2016 SUMMER ACTIVITIES

- I attended the National Board Meeting and Conference July 4-12, 2016 in Chicago, IL. It was my pleasure to attend the Leadership Summit Luncheon, President’s Dinner, Conference Gala, and the NATS Intern Reunion, amongst other recitals, meetings, and activities.

- Preparations for the 2016 Texoma Region Conference continued throughout the summer. The conference took place at West Texas A&M University, November 2-5, 2016. In addition to working with the site coordinator, Matthew Oglesby, I secured a master teacher for the master class, guest judges for the Edward Baird Singer of the Year competition, and finalized the distribution of responsibilities for the District Governors. By taking on a more active role in leadership of the region, the District Governors led the Summer Program Auditions, Artist Series, Edward Baird Singer of the Year, and assisted the Auditions Chair during the Conference. Another District Governor led the Musical Theater Auditions. By adjusting the organizational structure of the Region, we empowered Region officers and provided a better product of service to our membership, addressed the sustainability of those serving, provided better accessibility for membership communication, and established a leadership succession plan. The scheduling software used by Texoma completely crashed during the 2015 conference. This led to the Region working with Brad Mills to add the various filters traditionally used in the Region. Additionally, Mr. Mills created a program to accommodate the Edward Baird Singer of the Year and Summer Program Auditions registration.

- Securing conference hosts has occupied a significant amount of my time. This has proven to be quite difficult because of the facility demands and time commitment required for hosting the Texoma Region Conference. With that said, a conference host for 2017 and 2018 has been confirmed. I have cultivated relationships with additional schools as possible hosts for 2019 and 2020.
2016 TEXOMA REGION CONFERENCE AND STUDENT AUDITIONS – West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas – November 2-5, 2016

Edward Baird Singer of the Year

- Statistics
  - Participants entered: 12
  - Number of Singers who competed in preliminary auditions: 11

- Judges for Preliminary Round
  - Craig Maddox, Governor, Southeastern Region Governor, Associate Professor of Voice at Stetson University
  - Christine Hurst-Wajszczuk, NATS Vice President for Workshops, Associate Professor of Voice and Opera at the University of Alabama at Birmingham
  - Elizabeth Daniels, NATS Intern Program Master Teacher (2010), independent voice teacher in Silver Springs, Maryland

- Judges for Final Round
  - Linda Snyder, President - NATS, Professor Emerita at the University of Dayton
  - Dan Johnson-Wilmot, Vice-President for Membership – NATS, Professor of Music at Viterbo University
  - Twyla Robinson, Artist-in-Residence at Centenary College

- Results
  - First Place: Jordan Van de Vere, student of Soon Cho
  - Second Place: Benjamin Hopkins, student of Catherine McDaniel, former student of Mark McQuade
  - Third Place: Elizabeth Wasson, student of Catherine McDaniel

Summer Program Auditions

- The third annual Summer Program Auditions were held on Wednesday, November 2, 2016. This brought together representatives from 10 summer programs that heard 67 singers. In 2015, 107 students auditioned and in 2014 a total of 67 students auditioned. Program participation is limited to programs that have a Texoma member on their faculty or staff. Overall, SPA is a successful venture for our region, benefiting both our students and our members while generating a modest profit. We used NATSauditions.com for the registration this year, which was effective.
Board of Control Dinner Meeting, November 2, 2016

- The Texoma Board of Control met on November 2, 2016, the opening night of our 2016 conference. An additional meeting took place on Friday, November 4 to complete the agenda. Each officer reported on the activities of his or her chapter, district, or office. New Business included four motions that were passed, including the allocation of $200 per NATS Intern participant to assist with travel beginning Summer 2017, the allocation of $250 each year to the winner of the Grady Harlan Award beginning Fall 2016, the allocation of $2,500 over two years to the Edward Baird-Bruce Lunkley Award Fund, and the allocation of three $200 grants for SNATS chapter activities. We addressed the organizational structure of the Region and how the District Governors were now leading various offerings such as SOTY, SPA, Artist Series, and Musical Theater Auditions. Time was dedicated to the various scheduling software issues we encountered over the summer and early Fall. Ultimately, Brad Mills created new programs and added filters to adapt to Texoma’s scheduling requests. The letter from President Snyder addressing the Board of Control’s concerns regarding the National Board’s communication, NSA guidelines, NATSAA, and management was read aloud. There was a discussion pertaining to the nominating process of a Region Governor and final announcements were made concerning next year’s National Conference and Texoma Conference.

