

2018 IL-ACDA Fall Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2018
ISU, Cook Hall, Room 308
10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Board Members in attendance:

Bob Boyd, Laura Coster, Jeffrey Delay, Seth Durbin, Eric Esparza, Larry Fisher, Jason Hawkins, Michele Hecht, Lee Kesselman, Ron Korbitz, Paul Laprade, Cristian Larios, Lynda Marshall, Janet McCumber, Dennis Morrissey, Sean Newman, Paul Nielsen, Richard Nunley, Darius Polikaitus, Jen Reece, Phil Spencer, Jeff Wilson

Welcome to our newest board members: Lee Kesselman

Jen Reece, District 2 Representative
Lynda Marshall, Youth and Student Activities Chair

Approval of Minutes from the Summer Meeting, 2018: Jason Hawkins motioned to approve the minutes with a 2nd from Bob Boyd

Treasurer's Report: Paul Nielsen

- See individual treasurer's report for more detail on the ReTreat Expenses. We lost money this year as the result of the following:
 - First year teachers were offered a discount for ReTreat. If we charged the full price, we would be in the black
 - Students paid for meals and only \$25 for registration
 - Both the first-year teacher and student discount created a different kind of balance in our attendance with a record 22 students and 24 new attendees.
 - There was an unexpected hotel charge of \$1600 because we didn't meet the minimum room reservations required by the hotel. Lee promised this will not happen again
 - Our regular registration attendance was much lower
 - Eric suggested that we give a survey to previous attenders to help us counteract this decline
- Paul LaPrade motioned to accept the treasurer's report with a second by Larry Fisher

Reports of R&R Chairs & District Representatives

- Board reports were submitted and emailed to the board members prior to the meeting. See the reports attached to this document. There were brief discussions about the reports with additional comments below:
 - **Ron Korbitz, Youth R&R Chair**
 - Expressed that it is a challenge to understand his new role as Youth R&R Chair

- He is in the process of creating a contact list for repertoire and ideas for festivals
 - Researching repertoire and pedagogy articles that are helpful for children's choir directors
 - Lee explained that we used to have twelve R&S chairs and now we have four R&R chairs: Youth, Collegiate, Lifelong, and Repertoire Specific. Information about these new roles are listed on the ACDA Website. They are liaisons for all of the other chairs. A coordinator of the other areas
- **Jason Hawkins, Webmaster**
 - We had a cyber-attack on our web-site. Thanks to Jason for his many hours to increase our security and restore the site
 - Dennis asked if the previous bylaws can be posted
 - Laura suggested that we list all of the activities for the year
 - Bob suggested that we start a historical list of festivals and activities
 - Lee reminded Phil to advertise the composition contest on the web-site
 - Michele Hecht suggested that we list the different positions and tasks of the board members to show others what is required. Lee will work with Jason to create this information clearly on the web
- **Larry Fisher, Senior High School Chair**
 - Wants to incorporate some kind of social activity to welcome new and potential ACDA members
 - Interested in piloting a District 8 festival of combined choirs to perform a large work
- **Darius Polikaitis, Ethnic and Multi-cultural**
 - In two weeks, Darius's choir is performing with a Rock Opera from Lithuania!
 - Lee encouraged him to let Jason have the info so it can be posted on the website
 - Darius would like host an ethnic festival
 - Contacting directors is a challenge because they are not looking for an umbrella organization
 - Eric mentioned that the word Ethnic is offensive to some and that Nationals is using it rather than multi-cultural
 - Eric Esparza suggested that we advertise each other's ensembles in our programs
- **Seth Durbin, Show Choir Chair**
 - Leyden HS is the site for this year's event in October
 - The Fall Convention Honor Choir shows a \$75 deficit but it actually was within the budget because the admission ticket sales were not included

- **Michele Hecht, Worship and Lifelong R&R Chair**
 - Planning this year's Music in Worship Festival on October 27
 - Everyone is invited. You purchase the music. Sean and Michele's choirs will be there
 - This idea has good potential and it can move to other locations in the state
 - We need a contract for director and accompanist. Paul will send the document
 - Lee mentioned that this is a great model to get more church directors involved in ACDA
 - Sean Newman went to the Research Symposium at Northwestern. They said they want more research for children and church choirs
 - Sean also mentioned that the Constant Contact was really helpful to contact other church directors.

- **Bob Boyd, Historian**
 - Bob created an honor roll list of current and past board members for the web-site
 - Lee asked that the board to go to the web-site, look at the document, and contact Bob with changes

- **Membership Report, Lee Kesselman for Jess Palmisano**
 - Constant Contact makes it easier to send e-mails and to break down the membership list
 - All messages to contact members need to go through Jess Palmissano, Membership Chair for approval.
 - E-mail Jess with your message and she will send it out to the membership
 - **10- free ACDA memberships** are available to give to new members.
 - Former members are eligible if they have not renewed in last three years
 - If they receive a free membership, they need to commit to go to one event this year
 - If you know someone who is interested, email Jess with their name and email. Jess will send out the form and information to the new member
 - **Student memberships are only \$5 until November 15**
 - 2nd year students \$10
 - 3rd year \$15
 - 4th \$25 (full price for student membership)
 - Students must live in Illinois to receive this special rate

- 2nd or 3rd year discounts must go thru Nationals. The question was raised if this has been changed.
- Eric created a throw sheet for what you get as a student member...Brand new or 3 years out. Eric also suggested taking a group photo of your student members

