

IL-ACDA Winter 2020 Board Meeting
31 January 2020 11:45- 1:15pm
Scottish Rite Cathedral (Board Room),
Peoria IL

DRAFT of MINUTES (2/15/2020)

In attendance: Matt Begale, Monica Bertrand, Amy Branahl, Andy Bruhn, Monica Bertrand, Laura Coster, Grace Currie, Jeffrey DeLay, Eric Esparza, Curtis Fischer-Oelschlaeger, Andy Gibb-Clark, Jason Hawkins, Andy Jeffrey, Ali Kordelewski, Lee Kesselman, Ron Korbitz, Paul Laprade, Paul Nielson, Jennifer Palmisano, Darius Polikaitis, Aubrey Prince, Jennifer Reese, Jen Reese, Andrea Solya, Josh Spear, Jeff Wilson, Christopher Windle, Brian Winnie, Lizzy Zarley.

Introductions (*Jeff Wilson*). Jeff Wilson asked the Board Members to introduce themselves. He celebrated the fact that all of our Board positions are currently filled.

Minutes (*Paul Laprade*) Paul Laprade submitted the minutes. *A motion to approve was moved by Aubrey, Andy Jeffrey seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously accepted.*

Treasurer's Report (*Paul Nielsen*) Paul Nielsen noted that our checking balance remained relatively the same. Our Fall 2019 Convention gathered an unexpected profit of nearly \$4000. For our upcoming year, Paul proposes a negative amount, as we have a strong reserve which supports what we do.

Jeff Wilson asked why we seem to be getting a lower amount of funding from ACDA National. Paul noted that the quarterly installment from National is down as it is related to membership, which has been down. **We will vote on the proposed budget at the Summer Meeting.**

Ron moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Jason seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Responses to the treasurer's report:

Eric Esparza, in response to Paul treasurer report, asked the following questions:

“ If we are making money could we consider spending it on higher seed grants? What if paying our convention planners for their extraordinary work?”

Jeff Wilson reminded the Board of our priorities. He noted that we have defined a mission for ourselves, in that our surplus is being used to invest in people and in activities to benefit our wider choral community. We have decided to reevaluate mission when our surplus reaches \$25,000.

Additions and Commentaries on BOARD reports

(NOTE: Board reports are appended to the end of this report.)

Two-year college report Addition (*Jeff DeLay*)

Frank Gallo's choir from Parkland Community College has agreed to join the Two-Year College Festival, planned for March 21, 2020.

Children's Choir Addition (*Amy Branahl*) Amy has begun investigating the historical record of the IL-ACDA children's choir position by reviewing Board Reports from past years. She wonders how we might best support children's choirs in Illinois, and noted that past activities seem to focus on groups from greater Chicagoland.

A discussion regarding the impact of geographical cloistering

Eric asked: "What about community choirs? We experience the same challenges. Could we consider having Co-Chair positions, separating the community choir position into two, perhaps organized as East and West or North and South state positions? Choirs, especially community choirs, seem cloistered geographically."

In response, Jeff DeLay pointed out that the issue Eric raised is an issue for two-year college festivals as well. Jeff Wilson might have a contact of someone from a different area of our state to suggest as a way for Eric to connect with another area of the state. He suggested that maybe Eric could simply 'tap someone' from another area of our state rather than fully developing a new position.

Lee K. mentioned that 75% of our membership hails from the six counties which lie near Chicago; geographical issues have been the source of some of our challenges. Yet, Lee noted that some festivals can address the needs of isolated communities, as did the District 7 Music in Worship festival from a few years ago. He suggested that partnering with district chairs may be the answer to addressing these needs. He also notes that District 5 has been discussing the possibility of a conductor workshop.

Laura suggested that the question "What can I do as a District Chair?" may best be answered by "What can ACDA do with you?" Our geography defines some aspects of what we do. All R and R chairs will have such challenges. Partnering may be useful in addressing these challenges.

