

## Fall 2018 Treasurer Report

### Paul Nielsen, Treasurer Report as of 9/5/18

- 1) Reconciliation Summary
  - Current Balance is \$52,533.37
- 2) 2018 ReTreat Summary

Registration	2017	2018
Student 1 day	5	1
Student Both days	16	29
Reg 1 day	4	3
Reg Both days	102	40
Retired	9	8
Guest	1	2
1 <sup>st</sup> year	1	22
Comp	6	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	144	111
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>\$15,347.88</b>	<b>\$9,929.95</b>
Ave per attendee	\$106.58	\$89.46
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$12,717.93</b>	<b>\$14,004.66</b>
<b>NET</b>	<b>\$2,629.55</b>	<b>(\$4,074.71)</b>

NOTE: \$1663.20 was spent on extra hotel blocking cost. Loss would have been \$2411.51

- 3) Additional question/concerns may be addressed to my email:  
[nielsenacda@gmail.com](mailto:nielsenacda@gmail.com)

Thank you for the privilege of being able to serve this fine organization!

Paul Nielsen

**IL-ACDA Board Reports**  
**Fall of 2018**  
**Saturday, September 22, 2018**

**Jessica Palmisano, Membership Chair**

Recent Success and Challenges:

- Constant Contact: This email site comes with a lot of new tricks and cool features for us to send it out to membership. I also will be updating the membership list on their regularly. From the board I need two things to be decided:
  - Should we give board members access to constant contact to send out materials themselves? Or should they just send their materials to me and I will send them out? Or should people have access to it and then need approval from Lee or Dennis or someone else?
  - Should we put a cap on how many emails we send out a week? I feel that too many emails sent out a week can cause people to put our emails in junk as well as people have already unsubscribed from our mailing list (which we have to allow on Constant Contact) from the high number of emails that were sent out the first week. Just from what I've seen, the less emails we send out, the more people view them. Here are the statistics thus far.
    - a. Music in Worship Choir Festival Email Open Rate: 62%ACDA
    - b. September Newsletter Open Rate: 53%
    - c. A Note from the President Open Rate: 62%
    - d. Reminder of Show Choir Festival Open Rate 38%

Activities in Progress

- Membership Drive:
  - I have 10 free memberships that we can give out by November 15th They must be people that have not renewed in three years or people that have never been in ACDA.
  - Also, student membership is \$5 till November 15<sup>th</sup> as long as they list their residence as Illinois. It isn't listed as \$5 till they are done filling out the application.
  - I think we should all put our cover photos on Facebook as JOIN ACDA. If you all agree, I will make the banner for us all so we can share it. Also, I think everyone should make a Facebook status saying what ACDA has done for them and then post of picture of an ACDA memory (if you have one).

**Youth Choir R&R Chair, Ron Korbitz**

Recent successes & challenges:

- We have a chairperson!
- What EXACTLY does that person do?

Activities in progress:

- Job description

Future plans & goals:

- Be actively involved in recruiting
- Develop a list of “go to” people to assist directors in need
- Develop a list of reading resources that directors can access

**Katie Bruton, Podium: Assistant Editor**

Recent Successes

- We have a few schools advertising for the podium
- I created a google form to help streamline information from advertisers, and to also create a database of people to contact for future advertising

**PODIUM Article Deadlines:** (send to Editor Monica Bertrand)

**August 15**--articles due to the editor for Fall issue.

Chairs: College/University Choir, Youth & Student Activities, Jazz Choir and Music in Worship

District Representatives: Districts 1, 4, 8 (vacant now)

Executive Committee: President

**December 15**--articles due to the editor for Winter issue.

Chairs: Middle School/Junior High, Show Choir, Children's Choir, and Female Choir

District Representatives: Districts 2, 5, 7

Executive Committee: President

**March 15**--articles due to the editor for Spring issue.

Chairs: Two-Year College Choir, Ethnic/Multicultural Choir, Male Choir, Community Choir, and High School

District Representatives: Districts 3, 6, 9

Executive Committee: President

Future Plans

- I plan to work on increasing the number of advertisers this semester

**Men's Choir R &R, Andy Jeffrey**

Recent Successes and Challenges:

- Currently working to put together a festival and find a time that works for people
- Challenge is finding a time and venue and format that works for people

Activities in Progress

- Working on planning a Men's Festival for fall or spring and working on a venue

Future Plans & Goals

- Hope to have a festival this year

## Choral Composition Contest, Philip Spencer

### Recent successes & challenges:

Robert Applebaum of Menlo Park, CA was selected by the contest committee as our 2018 winner for his composition for SSAA choir, *Rain Music*. Bob was present at the Retreat for the awarding of the \$1,000 prize and performance of the piece by the Director's Choir. A news release was submitted to ChoralNet in July