Future Events and Seed Grant Requests: Lee Kesselman

- Honors Chow Choir October 2018- Seth Durbin requested a \$500 grant. The board approved the request
- Gospel Music Festival in Rockford, March 8-9. Paul Laprade asked for a \$500 grant. The board approved the request understanding that it will lose money
 - Donald Dumson from Philadelphia will direct
 - Goal is to cement relationships in the community
 - Two-day convention that will be free to area church members
- Music in Worship Festival, October 27th. Festival has been funded
- U of IL Festival: October 27
- November 16th-Northeastern IL University
- Treble Voice Festival at COD 1/31/2019-Already in the budget
- Join Voices, Chicago- November 2018. Already funded
- Two-year Collegiate Event at Harper College, April 6, 2019. No money needed

National ACDA Conference in Kansas City, February 27- March2: Lee Kesselman

- Registration will be soon
- Free transportation! in KC
- Good hotels
- 2 Great Concert Venues
- Tues night KC Choirs
- Wed-Sat concert

Harold Decker Award Discussion, Dennis Morrissey and Lee Kesselman

- Dennis discussed suggestions for the changes and asked if we can add a recommendation to our statewide election
- Lee suggested that Dennis re-word the document immediately after the meeting
 - Statewide election may already be made up
 - Dennis-we could just go with 2 letters this time
 - Dennis asked the board, and we agreed on having three letters
 - Lee proposed that we go with this wording this year...If we want to make a change and we can do it the year after.
 - Lee-If we don't make a bylaw change this year, Dennis as Vice President will encourage strongly additional letters
- Award requirements were modified by Dennis Morrissey to be included in the by-laws. Wording was clarified that a letter of nomination and at least two additional

letters of support are requirements. Lee will pursue adding this change to the ballot for the November vote

Outstanding Young Choral Director Award: Bob Boyd

- Bob reviewed the document for a new young conductor award in Illinois
- After discussion and two minor wording changes on the document, the board unanimously approved the award
- Board members agreed that the award can be offered this year with a January deadline for nominations
- A call for nominations to our members will be sent through Constant Comment
- Congratulations and thanks to Bob for his work on creating this new award

President-Elect Nominations and Voting: Lee Kesselman

- Election ballots will be from November 6-19th
- Six-year commitment: President Elect 2 years, President-2 years, Past President/Vice President 2 years

Board Roster and Vacancies, Lee Kesselman

- Updated roster was shared with the board
- Current Vacancies are:
 - District 8 Representative
 - Vocal Jazz Representative

Gender Titles: Cristian Larios and Eric Esparza

- What do we call our Festivals and Choirs?
 - Our Women's Choir Festival has become a Treble Choir Festival
 - Men's Festival-What do we call it so we are inclusive?
 - What do we call the R&R areas?
 - Using words like Ladies and Gentleman is not congruent with inclusivity
 - How do we make decisions as a board so that we don't discourage singers?
 - Use the term "Friends"
 - Treble and Bass vs. girls and boys and men/women
 - Be thoughtful about how we communicate. Keep an eye out for wording that is not inclusive
- The Genderbread Person Diagram was discussed
 - Promoting inclusivity in our ACDA organization and the choirs we direct
 - How can we be inclusive with treble voices that present as male Non-Binary, etc.
- Cristian suggested that we use the terms Treble Choir and Bass Choir rather than Female and Male Choir

- Efforts will be made soon to discuss with the chairs of ILACDA Female and Male Choirs to make this recommended change. Board members agreed unanimously
- Lee motioned that we use ILMEA verbage-Treble and Bass. We will change our website immediately
- Lee will put this on the January Agenda

ILMEC Convention Planning: Lee Kesselman

- Friday there will be a short board meeting at 1 PM-Location TBA
- Reading session at 2 PM
- Reception on Thursday night
- Reading Session on Friday at 2 PM, Bob Boyd
 - Music rep. includes all areas that fall under youth/collegiate
 - No community chorus and worship music will be included
 - Rep selections are due December 1st. Send Bob your titles

2019 ReTreat Update: Jeff Wilson, President Elect

- ReTreat 2019, June 26-27 at ISU
- Board meeting will be in the evening on June 25th
- Joel Miller (Director's Chorus) and Stacy B Gibbs (younger lab choir or university) are the headliners
- 2019-Summer Convention-Jeff needs feedback and ideas for sessions
- July 1st- Lee will become Past President and Jeff will become President
- Composition Contest and performance concerns at the ReTreat
 - Phil Spencer raised his concerns of how we currently honor the winning composer at the ReTreat
 - By the end of Thursday afternoon, half of the attendees have left the ReTreat
 - It impacted the performance and recording of the composition last summer
 - Phil felt embarrassed because it didn't go well. Can we move the presentation or the performance to another time so it is more successful?
 - Ideas from the board included:
 1. Select a smaller group to learn it ahead of time and perform at the ReTreat
 2. Ask a college group to perform and record it ahead of time
 3. It will be difficult to move the recording earlier with all of the other events

2019 Fall Convention: Laura Coster Chair

- Wheaton College with performances at College Church
- October 25 and 26

- High School and Junior High Honor Choirs, headliners, auditioned choir performances, and reading and interest sessions will be included
- If you have ideas and want to be involved with planning, see Laura Coster

Wrap up thoughts: Lee Kesselman, President

- Lee thanked the IL-ACDA board members for their work
- Board Vacancies: Vocal Jazz, district 8, Lifelong will be open soon
- Podium article deadlines, board reports, please respond in a timely manner

2:07 PM dismissal

Minutes submitted by Laura Coster, Secretary