Social Media (*Grace Currie*) Grace noted that IL-ACDA now has its own Instagram site, and a Facebook public page which now attracts 92 people. Our Illinois-ACDA logo is now our Facebook logo.

Grace emphasized that sharing media is the key to making our social media presence stringer. As an example, she thanks Kidder Music on our page for all they have done for us. In response, Kidder Music shared our post. She suggested that we, as individuals, should be in the business of sharing media so that our presence can be magnified accordingly.

Upcoming Events

Listing of Events. Jeff Wilson read through the list of our upcoming events:

- Treble Voice Festival North* – February 6, 2020 at College of DuPage (Aubrey Prince and Andrea Solya)
- Treble Voice Festival Central* (Jen Reese) – February 13, 2020
- Central/North Central Regional Conference* (Karyl Carlson) – March 4-7, 2020 in Milwaukee, WI
- Two-year College Choral Festival* (Jeffrey DeLay) -March 21, 2020 at the University of St. Francis, Joliet
- Voice Workshop with Lori Formby Sonnenberg* (Laura Coster/Mary Lynn Daugherty) March 21, 2020, Northern Illinois University
- Tenor-Bass / Men's Choir Festival* (Andy Jeffrey) – April 8th, 2020 at Western Illinois University
- *Summer ReTreat* – June 24th and 25th 2020 at Illinois State University

Tenor-Bass Festival (*Andy Jenson*)

Andy noted the excitement surrounding the tenor-bass festival. Western Illinois University is providing the space, and he noted that the area of the state is underserved in many ways; he also noted that tenors and basses from any area in the state are invited to participate and that one needn't bring a choir if individual singers would be interested. The price point is five dollars a student with a \$100 cap per school.

Andy asked Ron Korbitz if a middle school festival of this sort would work. Ron is not sure that the interest level would be high enough. He pointed out that obtaining a host school for a planned ILMEA middle school event in District 9 was proving problematic. Ron suggested that he and Andy should discuss this further. Andy corrected the date on some of the printed materials to indicate that the festival will be held on April 8, not March 8th 2020.

Summer ReTreat (Jeff Wilson):

Jeff Wilson noted that the theme for this summer's ReTreat is "Celebrate Illinois", which features people with strong Illinois connections. Eugene Rogers is the primary headliner. Rogers, who we all recognize from his leadership roles on the national level of ACDA, began his career at Waubonsie High School and is a University of Illinois graduate. Robert Bastien, noted voice specialist and graduate of Greenville University (now based in Chicago), will be presenting sessions on Thursday of the conference. On Wednesday, Jill Trinka (an Oak Park native) will be sharing her expertise with us. Jill's many accomplishments as a Kodaly educator, her research on (American) folk music, her connections with elementary and middle school education, and her powerful presentation on the music of Woody Guthrie were noted by both Andrea Solya and Lee Kesselman.

Costs for the InTreat were also discussed. The possibility of a slight price increase due to rising food costs from ISU (likely in the neighborhood of \$10) was mentioned. Jeff Wilson confirmed that it is easier and more convenient for us to use ISU as our food vendor. Paul N. noted that a price increase has not been experienced in some time. Lee notes that we lose money when we offer our 'first timer' and 'student' rates of \$25, but that this is an investment in what we hope will be a means to encourage continued involvement. Lee also noted that we are not yet certain if this investment is leading to measurable returns. Jeff mentioned that perhaps having Board Members stand at the doors of our events/session would signal our desire to connect to our members.

NEW BUSINESS

Next Meeting. Jeff Wilson announced that the date for our next Board Meeting will be Tuesday, June 23rd, 5pm at Normal Community High School. Food will be provided.

2020 Central and North Central Regional Convention

-The regional convention is scheduled for March 4-7, 2020.

-*Beer Choir.* Andy Jeffrey and Brian Kunstman will be Beer Choir leaders. The Beer choir is scheduled for noon on Wednesday.

-*Session Proposals.* Paul Laprade and Alexa Doeble will be vetting proposals for sessions.

