

Illinois-ACDA Board of Directors Meeting

September 26, 2020 Meeting held virtually, via ZOOM 10:00am

In attendance: *Matthew Begale, Katie Bruton, Laura Coster, Eric Esparza, Curtis Fischer-Oelschlager, Jason Hawkins, Lee Kesselman, Alexandria Kordelewski, Janet McCumber, Paul Laprade, Irene Leitz, Lynda Marshall, Janet McCumber, Paul Nielsen, Richard Nunley, Frank Piekarz, Jessica Palmisano, Darius Polikaitis, Jen Reese, Andrea Solya, Lydia Walsh-Rock*

1. **Welcome: Lee Kesselman & Laura Coster (Co-Presidents)** welcomed new Board members: Irene Leites (two- year college) and Lydia Walsh-Rock (student representative) introduced themselves. Lee also kindly thanked Paul L. for his work on the summer ReTreat.
2. **Minutes: Paul Laprade (Secretary)** *Paul Nielson made the motion to accept the June 23, 2020 minutes, Eric seconded. The minutes were accepted unanimously.*
3. **Treasurer's Report: Paul Nielson (Treasurer)**
Summary: The cost of our summer InTreat was \$1922., but the cost was supported by membership dues, thereby keeping the balance of our banking flush.
Lee K. reminded us that limiting the publication of the *Podium* to online has helped us remain healthy financially, allowing us to fund projects.
Paul Laprade made the motion to accept the report, Jessica Palmisano seconded.
The report was accepted unanimously.
4. **Reports of R&R Chairs & District Reps** - emailed prior to meeting
Lee requested additional details from four members: Jason, Andrea, Jessica, and Don. Lee also mentioned our gratitude for Monica Bertrand's wonderful work on the *Podium*.
 1. **Jason Hawkins (web)**
 - most of the publishable online video sessions from the *InTreat* are still online
 - Jason is still searching for a firm to assist us in redesigning the website, but the estimates of cost are much higher than we desired (\$10,000 vs \$2000)
 2. **Andrea Solya (treble choir)**
 - Requested assistance to gather treble choir recordings from conductors' rehearsals and non-performance events to substitute for the treble choir festival in these times. She hopes to gather these recordings onto a new page to have a page on our website with Jason's help.
 - Lee offered the possibility of gathering such files as something all R&R areas could explore. Some members noted that there are sometimes non-media clauses to consider.
 3. **Jessica Palmisano (membership and "Sing Up") 27.07**
 - Membership levels - 2017: 575 members, 2018: 575, 2019: 585

- Due to COVID, we have 530 members this year
 - *Sing Up!* allows 20 complimentary memberships this year, and can be expanded to members for whom continued membership is a financial hardship
- Lee pointed out that student memberships have grown and are still \$5/member
 Laura encouraged Lydia to mention student memberships to others

4. Lee for Donald Fraser (Composition)

No winner was determined for this year's composition contest, as we were virtual.
 Don's question: "*What should we do about the contest in the near future?*"
 Options discussed included engaging an octet to sing the work, having a virtual performance, awarding two prizes next year, placing it on Soundtrap, offering a visual scroll of the score on ZOOM. Honoring composers and new works were noted as important. *No decision was made* as we are not certain if we will be virtual.

5. Old Business

A. Meeting deadlines (board reports, *Podium*):

Since it seems as if IMEC may not meet, we are likely to hold the meeting via ZOOM
 Please send your *Podium* articles and Board Reports in a timely manner.

B. January IL-ACDA Board meeting – Saturday, January 30th, at 10am

C. Treble Voice Festival (February 2021) not likely to be held.

D. Join Voices, Chicago (2020-2021) not likely to be held.

- 2021 funding is approved, but delaying the funding to another year is acceptable.
- A Fall 2021 conference, if held, could have a *Join Voices* moment.
- Other options, such as sharing rep online, etc is possible as a substitute.

E. National Conference (March 2021) will be virtual. A new executive director search is being held, and the conference should be worthy, due to the efforts of the national team.

