

# Illinois-ACDA Board of Directors Meeting

## Approved Minutes of our June 22, 2021 meeting

held virtually, via ZOOM, from 4:00-5:30pm

In attendance: *Matt Begale, Brian Birch, Laura Coster, Grace Currie, Donald Fraser, Lisa Fredenburgh, Jason Hawkins, Lee Kesselman, Ron Korbitz, Ali Kordelewski, Paul Laprade, Irene Leites, Lynda Marshall, Jim McCullough, Abby Musgrove, John McDonald, Janet McCumber, Paul Nielsen, Jessica Palmisano, Frank Piekarz, Darius Polikaitis, Jen Reese, Lydia Walsh-Rock, Christopher Windle, Brian Winnie*

### 1. **Welcome & Introductions: Laura Coster**

- Irene has a new family member! May 25 at 3:39pm, Nicholas Alexander Leites
- Janet McCumber is our new Historian

*We still have Board openings* in these areas: Show Choir, SATB-HS Rep., Districts 3, 4, 5, 8, and soon, student representative.

*Thank you to* Seth Durbin (who is moving out of state), Aubrey Prince (leaving SATB), Katie Bruton (District 3 leaving board), Josh Spears (leaving Dist. 4), Janet McCumber (leaving Dist. 5), and Lydia Walsh-Rock (who suggested 'Mitch from DePaul' for student representative) for their contributions. We also wish to specifically thank Monica Bertrand for her fine work as Podium editor.

### 2. **Minutes: Paul L.** Approved with minor spelling changes and posted on 6/23/2021. Approved by acclamation.

### 3. **Treasurer's report and budget approval for the 2021-2022 academic year: Paul N.** Approved by acclamation.

### 4. **Membership Update / Constant Contact: Jess P.**

ACDA as a whole has lost many members, except for three states that have added perhaps five members. She feels that the membership drive for the Fall will help—especially through the complimentary membership, \$5 student membership, and other special membership opportunities. etc. Current membership of IL-ACDA: 463. (Maximum was 588.)

- Laura suggested that we should try to identify people from our own districts. Laura suggested maybe we could send out a Constant Contact and ask people to tell us their district (via Google Doc) to get more precise demographic information.
- Lee pointed out that Treble Choir Festivals, etc. are things that could be pointed to in order to bring in membership. “Events are things that define us for membership. Bringing events out to other areas would be helpful as proximity helps.”
- Chris W. mentioned that even in his area (worship) each congregation/synagogue musician and even each university musician all has other organizational memberships.

- Laura pointed out that we have been wrestling with the challenges of bringing events to the lower part of the state.
- Jason mentioned the desire to do a Tenor-Bass festival, to be hosted at Western, and felt this could be helpful to generate membership among directors in that area.

## 5. Reports on our mini-grant sessions (verbal or emailed prior to meeting)

- Irene Leites* hosted Dr. Ares in a workshop on 'working on a piece'. 17 people attended. The session included a Q and A with students, (covering compositional | process and his studies in music). Several of state people also attended via ZOOM.
- John* hosted a session which included Deanna Joseph, Chris Maunu and Kevin McBeth. They shared great information about processes that they can bring into this year's teaching in order to 'move forward' despite obvious challenges presented by the pandemic.
- Eric* outlined the workshops on gospel style that were also supported by the Diversity Committee. He felt they were quite successful and received well by all participants.
- *Paul L.* hosted Jason Max Ferdinand, who spoke on Social Justice and Music. About 30 people attended. Paul L. thanked the board for the \$300 mini grant.
- *Ali K.* hosted a session with Dr. Ramona Wis regarding yoga in the choral classroom. Discussion about music and conducting in general. Dr. Wis provided many resources, particularly many ChoralNet articles. The emphasis on breathing and relaxation was important for all who attended.
- *Grace Young and Mary Hopper* talked about the need for diversity to be represented at the Fall Conference and at all events we hold in the future. Mary has taken steps toward planning sessions to support this emphasis.
- *Chris Windle* urged us to support our membership with useful training in technology. Some members may be hesitant to explore or adopt technologies. He feels that the inclusion of sessions or workshops would be highly beneficial.

## 6. Old Business

- A. Summer ReTreat 2021: The ReTreat was cancelled due to low enrollment. We only lost 100. As NIU was gracious. The uncertainty associated with COVID infection and exhaustion expressed by members led to this outcome.
- B. Harold Decker Award 2020 recipient: Eric Johnson  
 Lee: The presentation will be at the fall conference, as we have needed to delay this several times. Eric has been patient.  
 Finding nominees for Young Director's Award and Harold Decker Award should be on our minds. Note that the Young Director Award is given to outstanding directors with 10 years or less in the field.

C. Composition award 2020: Don and Lee

Donald: Judging was done by ranking the top three choices.

*The Winner*: Cole Reye's "Oh Lord Support Us All Day Long"

Presentation will be at the Fall Conference, details to be determined.

The 2020 winner may be awarded in 2021, but details are still being worked out. The first performance is usually by the Directors Chorus, yet this presentation is likely to be virtual. Details are being worked out to possibly present the previous year's award at the fall conference.