-*The Cream City Honor Choir* will be conducted by our own Lee Kesselman on March 6, 2020. Lee is writing a work for the event, which will bring singers from many schools and backgrounds together to sing his premiere. This work will celebrate the 50th anniversary of open housing march. Lee was a part of the march.

-*IL-ACDA reception* Laura mentioned that Karyl Carlson wants to hold a convention reception for Illinois-ACDA members in her hotel room on Friday night after the last concert. The details of what would be offered—cash bar, catering (etc.)- were not settled. Laura asked if we could support this reception with a small grant of \$500-600. Jeff asked if IL-ACDA membership could also receive invitations or notifications related to the possible reception. Moderate discussion ensued.

A Proposal to approve \$600. for the support of the reception was presented by Laura Coster. The motion was seconded by Jason and approved unanimously by the Board.

Fall Conference (Laura Coster)

Laura noted that we made a profit of nearly \$4000, and that this was a bit surprising as we did not have a show choir element this time around—show choir was a moneymaker in our past Fall Convention. Profit! Laura thought the conference went very well, and thanked everyone who contributed to kits success, pointing out that nearly everybody in the room contributed a great deal to this endeavor.

The future? Laura pointed out that if we follow our past schedule, the next fall conference will be in Fall 2021 if every other year. In her new position as incoming President, she will be the person to plan the summer retreat. Given the needed level of responsibility, she can't do both. She posed the question: 'Should we do it?' If we want to, she will need help.

The Board discussed the merits of this conference. Lee suggested that it is more difficult to advocate for it in a year when the Central Division conference is being held; it seems to make more sense to hold the event on National Conference years. He pointed out that the fall conference tends to be held in the northern, six-county area where so much of our membership is found. The

Laura suggested that this conference is different, as the honor choir is a particularly important value that is not replicated, and one might actually be able to bring one's own choir to perform. In a sense, it can be viewed a training opportunity for one to practice the type of submission needed for regional and national conferences. She said she would not have felt comfortable applying for the regional convention if she hadn't had the experience of being engaged at the state (Fall) conference level.

Jeff wonders where the next regional convention may be, as its location may play a part in our decision as to whether or not we should have a fall conference. He asked if interest exists in holding the Fall conference sometime in the future, and the consensus to do so was clear. Jeff said that it is clear that we intend to do this, but we are not sure of the year. Receiving answers to the issue of the location of the next regional conference, the number of states to be involved in the conference, and related issues may determine our choice. *We are tabling the decision until our next meeting.*

Further Discussion regarding the Fall Conference

Andrea revealed some interest in perhaps hosting the Fall conference at University of Illinois in the future. Questions were raised about the conference, including the number of choral and paper proposals and the responsibilities involved. Eric said blind auditions of between 10-20 choirs led to 9 choirs being placed on the program, including two honor choirs. Aubrey said that of 12 presentation proposals, 6 to 9 are chosen in a given year.

Lee quoted Brett Goad's belief that a leader is needed to make the Fall conference happen. Josh asked what is involved. Paul N. said that site logistics can be handled locally by one person, and that the scheduling of performers can be done remotely. Andrea wondered if alternating sites, one in Chicagoland, one further south, might be considered (she offered U of I as the alternate site). Paul N. supported the idea of 'serving the whole state', and suggested that holding the event 'in the north' was easy as 'man/womanpower' and easy access to facilities made logistics easier.

Matt asked if the ReTreat is easier to plan. Laura said yes, especially because we have traditionally held the event at the same site. Jeff W. mentioned that part-time or retired people have often been the organizers of this event due to their increased availability. Lee pointed out that 25 meetings were needed simply to hold this event at his college (College of DuPage) many years ago, and that issues of securing rooms, tech, instruments, ushers, and more were left to him alone. Laura indicated that one needed to do so much more, such as securing contracts, finding headliners, ordering food, reserving facilities, planning the schedule, producing the program, planning all the set ups.

Awards and Award Process (*Lee Kesselman*) We normally offer two awards: the Harold Decker Award, and the Young Director Award. Both were awarded last year. The criteria for nominating and for the approval of these awards is clear, with specific criteria.