F. Summer ReTreat, June 2021 (Laura Coster)

- We are assuming this will happen live. ISU is allowing us to plan a conference there.
- We discussed the possibility that this could be a hybrid live and online conference.
- Headliner Linda Hassert (OH) was already committed for our 2020 InTreat, so she is still interested in joining us in 2021. She would conduct the Directors' Chorus and present on the topics of repertoire selection and programming
- Arreon Harley-Emerson (ACDA Nat'l Diversity Chair and Instructor at Choir School of Delaware) is a strong presenter in the areas of indigenous music and African-American genres.
- Jill Trinka is known as a Kodaly specialist, but she is also diverse and connects with all age groups.
- Discussion ensued regarding the need for safety protocols in holding any conference

G. Fall Conference 2021 Mary Hopper is leading this event, which focuses on diversity.

Eric, Richard, Grace Yeong, and others (see *Diversity Initiatives*, below) are on the committee to work on this event with Laura.

- Mary wishes for a CPS high school honor choir. Arreon Harley-Emerson mentioned the

need for 'front loading' rehearsals for less experienced singers/choirs in traditional music.

- Please email Laura and Richard if you have any suggestions or ideas.
- The event will be held at DePaul University.
- October 22nd is the tentative date for this conference.

6. **New Business**

A. Young Choral Directors Award – no nominations were offered

B. Upcoming election for President-Elect of IL-ACDA: Lee

-A committee of previous presidents and a board member are usually chosen to find suitable candidates.

- This year's candidates are Debbie Aurelius-Muir and Lisa Fredenburgh (a packet with their bios and vision for the office was sent to members before this meeting).

- President elect begins the term on July 1, 2021.

(Secretary's Note: Dr. Lisa Fredenburgh was elected in November 2020.)

C. Activities of IL-ACDA Diversity Initiatives Committee (Eric Esparza)

-Richard is also on the committee. The committee hosted a forum in August to gather ideas. Richard would like to consider a collaboration with the Fall 2021 conference. Keith Hampton is trying to get speakers for this event.

-A recommended site: <https://musicdeconstructed.com/blog/>

-A quarterly and newsletter is being shared with our membership.

-Note also <https://www.facebook.com/groups/acdadiversity>

-Some conversations are rather heated, but understanding is the goal.

7. **Sharing: IL-ACDA in the time of COVID19** – an open-ended discussion

A. *Board member responsibilities & opportunities*

-Consider popularizing your role at ACDA to members

-Plan online chats, share ideas about lesson plans, funding, etc

-Ideas for engagement are welcomed

-Bridging the virtual gap for us as choral teachers

-Aubrey's work in roundtables were highlighted; high school teachers are being challenged by the move to hybrid

B. *Laura*: Do share events with one another so that we can maximize our activities

C. *Laura*: Laura mentioned that Jim McCullough is volunteering his wonderful skills in vocal jazz to assist choirs and singers via workshops, coaching, etc.

D. *Composer Grants* – Paul L. suggested that we might consider expanding the composer 'visits' we had during the InTreat as events we could sponsor throughout the year. Laura asked people to list composers in the chat who they may wish to sponsor or consider. Here is the list (with spelling):

Paul Sponse, Rollo Dilworth, Dale Trumbore, Tesfa Wondemagegnehu, Michael Trotta, Ysaye Barnwell, Reena Esmail, Craig Hella Johnson, Elaine Hagenberg, Brad Holmes

E. Seed/Mini Grants

- Paul's idea was generalized by Laura and led to this conversation.
- The membership explored the notion of creating 'mini grants' to support smaller activities. These activities would be *open to all members of IL- ACDA*, and would be proposed by our membership. The range of support would be perhaps from \$100 to maybe \$400-\$500.
- Lee suggested a cap of \$2000 as the ceiling for the combined cost of grants.
- The membership supported the idea of having the Executive Board be the arbiters for approval of these grants.
- A vote to support these mini grants and the process was made by Paul L. and S seconded by Aubrey. The motion passed unanimously. Lee volunteered to create a form. One would simply write a proposal and send it to our Exec. Board.

F. *Laura*: We are sending one email out a month. Share the event with her, and she will send it to Jessica for the monthly email.

8. **Thank YOU for serving Illinois ACDA!**

9. **Adjourn.** The motion to adjourn the meeting was presented by Jason Hawkins, seconded by Jessica Palmisano, and unanimously accepted at 12:03pm.

