

Recent successes & challenges:

- Attended the Board Meeting and Summer Retreat in June 2025
- Presented repertoire for the Summer Retreat Reading Session
- Selected pieces for the IMEC Reading Session

Future plans & goals:

- Plan and organize a Children's Choir Festival

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## **IL-ACDA Board College R & R, Cory Boulton**

Recent successes & challenges:

- Conversations about Reading Sessions and how collegiate music fits in— helping to make some changes about the way reading sessions are done and what is most meaningful and needed.

Activities in progress:

- Planning the ILMEA All-state preparation workshop in September 2025
- Working on a Music Education day in Chicago area for all collegiate chapters in October 2025
- Working on collaborations between colleges/universities
  - First one is with Bradley/BSO/ICC in April 2025
  - Collegiate Choral Festival is planned for Feb 12, 2026 at Bradley

Future plans & goals:

- Continued Collaborations between colleges/universities:
  - Bradley and Eastern Illinois University and Heartland Festival Orchestra in October 2025
- I have a choral series with Santa Barbara Publishing– wondering if we can set up some sort of pipeline with ACDA compositions and SBMP?

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## **IL-ACDA Community Choir Chair, Jennifer Whiting**

Recent successes & challenges:

- I have recently stepped down as director of Glen Ellyn–Wheaton Chorale. Technically, I no longer qualify for the position of Community Choir Chair. My hope is to secure another directorship. Meanwhile, I would like to continue serving as CC Chair!
- Challenge: I have not yet obtained a directory of ACDA members in Illinois.

#### Activities in progress:

1. Co-planning with John Hughes a **dinner gathering** for Chicago-area community choir directors, tentatively scheduled for Sunday evening, **November 9, 2025**
2. Working on compiling a database to create an **IL-ACDA Community Chorus Registry**
  - a. I need advice in two areas:
    - i. **Defining “Community Chorus.”** In 2005, ACDA defined a community choir as “any choir that opens its membership to the community at large.” This requires some refinement, to avoid duplicating efforts with other R&R areas. (Questions arise, e.g., what about faith-based, ecumenical, and *not* church-affiliated; or mixture of pro and semi-pro singers; or LGBTQIA+ groups that specify a gender in their name but welcome other genders as members; or community choirs affiliated with junior colleges; etc.)
    - ii. **Obtaining access to a directory** of ACDA members who direct community choruses.
  - b. **Inviting community choruses** to be listed in a searchable database through ACDA for the benefit of adults seeking opportunities to sing.

#### Future plans & goals:

- **Recruiting choruses** to join ACDA. (A list of present members would be very helpful.)
- **Community Chorus Festival**
  - One-day event
  - Open to all but targeting northern Illinois
  - February 2027
  - Immediate goals:
    - Develop a budget
    - Secure a date
    - Secure a venue
    - Secure a clinician

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## **IL-ACDA Middle School Jr High R & R, Carol Munn**

#### Recent successes & challenges:

Ran Jr High reading session at summer retreat  
 Selected and submitted to R & R music for IMEC  
 Created registration and facebook post for Junior Honors Chorus event at Bradley University on Sept 27

#### Activities in progress:

Registering directors and students for Jr Honors Chorus event  
 Creating program for Junior Honors Chorus event  
 Communicating itinerary with directors

Ordering lunch for directors and clinician

Future plans & goals:

Hosting Jr Honors Chorus event

Writing article for the Podium

Leading Jr High selections at IMEC reading session

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**IL-ACDA Music in Worship R&R Chair, Keith Hampton**

No updates

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**HS R&R CHAIR, Roland Hatcher**

Recent successes & challenges:

- n/a

Activities in progress:

- n/a

Future plans & goals:

- I would like to plan a 9/10 and/or SATB festival, potentially both, in multiple parts of the state
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**IL-ACDA Show Choir Chair, Sean Hoffmann**

Recent successes & challenges:

- Successes - added new schools to our All State Event (three), biggest turn out since before COVID!
- Challenges - keeping up the communication with schools/directors all over the state

Activities in progress:

- All State Show Choir Festival - October 16-18 @ Wheaton Warrenville South HS

Future plans & goals:

- Continue to find ways to support, encourage, and spread Show Choir throughout the state of IL
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**IL-ACDA Treble Choir R&R, Ali Kordelewski**

Recent successes & challenges:

- Secured College of Dupage for Treble North Festival on February 5th, 2026.

Activities in progress:

- Treble Festival North 2026 - Information will go out this week for schools to register.
- Working to create a running rep list for directors to be able to access with different rep ideas for all levels. This should be ready for viewing soon. My hope is to have many directors to continue to add to the list that we have a great resource for directors to be able to take treble ideas that are accessible for their choirs.