This year, we received only one nominee for the Decker Award. It will be given to Eric Johnson from NIU. Eric has many letters of support that discussed his many contributions to the choral community. The criteria for the award was fully met in his supporting materials.

In contrast, no nominees were received for this year's Young Director Award. As a result, it will not be awarded this year. We do not have to give any awards in a given year. Simply put, the committee puts forth candidates when they exist, and our Board says 'yay' or 'nay'. (NOTE by the Secretary: Lee's comments address and respond to questions raised during our Summer 2019 meeting. Please refer to the minutes from that meeting for more details.)

The motion to award the Decker award to Eric Johnson was provided by Jason and was seconded by Andy Jeffrey. The motion was unanimously passed.

Another award Jeff Wilson mentioned that the creation of another award was discussed previously, which he called, for the lack of a better name, the "in-between award". The members of that committee was asked to describe what they may have concluded. *No members from that committee were present, so the discussion was tabled.*

SEED GRANT PROPOSALS

1) Sonnenberg workshop at NIU (Mary-Lynn Daughterty NIU, via Laura Coster)

The total cost of the event \$600. NIU will cover \$300, IL-ACDA seed grant, \$300.

Money will be collected the day of the event.

(Participation prices: \$25 for non-ACDA members, \$30 for ACDA members)

If any profit is realized from this event, it will be split 50/50 with IL-ACDA

The motion to approve the grant was supplied by Andy Gibb-Clark and seconded by Andy Jeffrey. Board approval was unanimous.

2) Website Redesign (Jason Hawkins)

Jason has been investigating the cost of a web redesign. The basic web design harkens back to 2012, and an update would allow such advances a mobile phone compatibility, added functionality for event registration, and many other items, such as making it possible to search through past *Podium* issues. Jason's quotes have ranged from \$1000 to \$2500. Jason suggested that the website should remain based upon the WordPress platform.

The motion to approve the grant was supplied by Jason Hawkins and seconded by Andy Jeffrey. Board approval was unanimous.

Adjourn The motion to adjourn was offered by Eric, seconded by Christopher Windle, and approved unanimously at 1:17pm. Submitted, PL

ACTION ITEMS

Budget: We will vote on the proposed budget at the Summer Meeting.

Website: Jason will identify a final vendor to initiate the rebuild/reconstruction of our website.

Awards: The awards subcommittee will present its ideas regarding the possibility of more awards (a third 'in between' award or others).

Board: The Board will decide if we should hold a Fall Conference in 2021, pending the receipt of more information, such as the location of the Division conference.

Our next Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 23rd, 5pm at Normal Community High School.

IL-ACDA BOARD REPORTS

Received by 26 January 2020

Website, Jason Hawkins

Recent successes & challenges:

- Continuous website updates and maintenance
- Renewing the IL-ACDA domain name caused an issue with our security certificate. This was not a data security issue, but caused some browsers to issue a notice to users the site was not secure. Issue was resolved with assistance from our site host.

Activities in progress:

- Continuous website updates and maintenance

Future plans & goals: · Proposal for website redesign using a professional web designer with WordPress Design and Develop

Podium Assistant Editor, Grace Currie. No report.

Podium Editor, Monica Bertrand

Recent successes & challenges: · Thank you to everyone turning in your articles!

Activities in progress: · N/A

Future plans & goals: · Feel free to submit your article early

Senior High School, Aubrey Prince

Recent successes & challenges: Crossing over from Treble Choir Repertoire and Resource Chair

Activities in progress:

- Working with Andrea Soyla on the Treble Choir Sing and Share Festival at College of DuPage on February 6, 2020.
- Finalizing details and logistics
- 23 Participating Schools

Future plans & goals: Looking to implement a similar festival model for our developing Senior Chorus ensembles (9-10 groups) for the 2020-2021 school year.

Children's Choir, Amy Brunhahl

Recent successes & challenges:

- New to this position and have found minutes from Children's Choir Chair from Summer of 2018.