POINTS for ACTION

Address Conference Issues: We have left several decisions to the future, as we need to assess the progress and effect of COVID before making a decision: a) the modality(ies) of our next conference, b) the Composition Contest modality and whether we will 'skip' the 2020 entries and simply move to a 2021 contest; c) protocols for a safe *InTreat*, particularly the Directors' Chorus and its specific location on the ISU campus, d) details about the manner in which choirs and singers would be folded into the Fall 2021 conference

Advertise and share activities with Laura for inclusion in the monthly email.

Membership: Seek new members and engage with potential members.

Create communities: Treble Choir recordings on the website may be used to create and engage community; use Andrea's model as inspiration for your own approach to this issue.

Participate in our roundtables and committees when possible, and invite others.

Podium: Remain vigilant in submitting articles on or before their deadlines.

Board Report: Submit a board report, even if few activities have happened, a week or more before the next meeting.

Fall Conference 2021 needs your ideas; send them to Laura.

Mini-Grants: Apply for these by contacting the Executive Board, and advertise to membership.

Website: Search for and identify someone or a firm to redesign our website.

ADDENDUM TO the MINUTES, via EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Nov. 2020:

Executive Board met to discuss NIU as a ReTreat Location for ReTreat 2021

(Note: this update was sent to the members of the Board on 21 November 2020)

Mary Lynn Doherty and Eric Johnson have graciously offered to host us at NIU. The executive committee met recently to discuss this option and decided that having the ReTreat at NIU is a good solution for us.

- NIU will co-sponsor the event with us so there will be minimal charges for us to use their facilities. This will allow us to keep the registration cost relatively the same as the past few years. FYI-ISU has offered their facilities for relatively no charge for many years. What a gift!
- The auditorium and choir room at NIU are large so we can easily socially distance. We are committed to follow CDC recommendations and will provide the proper sanitation, wipes, and throw away masks, as needed.
- Both rooms are set up for a dual-modality, in-person or virtual. This will allow us to offer the Retreat either in-person or virtually so people who have safety concerns will still be able to attend. It will also give members who live far away easy access if they don't want to drive. We know the location is far-north, yet the ability to provide a virtual experience will give everyone an opportunity to attend.
- We can stay in a newer dorm that is a block away from the music building for \$40 per night. Hotels are also available 2-3 miles from campus.
- Parking is available for a minimal charge

Minutes Approved unanimously during January 30, 2021 Board Meeting

Submitted by Paul Laprade, 30 January 2021

Board Reports (Jan 2021)

**Due to COVID 19 challenges, many board members do not have a report of activities at this time.*

Treasurer's Report, Paul Nielsen

As the report was formatted as a pdf, it was e-mailed to our members.

Podium Editor, Monica Bertrand

Recent successes & challenges:

- Many more articles turned in on time - thank you!!!
- Loss of advertisements - I believe it is because of COVID

Activities in progress:

- Logging the dates of turn in, or no turn in for *Podium*

- Those who do not turn in for any reason have been asked to write an article for the next publication

Future plans & goals:

- I am going to put together a reminder document with article requirements, turn in dates, and other information for everyone's reference.

Community Choirs & Lifelong R&R, Abby Musgrove

Recent successes & challenges:

- Nothing to report since last meeting
- Successful Roundtable Zoom last summer and again in September
- Many Community Choirs are currently not meeting

Activities in progress:

- No current activities

Future plans & goals:

- Considering another Zoom in Feb/Mar
- Send a survey to see what people are currently doing, what's working for them, whether they plan any live concerts for the summer
- Virtual Reading Session – summer

Tenor/Bass Choirs, Brian Birch

Recent successes & challenges:

- I'm new to the board, I'm looking forward to meeting others on the board and discussing ideas and what sorts of activities have worked in other areas.
- Should we pursue virtual events and of what nature?

Activities in progress:

- Article for March
- Introduction of myself – other ideas for topics

Future plans & goals: in progress

Composition Competition, Donald Fraser

Recent successes & challenges:

- The Competition was halted due to the pandemic just as I was about to set up the judging committee.
- There were nine original compositions entered for the prize.