### Activities in progress:

- Our Webmaster is in the process of updating our website to include information about the:
  - 2018 contest winner
  - 2019 contest
    - Deadline will be April 1, 2019
    - Required voicing to be SAB or SATB. Information about the contest will be sent out once again this fall to approximately 7-8 national composition guilds and organizations and posted on ChoralNet
    - A committee of judges will be assembled early in 2019

### Future plans & goals:

- I and several other attendees at this year's Retreat believe that the rehearsal and performance of the winning composition was less than ideal. Therefore, I have two suggestions that **I would like us to consider as a Board:**
  - The prize presentation and performance of the piece be moved to Thursday morning, so that most if not all of the attendees are still present at the Retreat
  - The responsibility for the rehearsal and performance of the piece be given to one of us – either the President, the Composition Contest Chair, or another designated IL-ACDA member – rather than to our Guest Conductor, to ensure the conductor's complete familiarity with the piece and sufficient rehearsal time to obtain a worthy performance and recording
- The 2019 contest deadline will be April 1, 2019, with the required voicing to be SAB or SATB. Information about the contest will be sent out once again this fall to approximately 7-8 national composition guilds and organizations and posted on ChoralNet. A committee of judges will be assembled early in 2019

Thank you for the privilege of serving IL-ACDA in this significant way!

## SR High School Representative, Larry Fisher

### Recent successes & challenges:

- Want to find a better way to track new high school teachers and reach out to welcome them and offer them help

### Activities in progress:

- ILMEA District Auditions- Encourage people at IMEA to join ACDA events

### Future plans & goals:

- Social Event (Possibly Beer Choir) for directors
- High School Festival Major Work Festival

### **Webmaster, Jason Hawkins**

#### Current Report and Update

- IL-ACDA was the victim of a cyber hack over the summer, which took the site down completely for a few days
  - This was NOT a security issue for users since our site doesn't handle/store personal information. All sensitive info is completed on PayPal.
  - The major issue was cosmetic as the hacker posted hundreds of spam messages and caused the layout of the site to be altered.
  - I worked with our hosting/server provider to rebuild the site from a recent backup, but struggled the site this summer/fall to get it back to its previous state.
  - I added Wordfence security software (free) to keep threats contained and changed passwords. I can now see the IP address of attempted access to the back end of the site and can block them. I also changed the settings of our ad blocking plugin to keep more spam out.
- After a change in security protocol by Google, I updated the site to https:// with a free security certificate available through WordPress. This was not technically needed since our site doesn't handle secure information, but now it won't say "Not Secure" on Google Chrome, which makes users nervous.
- Updates were completed or underway on multiple pages:
  - Composition contest – new info and posted link to winner's bio, photo, mp3
  - ReTreat 2019 – new headliners and info posted
  - Board page – constantly updating
  - Honor Show choir info
  - Many updates on the History and Resources pages – Thanks Bob!
  - Awards page

### **Community Choruses, Eric Esparza**

#### Recent successes & challenges:

- Successful contact with Artistic Directors/Ensembles interested in holiday cross-promotion initiative

#### Activities in progress:

- Sharing IL state resources with Artistic Directors
- Solidifying details regarding Holiday 2018 cross promotion

#### Future plans & goals:

- Continue cumulative list of IL community choruses of all sizes
- Continue to evaluate usefulness of initiatives such as:
  - Circuit Venue performances
  - North-South-East-West Performances/Partnerships

- Concert sharing
- Shared visits of Master Teachers
- Sheet Music Borrowing
- Equipment sharing
- Community outreach
- Diversity & inclusivity training

## **Ethnic and Multicultural, Darius Polikaitis**

### Recent successes & challenges:

- “Podium” article
- Attended the Lithuanian Centenary Song Festival along with the Dainava Lithuanian Chorale and the Blessed Jurgis Matulaitis Children’s Choir. Both groups performed with a joint choir of 13,000 singers at the main festival in Vilnius. I conducted the joint youth and adult choir, representing North America. Dainava also presented several concerts of their own in Kaunas and Vilnius. In addition to celebrating their ethnic heritage by performing Lithuanian repertoire (especially pieces written by Lithuanian composers from the diaspora), our singers also presented a sampling of choral repertoire from the United States, such as Keith Hampton’s “Praise His Holy Name” and Jake Runestad’s “Please Stay”. The festival also afforded ample opportunity to rekindle contacts with conductors in Lithuania, as well as to meet new colleagues from Lithuania, Estonia, Austria, Belgium, Germany, England, Australia, Canada and Japan (choirs from all of these countries participated in the festival)
- Challenge: The process of gathering info re: ethnic choirs and their directors in Illinois has regrettably been very slow for two reasons: a) a very busy spring and summer of 2018 that limited the time I could spend on this project, and b) no response from choirs and directors that I have tried to contact via email and voice mail