- Donald has considered presenting a composer's camp as a part of our IL-ACDA conference offerings.

D. Meeting deadlines (board reports, *Podium*) & Website updates

- Paul L. thanked people for reports, although the pandemic meant that few items needed to be reported, hence fewer reports. Seed grants recipients should submit some form of report to the board.
- Laura congratulated everyone for the quality of their submitted *Podium* articles. Timeliness has not been an issue this year.
- Jason worked on the 'regular stuff' and registration for ReTreat. He will have meetings with Mary H. about the Fall Conference registration. Jason worked with Andrea for *Sing and Share Festival* links (performances of virtual and live items are on the website). It is his sixteenth year as webmaster—he is willing to take a break.

E. Fall Conference Update 2021 at DePaul: Laura C. and Eric E.

- DePaul is a great venue. Five to six performing choirs will be present and they are diverse in orientation. *JoinVoices* will be there.
- Lisa is working on the interest sessions: she needs to add a worship segment, and asked Chris Windle for help.
- Lisa mentioned that she is getting a panel on appropriation.
- Jim Yarborough will ZOOM a choir of cancer survivors from Britain.
- The topic of convention is *diversity*. We are asked to think of 1-2 additional people to present an interest session.
- Mary would like people to help with reading sessions.
- Janet is chairing the Cambiata Honor Choir. An elementary honor choir chair is needed.

## 7. **President's Overview**

- Laura pointed out that we already discussed many of the issues regarding National ACDA and our own Board in the context of previous discussions today.
- Our main goals at this time are: re-build, motivate, engage, and maintain fiscal health.

## 8. New Business

- A. Summer ReTreat 2022: June 22-23 - Location TBA (Laura)
  - 1. Jerry Blackstone and Arreon Harley-Emerson
  - 2. Reading and Interest Sessions needed!
- B. Special Project Funding:  
Share ideas to generate activities. *Any other new projects?*
- C. Young Conductor Award and Decker Awards 2022:  
Lee again invited us to think of candidates for these awards.
- D. Diversity Task Force: Eric-See his report
- E. Synchronizing National ACDA & IL-ACDA Terminology: Lee and Laura  
The terminology of our bylaws maybe begs an editing committee to match national's outline.
- G. Midwestern Regional Conference: *Sing Together as One*, Chicago  
February 16-19, 2022- Please volunteer to help with an honor choir or other tasks.  
Mary Evers is the chair.
- H. Date & Location of September 2021 and Jan 2022 Board Meetings: Laura & Lee
  - The fall meeting will be held via ZOOM on Saturday, Sept 25, at 10 AM
  - The IMEC Luncheon meeting in Peoria will be held on Friday.,Jan 28, 2022
  - The 2022 ReTreat meeting will be at 5m on Tuesday, June 21, 2022 (Location-TBA)
- I. IMEC Reading Session  
People might be needed to lead the reading session. Contact Lisa Fredenburg if you have suggestions or would like to conduct yourself.
- J. Lee Kesselman will 'stay on' till January to help our chapter in this transition.

## 10. THANK YOU for serving Illinois ACDA! Adjourn!

## ADDENDUM:

### POINTS for ACTION

**Open positions and Membership:** We have several new positions to fill: Show Choir, SATB-HS Rep., Districts 3, 4, 5, 8, and soon, our student representative. Please reach out also to people in these areas and also encourage people to engage with ACDA. (see below).

**Mini-Grants:** These are a way to create connection with members and prospective members during these challenging times. Think about the possibility of hosting an event for our members, as these reflect who we are. Apply for these by contacting the Executive Board, and subsequently advertise to membership.

**Districts:** Laura asked for us to send out a Constant Contact/Google Doc to find out which IMEC District our membership belongs to.

**Awards:** Please think of candidates for next year's Harold Decker and Young Directors' Award. The latter is only awarded to promising conductors who have been active for 10 years or less.

**Podium:** Continue the wonderful work of submitting articles on or before their deadlines.

**Fall Conference 2021:** a) Mary Hopper needs people to oversee reading sessions—please contact her if you are interested. [mary.hopper@wheaton.edu](mailto:mary.hopper@wheaton.edu) b) If you have any sessions to offer or would like to lead a session, please contact Lisa Fredenberg at [lfredenb@aurora.edu](mailto:lfredenb@aurora.edu) or [fredenburghl@gmail.com](mailto:fredenburghl@gmail.com) – there is still room for additional sessions and volunteers.

**Midwest Conference:** There is a need for an elementary choir chair. Contact Janet McCumber to offer your time.

**ByLaws.** Our state's bylaws need to be realigned with those of National ACDA, particularly with regard to terminology.

**Website:** Jason has been our webmaster for 16 years. Search for and identify someone or a firm to redesign our website—he needs a break!

**Next meeting:** Saturday, Sept 25 at 10 AM, meeting via ZOOM.

**The article submission deadlines for board members are as follows:**

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

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

District Representatives: Districts 1, 4, 8

Executive Committee: President

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

Chairs: Middle School/Junior High, Show Choir, Children's Choir,  
SSAA 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, World Music Choir, TTBB Choir,  
Community Choir, High School

District Representatives: Districts 3, 6, 9  
Executive Committee: President