Conference Program

**Twyla Robinson, soprano**
Guest Artist Recital

**West Texas A&M University Opera Workshop**
*The Medium* by Gian Carlo Menotti

**Texoma Artist Series**

*Brahms and Beyond*
Soon Cho, mezzo-soprano
Joey Martin, piano
Ames Asbell, viola

**Pronuncia! Brazilian Song and Diction**
Sarah Daughtrey, mezzo-soprano
Justin Badgerow, piano

**An American Portrait**
Travis Sherwood, baritone
Kayla Paulk, piano

**Master Teacher series – master class**
Julie Simson, mezzo-soprano
*Rice University*
**Speed Dating Tonight: Creative use of Opera Scenes in English**
Rebecca Renfro Grimes, Deborah Dalton, Rick Piersall, William McCrary, Sooah Park, Suzanne Ramo, Barbara Hill Moore, Samuel Mungo, Julie Whittington McCoy

**Women's Work**
Cherry Duke, mezzo-soprano
Dena Kay Jones, piano
David Ross, clarinet

**Liszt: In Love and Lust**
Richard Novak, tenor
Zachary Ridgway, piano

**Guest Artist master class**
Twyla Robinson, soprano

**Texoma NATSAA Winner Recital**
Heather Hawk, soprano
Leslie Spotz, piano

### 2016 Conference Statistics
- **Summer Program Auditions:** 70 (2015 = 109, 2014=67)
- **Box Lunches sold:** 143 (2015 = 199, 2014=300, 2013=261, 2012=266, 2011= 121)

For a complete list of the 2016/17 Student Audition results, please visit [www.texomanats.org](http://www.texomanats.org)

### Business Meeting
- Members of the Texoma Region gathered on Friday, November 4 during the conference to hear the latest reports from the Governor, Treasurer, Webmaster, Student Auditions Chair, and Vice President for Auditions. The membership was updated on items discussed in Wednesday evening's Board of Control Dinner meeting. We recognized the three members who participated in the Intern Program, as well as members who passed away. Participants in the Artist Series were recognized and an update on the Regional rounds of NATSAA from the Spring was given. Additionally, a reminder was given regarding the online Musical Theater auditions to take place...
via video submission in the Spring. The membership was reminded of the alternation to take
place of SOTY and NATSAA at the Region Conference beginning Fall 2017. Also, a reminder was
given regarding the National Student Auditions and the process of advancement. The
generosity of AIMS was recognized as they continue to sponsor scholarships to the first place
winners of the upper level and graduate divisions, as well as SOTY. John Nix shared a plan about
his desire and our need to get more people singing in the country. He called this initiative
“Singing for a New World.” People are less participatory and more spectator with respect to
music and singing. He noted the health, social and spiritual benefits of singing together.
Additionally, as vocal music teachers we have a vested interest in cultivating a new generation
of students. One implementation of the idea is to include, schedule, and program audience
participation in performances, similar to Renee Fleming’s recital at the National Convention.
The invitation for the audience to sing along might include the printed words in the program.

2017 SPRING ACTIVITIES

Musical Theater Auditions

- Online submissions closed March 20, 2017 with 35 students registered by 16 teachers. Students
  submitted videos via YouTube for consideration.

Governors’ Council Meeting

- On March 19, 2017, in conjunction with the 2017 Texoma Region Conference site visit, the
  Governors’ Council meeting took place in Greenville, Texas. The meeting focused on strategic
  vision within the context of strengths and challenges, possible changes in current practices, and
  logistical implementation of a variety of ideas. In attendance was the Texoma Regional
  leadership including the five District Governors, Treasurer/Registrar, Webmaster, Auditions
  Chair, Governor-elect, and Governor.