Activities in progress:

- To find out what the last Children's Choir chair was working on.
- Gearing up students for the Elementary and Junior High Honor's choirs for ACDA NC/Central Convention in March.
- How to get more children's choir directors and school teachers resources for their extracurricular choirs that meet before or after school and during recess.

Future plans & goals:

- Renee was looking into creating a recurring IL-ACDA children's choir festival apart from a conference for Spring 2020 and then run it annually or bi-annually, thereafter. The objective is to broaden choral opportunities for the youngest choristers and their directors, and not detract from involvement in any fall conference or winter national/regional choirs.
- Seek out ways to get more engagement from elementary, junior high, and children's choirs in the area.
- Find cutting edge children's choir repertoire for future reading sessions.

Two-Year Colleges, Jeffrey DeLay

Recent successes & challenges:

- Contact made with multiple directors new to ACDA and/or new to Two-Year College Teaching
- Back-up venue located for Two-Year College Choral Festival (Univ. of St. Francis)
- Failure to get any new choirs to commit to the Two-Year College Choral Festival

Activities in progress:

- Finalize logistics and participating choirs for Two-Year College Choral Festival (March 21)

Future plans & goals:

- Determine tentative date for 2021 Two-Year College Choral Festival
- Develop repertoire resource(s) for two-year college choir director

Show Choirs, Seth Durbin no report

Music in Worship, Christopher Windle

Recent successes & challenges:

- continuing to actively connect with other musicians in the state the serve communities of faith.

- determining how to best serve the multitude of denominations and faiths within the ACDA membership.

Activities in progress: - none at the moment.

Future plans & goals: - in the next year, putting on a program for musicians from throughout the state dedicated to music in worship.

Treble Choir, Andrea Solya

Recent successes & challenges: New to the position

Activities in progress:

· Working with Aubrey Prince on the Treble Choir Sing and Share Festival at College of DuPage on February 6, 2020.

· Finalizing details and logistics

· 23 Participating Schools

Future plans & goals: None specified.

Middle School, Ron Korbitz no report

Ethnic and Multicultural, Darius Polikaitis

Recent successes & challenges:

· Coordinated technical needs (PCs, visual/video, audio, etc.) for presenters at the IL-ACDA Fall Convention (Oct 25-26, 2019).

· Selected and will present several pieces in the “Multicultural” category as part of the ACDA Reading Clinic at the ILMEA All-State Convention.

Activities in progress:

· Resume attempts to find and contact ethnic choir directors and/or choir administrators to discuss membership in ACDA and the possibility of organizing joint events (perhaps a festival?)

Future plans & goals:

· Podium article.

Youth & Student Activities, Lynda Marshall

Recent successes & challenges: · Timing has been a challenge to schedule a webinar to try to connect student chapters across the state.

Activities in progress: · None to report

Future plans & goals: · Continue to work with new ACDA student representative, Elizabeth Zarley, to best serve collegiate students.

- Schedule webinars to connect with other chapters to discuss various topics of interest (i.e. connect with new teachers to discuss challenges at a first job and/or new job, repertoire suggestion)

Treble-Bass Choir, R and R Chair, Andy Jeffrey

Recent successes & challenges:

- Scheduled our first TB festival April 8 at WIU
- Bob Boyd will be guest conductor
- Registration is available online
- Thanks to Jason Hawkins for coordinating and Grace for help with social media.

Activities in progress: · TB festival registration

Future plans & goals: · Survive the festival and tweak it for next year to improve it.

Jazz Choirs, Jim McCullough no report

Community Choruses, Eric Esparza

Recent successes & challenges: · Nothing to report

Activities in progress:

- Reached out to Ann Howard Jones about possible conducting mentorships / master class
- Reached out to Scott Metcalfe from Blue Heron about possible performance practice seminars / master class

Future plans & goals: · Identify venues around the state that may be suitable for cross-state performances or master classes.