Activities in progress: Having discussed a possible way forward with Lee and Laura I have contacted Eric Johnson in relation to the note below:

Future plans & goals: It is possible to re-institute the 2020 competition and set up a judging committee to choose a winner (or none if deemed so). We would then pre-record the winning work with a virtual choir (minimum of 8 singers 2 x SATB) for streaming at the Summer Retreat whether it be a hybrid retreat or completely on line. I have contacted Eric Johnson to see if members of his Car Cantiamo would be interested in the virtual recording. I have not heard back as of Friday January 29, but will follow up. I would undertake the Audio and Video editing of the piece. As a fall back position we may need to cast our net a little wider for singers if necessary.

Two-Year College R&R Chair, Irene Apanovitch-Leites

Recent successes & challenges:

- Started building a 'Quality SAB Repertoire List'
- Initiated a data collection process quality SAB repertoire by recruiting 2-year CC directors to contribute their favorite selections. So far 15 titles have been contributed by 4 people.
- Hosted a Spring 2021 Directors' Meet-up via Zoom on 1.13.2021
- Event attended by 9 community college directors. Discussion centered around experiences conducting live and recorded performances last year, recruitment, My Choral Coach app and similar resources, and ways to maintain connection through more meetings of similar nature.

Activities in progress:

- Writing an article for IL-ACDA *Podium* journal that features brief interviews with 4 community college directors from various parts of the state.

Future plans & goals:

- Conduct another virtual meet-up during the ACDA national convention.
- Figure out a way to collect and share links to virtual concerts that various community colleges are putting on this Spring.
- Share information about upcoming Summer ReTreat and recruit a cohort of 2-year directors to attend.

Treble Choirs, Andrea Solya

We are working on kicking off another push for the *Sing and Share* festival. We have not received enough recordings by the beginning of December to post but we have not used any social media tools for advertisement. My plan is to push this out in a week or so, advertise, ask for recordings and post all that by the end of February. Recordings I have received so far are exquisite!

Youth and Student Activities – Lynda Marshall

No activities to report due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Diversity Initiatives Committee, Eric Esparza

Recent successes & challenges:

- Met with the ISU Student Chapter to discuss DEI Topics
- Received an IL-ACDA mini-grant to host a Gospel Master Class
- Hosted a Zoom aster Class on Gospel Music with Lonnie Norwood

Activities in progress:

- Scheduling a second Gospel Master Class with Lonnie Norwood that will be more of a lab format as opposed to lecture format.

Future plans & goals:

- Master Classes on different DEI Topics
- Festivals uniting singers of different backgrounds

District 2 Representative, Jen Reece

Recent successes & challenges:

- Successfully encouraged three local directors to renew their ACDA membership via the free year incentive discussed at the October meeting
- Invited the directors from the Mid-Illini Conference to consider attending the Treble Ensemble Sing & Share; 2 of our 8 choirs participate. There was discussion on the timing/weather/distance to Glen Ellyn

- Spoke with several directors during ILMEA District #2 music festival about joining us at ILMEA for the ACDA Reception & Reading Session and the upcoming Summer Retreat

Activities in progress:

- Supporting the ACDA Treble Ensemble Sing & Share at College of DuPage in February; our third year!

Future plans & goals:

- Would like to discuss adding a “downstate” Treble Ensemble Share & Sing site, possibly with Ben Luginbuhl’s assistance
- Find an avenue to encourage District #2, #3, & #4 directors to take advantage of the PD opportunities during the ACDA Summer Retreat; it’s in our backyard
- Want to take in more information on the ACDA National Chorus and the Show Choir Festival so I can nominate my own students and encourage other directors to participate.

District 9 Representative, Ali Kordelewski

Recent successes & challenges:

- Coordinated 2 District 9 Meet and Greets in the fall over Zoom, had a decent turn out with high school directors, hoping to grow this more with another Zoom chat in February
- Reached out to active members of District 9 with a survey on how we can best serve them at this time

Activities in progress:

- Workshop with Dr. Mona Wis on Yoga and Choral Singing-February 11th at 4:30pm

Future plans & goals:

- Establish a reoccurring meet every few months with ACDA District 9 members to connect and share ideas with other
- Find ways to connect and reach even more of our members.