Future plans & goals:

- Plan to reach out to newer composers to promote their treble music.
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## IL-ACDA Tenor/Bass Repertoire Chair, **OPEN**

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## IL-ACDA Youth and Student Activities & Lifelong Chair, Randy Haldeman

No updates

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## IL-ACDA Vocal Jazz Repertoire Chair, Jessica Heinrich

No updates

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## Two-Year Colleges R&R Chair, Patrick O'Shea

Nothing to report from the 2-Year College R&R Chair.

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## District 1 Representative and Diversity Initiative Committee Chair, Nythia Martinez

### Recent successes & challenges/Activities in Progress:

- DIC
  - BIPOC MENTORSHIP PAIRINGS assigned on April 9th, 2025!
    - 4 current pairs: (16 mentor profiles volunteered)
      - Puja Ramaswamy - Lake View High School
      - Drew Dahan - Niles North High School
      - Phillip Brownlee - Latin School of Chicago
      - Brian Birch - Marmion Academy
    - Rolling deadline
      - Continue to advertise for fall pairings
      - Thank you, Sean N. , for including us in latest Podium
    - Planning social events with mentors/mentees
    - Developing assessment procedures to measure success of program
      - Gather feedback for evolution of program
        - Checkpoint schedule - every semester (Jan/May?)
    - Social Blast
    - Social event with mentor pairs
  - DIC representative also an R&R chair
- JOIN VOICES CHICAGO
  - Planned for October 10, 2025
  - Northeastern Illinois - Dr. Christopher Owen
    - [Photos, Videos, and Stats](#) from 2024-25
  - \$5,000 covered this year by National - not happening in future

### Future plans & goals:

- Increasing District 1 Membership
  - Coordinate with membership chairs for proactive planning
  - Can be a DIC initiative, as well?

- Build a collegiate database
  - Plan an IMEC affinity event
  - Facebook group?
  - Zoom invites for meaningful PD
  - DIC hosted reading session/wine choir/public?
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### **District 2 Representative, Jen Reece**

#### Recent successes & challenges:

- We have continued interest in the Central Illinois Treble Sing and Share; choirs are meeting in February at Washington HS. We are looking to secure a collegiate treble ensemble this year, do you have one to share?

#### Activities in progress:

- Continuation of the updating ACDA membership list for choral directors in all D#2 schools by sending reminder emails about the renewal date approaching
- Looking for schools and businesses to advertise in Podium
- Have been in communication with Kady Le, one of the producers from “Choral Singing In America:Nurturing the American Soul”. I have asked for information about setting up a screening for Illinois, maybe virtual or in conjunction with our retreat/festival. Most of the screenings were in other states at ACDA conventions, although there was one at Wheaton last February. IL-ACDA sponsor opportunity?

#### Future plans & goals:

- Brainstorming with other IL choral directors about creating a 7-9 Honor Choir opportunity similar to OPUS which is run by the Iowa ACDA. Not to be in coordination /competition with ILMEA’s JH AllState experiment.
  - ACDA Honor Choir for 9/10 renewed/reimagined
  - ACDA T/B Choir, step in to help this year?
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### **IL-ACDA District 3 Representative, Andy Bruhn**

#### Recent successes & challenges:

- St. Joseph-Ogden HS Choir (Nathan Waterson, director) will be featured at IMEC 2026!

#### Activities in progress:

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#### Future plans & goals:

- D3 ILMEA Choral Audition Prep Day @ ISU 9/20/25.
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### **IL-ACDA District 4 Representative, OPEN**

No updates

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### **IL-ACDA District 5 Chair, Juliane Sharp**

#### Recent successes & challenges:

- Engagement and recruitment continues to be a challenge in the D5 area.

#### Activities in progress:

- Looking to connect with the Millikin students while on campus for the ILMEA Vocal Jazz festival on November 3rd and the EIU students while on campus for the Youth in Harmony festival on October 20th. Will again hold an informational meeting for ILMEA HS/MS Choral Directors at the ILMEA District Festival on November 22nd at EIU.

Future plans & goals:

- I would like to get IL-ACDA connected into our East Central Illinois A Cappella Festival in September of 2026 to broaden the reach statewide.

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## **IL-ACDA District 6, Stephen Eros**

No updates

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## **IL-ACDA District 7 Representative, Mitchell Barrett**

Recent successes & challenges:

- nothing to report

Activities in progress:

- nothing to report

Future plans & goals:

- Creating more involvement at the Junior High/Middle School level for District 7 schools.

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## **IL-ACDA District 8 Chair, Abby Risner**

No updates

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## **IL-ACDA District 9, Brian Smith**

Recent successes & challenges:

- Nothing to report at this time

Activities in progress:

- Onboarding and getting set-up
- Gathering and expanding list of D9 area choir directors

Future plans & goals:

- Nothing to report at this time