Student Representative, Lizzy Zarley

Recent successes & challenges

- Creation and regular use of the @ILACDAstudents Instagram which posts chapter photos from across the state, inspiration, and ACDA announcements to keep students in the loop.
- Failed to create a fall webinar for collegiate students

Activities in progress

- Identifying and connecting student chapters across the state, recruiting collegiate members
- Identify a subject and clinician to give a webinar with multiple collegiate chapters at once

Future plans & goals

- Summer retreat event/meetup
- Collegiate webinar
- Increase collegiate chapter participation in social media and events by featuring chapters and direct contact/dialogue

ILMEA representative, Curtis Fischer-Oelschlaeger

Recent successes & challenges:

- Transfer to the new Nomination/Audition/Selection Program
- Collegiate Honor Choir to work with Gwyneth Walker

Activities in progress: Getting ILMEA rubric into Sight Reading Factory

Future plans & goals:

- 2021 All State Conductor - Jeffrey Ames - Belmont University
- 2021 Honor Choir Conductor - Aimee Beckmann-Collier - Drake University
- Frank Piekarz will be the IMEA Chorus Division President Elect
- We might be moving the Chorus Division into Four Points for IMEC 2021

ILMEA District Representative Reports

District 1 Representative, Richard Nunley No report

District 2 Representative, Jen Reece

Recent successes & challenges:

-Spent time recruiting Central IL & Mid-Illini directors participation in Central Sing & Share

Activities in progress:

-Ready for “downstate” Central Treble Ensemble Share & Sing, with Lara Reem (Washington), Ben Luginbuhl (Normal Community), and Josh Spear’s (Rochester), we are welcoming 8 choirs to perform at Washington 5 Points Theater on February 6th. Thank you to Aubrey for her guidance and trailblazing efforts!

-Working with Illinois Music Ambassadors on the 2020 Europe Tour, securing directors and students to strengthen the choral side of the experience

Future plans & goals:

-Expand Central Sing & Share to include more schools and a video call between the two sites to further share with women in IL

-Invite discussion on creative requests for time to attend ACDA regional/national festivals

-Attend ACDA Show Choir Festival – obtain more information so I might nominate my own students and encourage other directors to participate after I have had the experience

District 3 Representative, Katie Bruton

Recent successes & challenges: Recruited a new member and district 3 choir teacher Andrew Gallegos. We were able to offer him a complimentary membership through the fall Membership Drive initiative.

Activities in progress:

ACDA Treble Choir Sing and Share Festival - Central Illinois - February 6, 2020

- Persons in charge: Laura Reem, Ben Luginbuhl, Jen Reece, Josh Spear
- Participating schools
 - Dunlap High School (District 2)
 - Normal Community High School (District 3)
 - Rochester High School (District 4)
 - Washington Community High School (District 4)
 - Normal Community West High School (District 3)
- Clinicians include
 - Sarah Riskind- Eureka college, Karyl Carlson, ISU, Kathy Vermillion, retired educator

Future plans & goals: Continue recruiting members from district 3.
Support singing opportunities in district 3

District 4 representative, Josh Spear (No report or response received.)

District 5 representative, Janet McCumber

Recent successes & challenges: · Success! I was able to enroll two new members through the complimentary membership program: Christopher Weisenborn from Maroa-Forsyth and Joe Amato from Shelbyville. · The biggest challenge in this district, as always, is conveying to people the importance and benefits of belonging to an organization that serves the choral community. Too many of them would prefer only to be members of ILMEA.

Activities in progress: None specified.

Future plans & goals: · I am trying to facilitate a workshop for band directors in District 5 who are teaching choir and need extra tools to effectively work with their singers.

District 6 representative, Andrew Gibb-Clark No report or response received

District 7 representative, Matthew Begale

Recent successes & challenges

New to the position, so looking forward to figuring out some things.

