

# Illinois-ACDA Board of Directors Meeting

## ***Approved Minutes of our January 30, 2021 meeting***

held virtually, via ZOOM, at 10:00am\_– Minutes approved on June 22, 2021

In attendance: *Matthew Begale, Katie Bruton, Laura Coster, Eric Esparza, Jason Hawkins, Lisa Fredenburgh, Lee Kesselman, Ron Korbitz, Ali Kordelewski, Paul Laprade, Irene Leites, Lynda Marshall, Janet McCumber, Abby Musgrove, Paul Nielson, Richard Nunley, Frank Piekarz, Jessica Palmisano, Darius Polikaitis, Jen Reese, Andrea Solya, Lydia Walsh-Rock, Christopher Windle*

1. **Welcome: Lee Kesselman & Laura Coster (Co-Presidents)** welcomed everyone.
2. **Minutes: Paul Laprade (Secretary)** *Eric made the motion to accept the September 26, 2020 minutes, Andrea seconded. The minutes were accepted unanimously.*
3. **Treasurer's Report: Paul Nielson (Treasurer)**  
*Summary: Paul's report reflected a financial 'status quo' – we are essentially not losing or gaining income, although our membership has decreased due to COVID. Paul Laprade made the motion to accept the report, Darius seconded. The report was accepted unanimously.*
4. **Reports of R&R Chairs & District Reps** - emailed prior to meeting
  1. **Andrea Solya (treble choir) /Sing and Share**  
*-Submissions of recordings for the Sing and Share festival are ongoing. Not enough recordings were received to create an event, but the plan is to advertise, ask for recordings and post all that by the end of February. The recordings already received were of high quality!*
  2. **Laura for 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*
  3. **Lee for Donald Fraser (Composition)**  
*The manner in which the composition contest will be implemented this year will be based heavily upon what modalities will be available to us at NIU. Laura mentioned that these decisions may weigh heavily on the progress of inoculation, Illinois' governor's recommendations, and members' impressions about the state of affairs.*
  4. **Harold Decker Award (Lee)**  
*It was strongly suggested that we find a way to honor Dr. Eric Johnson appropriately at the ReTreat. The year delay raised questions about whether or not we should have another Decker awardee for this year. (The response was 'no'). Laura pointed out the advantage of having Eric awarded at his home institution.*

## 5. Old Business

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

If we do not hold the ReTreat this summer, we are likely to hold the meeting via ZOOM. Please send your *Podium* articles and Board Reports in a timely manner.

### B. June IL-ACDA Board meeting – Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 5pm

### C. Join Voices, Chicago (2020-2021) delaying the funding to another year is acceptable.

-A Fall 2021 conference could have a *Join Voices* moment.

### D. National Conference (March 2021) will be virtual.

### E. Summer ReTreat, June 2021 (Laura Coster)

- We discussed the possibility that this could be a hybrid live and online conference.

- Headliner Lynda Hasseler (OH) 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.

-Discussion ensued regarding the need for safety protocols in holding any conference

### F. Fall Conference 2021

- Mary Hopper is leading this event, which focuses on diversity.

- Eric, Richard, Grace Yeong, and others are on the committee with Laura.

- The event will be held at DePaul University, tentatively on October 22nd

## 6. New Business

### A. Young Choral Directors Award – no nominations were offered.

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

- Wonderful meetings via ZOOM and some gatherings were hosted.

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

### C. ReTreat

1. 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. (ISU had offered their facilities for relatively no charge for many years.) What a gift!

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

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

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

C. *Fatigue* - Laura acknowledged the fatigue that many are feeling due to hybrid and other activities. This sentiment was shared by many.

D. *Seed/Mini Grants*

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

9. **Adjourn**. The motion to adjourn the meeting was presented by Paul Laprade, seconded by Paul Nielsen, and unanimously accepted at 11:01am.

## 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) Protocols for a safe *ReTreat*, particularly the Directors' Chorus and its specific location on the NIU campus, b) 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. These are a way to create connection during these challenging times. Think about the possibility of hosting an event for our members.

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

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*This draft of our minutes has not yet been approved.*

*Submitted by Paul Laprade*

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**Board Reports (June 2021 - TBA)**