### Activities in progress:

- Creating a list of ethnic choirs in Illinois, along with their directors and contact information (phone numbers, email addresses, web sites)
- Attempting to contact ethnic choir directors (or choir administrators) to discuss membership in ACDA and the possibility of organizing an event gathering ethnic choirs from throughout Illinois

### Future plans & goals:

- Establish contacts with the Ethnic R&R Chair at the National level. There does not seem to be an Ethnic R&R Chair at the Central Division level, although ethnic choirs seem to be included in the “Repertoire Specific” category of R&R. Therefore, I plan to contact that category’s chair







## Historian, Bob Boyd

### Recent successes & challenges:

- Updated **History** points have been updated and placed on our website (*Thanks, Jason!*)
  - Past Presidents of IL ACDA listing reflects president's employment in addition to just their names
  - IL ACDA Reading Session repertoire updated with pertinent voicings, composer/arranger, publisher and genre
  - Decker Award recipients listing is updated
  - Honor Roll of board participation is updated\* (See "activities in progress" point)
  - Convention/ReTreat listings updated
  - The Decker Award now has a short bio of Harold Decker and a picture
- **Resources** page on the IL ACDA website has been updated (*Thanks, Jason!!*)
  - Reading sessions from conventions/ReTreats repertoire listing has been updated
  - ILMEA conductors listing is updated from 1967-current!
  - All-State/Honors repertoire listing is updated from 1967-current!
  - Recommended vocal collections for choral directors is referenced for use by membership who seek solos for their students
  - Chestnuts repertoire updated for suggested repertoire

### Activities in progress:

- I have tried to update the listing of Honor Roll of IL ACDA Board Members, but I need the board's assistance. Some of the past board members may not be on the listing due to insufficient information from past Podiums and board changes. **PLEASE** check out the listing on the History page <https://www.il-acda.org/history/> and let me know the name and service which might be missing from this important list, so we can recognize these people who have given so generously to our state organization

### Future plans & goals

- It would nice to have pictures and a short bio of the Decker Award winners appear on our website
- It would be nice to have a listing of Illinois members who have represented our state on regional and national boards of ACDA
- It would be nice to have pictures and a short bio of past presidents who have served
- It would be nice to feature past "memories" from ReTreats and Conventions of IL ACDA. Perchance they could be part of the website or the Podium?

## **District 1 Representative, Richard Nunley**

### Recent successes & challenges

- Communicated by phone with some elementary, middle school and high school choral directors about beginning membership in ACDA
- Noted a few responses from prospective or former members concerning their feelings that ACDA does not adequately serve their music/academic needs

### Activities in progress

- Plans are in place to reprise the Join Voices Festival. The 2018 Festival is scheduled for Friday, November 16, at Northeastern Illinois University

### Future plans & goals

- To increase District 1 choral director's presence at Illinois ACDA, and Regional ACDA activities

## **District 3 Representative, Ben Luginbuhl**

### Recent successes & challenges:

- None since the summer retreat

### Activities in progress:

- Plan to send an email to members reminding them of the programs coming up and to contact me with any ideas or things to pass to the board

### Future plans & goals:

- Will ask to speak at ILMEA festival director meetings to put in a plug for our programs and activities
- Still would love to figure out some sort of exchange concert with schools in the middle of Illinois. Biggest challenge would be finding a date that works

## **District 7 Representative, Sean Newman**

### Recent successes & challenges:

- The IL-ACDA Music in Worship Choir Festival is coming along nicely:
  - Jason Hawkins has added info, my flyer and Michele's registration form to the IL-ACDA website
  - Michele Hecht and I have met a few times to finalize details
  - I have invited many more churches Michele and I were able to find from IL-ACDA rosters

### Activities in progress:

- Jess Palmisano has created a Constant Contact e-mail to send to the entire IL-ACDA e-mail list. It includes my personal invite e-mail with links to both the flyer and registration form via the IL-ACDA website

### Future plans & goals:

- To continue to have as many places of worship register until the October 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. We should be in a good place by that deadline
- Since this is a first-time event, I don't expect an overwhelming amount of people to attend but in time, and if it is successful, the event will grow. As long as we have 75 members, we will have a great and fiscally responsible event

## **District 9 Representative, Bryan Kunstman**

### Recent successes & challenges

- I am in the process of preparing a district pamphlet/newsletter for this year. I plan to include all of the information that has been shared regarding the events happening in our state as well as the national conference
- I need a better way to sort the membership list that has been shared with us
  - My e-mail list is out of date. Andy created some formulas a couple of years ago that allowed me to sort the members by the district they lived and worked in. As a result, I was able to create an up-to-date e-mail list
  - I have been holding off sending my fall e-mail because my list is old. Can we communicate the zip codes for each district to national so that they can sort it by district for us (or even add that as a checklist when renewing membership)? I know that Andy worked with ILMEA to come up with the correct zip codes for each district