Activities in progress

- Analyzing needs of District
- Creating Goals for District

Future plans & goals

- Establish Yearly District 7 Social Event
- Create a Men's Day of Singing for our District

District 8 Representative, Andy Bruhn

Recent successes & challenges:

- Great ILMEA District festival! Eduardo Garcia-Novelli of Carthage College conducted the senior high choir. Brandon and Sarah Catt did the junior high choirs.
- Milledgeville High School Choir, Scott Mattison, Director, performing at IMEC 2020.

Activities in progress: None specified.

Future plans & goals: None specified.

Activity Reports: Seed Grants and more

JoyFest (Paul Laprade)

The seed grant of \$500 from IL-ACDA was deeply appreciated. *JoyFest* took three years to implement due to the complexity of its goal-to bring people from different cultures together in a city (Rockford) that suffers from systematic racism to a degree that is expressed not only socially and economically, but also geographically and educationally. (The DOE took over city schools due to a segregation that lasted into the 1990s.)

Rather than attempt to create a 'come and sing' festival through traditional social and educational channels, both of which had been marred by Rockford's history, I enlisted pastors of local churches to encourage local involvement. This was seen as the least threatening of all paths although the event was to be held in a now-blended, but traditionally white church. The church in which I direct choirs, SecondFirst Church, was able to lead the charge, with a progressive Pastor and with congregants who were willing, just once, to support any financial need that could not be met elsewhere. Their financial participation is what was crucial to completing the financial needs that would be experienced by this event.

The event had been rescheduled twice. In its first iteration (2017), members of other churches cited concerns. Some comments include the following: "We don't have pretty robes, why would we want to be embarrassed." "They have degrees in music. We don't even read music. What is that going

to do for us?” The Pastor of SecondFirst and I made several phone calls and took people out to lunch or dinner to make person-to-person connections that would help personalize the offer.

The second iteration (2018) was more successful. In this case, we advertised the invited director, Dr. Donald Dumpson (Philadelphia, formerly with Westminster Choir College), using photos and posters. Dr. Dumpson is devoted to social justice. He agreed to call some of the music directors of traditionally African American churches to create a deeper connection and to encourage their participation. Despite positive feedback, several non-white churches ‘pulled out’ at the last minute, and the event needed to be rescheduled yet again.

The final, and somewhat successful iteration of JoyFest combined the successful parts of previous attempts at this endeavor. 42 singers were involved, with members from 16 churches augmented by a few people from one college and greater Chicago area. The festival lasted for one evening and one day. Dr. Dumpson led the festival by teaching music by rote—this ‘equalized’ the experience in erasing the divide between notationally-literate singers and others. A meal to encourage ‘gathering’ and communication began the festival, and a lunch was provided on the second day. In the end, although one would have hoped for the involvement of full choirs from invited churches and organizations, many people from areas that would normally not gather together made music together, and the traditions of spiritual and gospel music provided the key to a meaningful, common experience.

There is hope that we might be able to hold another *JoyFest* in Rockford. The 2019 iteration led to some involvement by 16 churches of many denominational and social traditions. It is clear, that the 2019 JoyFest event was populated by many ‘scouts’ rather than choirs. That is, rather than being populated by the invited choirs, the event was populated by individuals (often choir directors) who ‘visited’ for part of the two-day event. Some of the lines of communication and encouragement were broken three weeks before this festival, for the pastor that led the pastoral initiative to engage choirs became seriously ill and could not continue in this role; her contacts were also lost in the process. Nonetheless, talks with local participating directors are continuing, and the final model we have discovered would be used to ensure even a higher level of success.

Budget: \$1000: Clinician, Dr. Donald Dumpson; Travel, hotel, meals, car rental, flight: \$1617; meals for choristers: \$325; Posters, printing, mailings: \$315; piano tuning: \$90. Maintenance/Door Guard: \$75 *All expenses not covered by our IL-ACDA grant were covered by one-time donations from people in the Rockford area and from SecondFirst church; \$280 was also collected from donations by singers brought in from IL-ACDA advertisement.*

Reports received by 26 January 2020 for Winter II-ACDA Board Meeting at IMEC

Complied, edited, and formatted by Paul Laprade, Secretary
rev., February 15, 2020