Site visit for the 2017 conference

- On March 20, 2017, I was joined by Melinda Brou (Auditions Chair) and Randy Umstead
  (Governor-elect) for a site visit at Texas A&M University – Commerce in Commerce, TX. We met
  with the site coordinator, Jennifer Glidden, and other faculty members to discuss plans for the
  November conference. Like West Texas A&M University the previous year, this is the first time
  Texas A&M University – Commerce will have hosted the Texoma Region Conference and there
  were many details to discuss. We left with full confidence knowing this year’s conference will
  be outstanding. The facilities are tremendous and the attention to detail and creativity
demonstrated by the faculty was inspiring.
2017 Artist Series

- In May 2017, a call for Artist Series proposals for the 2017 conference went out to the Texoma membership. June 1, 2016 was the deadline for submission and applicants will be notified of the results by July 1, 2017.

MEMBERSHIP

- As of April 29, 2017, Texoma has 519 active members. Efforts are ongoing to retain current membership and renew lapsed members, all the while attracting new members to NATS. Region and Chapter officers welcome new members via email detailing region and chapter activities and contact information. It is my hope that these efforts will be successful in getting new members involved at both the chapter and regional level and will help us to retain those members for many years to come.

DISTRICT AND CHAPTER EVENTS

North Texas District

- Dallas-Fort Worth Chapter
  - July 19, 2016
    - Board Meeting
  - October 23, 2016
    - Fall business meeting
  - March 24-25, 2017
    - Chapter business meeting
    - Board meeting
    - Musical Theater Student Auditions
    - Classical Student Auditions

Oklahoma District

- April 8, 2017
  - District business meeting
  - Musical Theater Student Auditions
  - Classical Student Auditions
Rio Grande District/Chapter

- September 2016
  o Asynchronous Board meeting
- January 13, 2017
  o Board meeting
- March 10-11, 2017
  o Business meeting
  o Classical Student Auditions
  o Musical Theater Student Auditions
  o Workshop

South Texas District

- Greater Houston Chapter
  o October 16, 2016
    ▪ Winners Recital
    ▪ Fall Board Meeting
    ▪ Fall business Meeting
  o February 4, 2017
    ▪ Musical Theater Student Auditions
  o March 25, 2017
    ▪ Classical Student Auditions
    ▪ Spring business Meeting
- South Texas Chapter
  o October 1, 2016
    ▪ Fall business meeting
    ▪ Fall Workshop
    ▪ Honors Recital
  o April 8, 2017
    ▪ Spring business meeting
    ▪ Classical Student Auditions
    ▪ Musical Theater Student Auditions

West Texas District

- Great Plains Chapter
  o September 17, 2016
    ▪ Fall business meeting
    ▪ Guest clinician master class
- Panhandle Chapter
  - November 4, 2016
    - Fall business meeting
  - February 25, 2017
    - Spring business meeting
    - Classical Student Auditions

MEMBERSHIP PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Here is a list of activities the Texoma Region and its Chapters offer as development opportunities.

- Texoma
  - Membership Artist Series
  - Master Teacher master class series
  - Guest Artist recital
  - Guest Artist master class
  - Edward Baird Singer of the Year
  - Summer Program Auditions

- Chapters
  - Member presentations and invited outside presenter in alternating years
  - Developing a questionnaire for members to answer about areas of expertise (particular voice types, pedagogical issues, language expertise, etc) and be available to members so when they encounter questions/problems they can reference the database
  - Guest presenters
  - Guest master class clinicians

CONCLUSION

- It has been a tremendous honor to serve the Texoma Region as Governor the past two years. Texoma’s rich history and legacy is renowned, and to be a part of that tradition of excellence is humbling. I am forever grateful for the relationships with officers and members within the Region that were established and strengthened through the shared experiences of service. I look forward to working with Dr. Randy Umstead as he assumes this office after the National Board meetings. He will undoubtedly lead the Region with great integrity and vision.

Respectfully submitted by,
Jason Lester
Texoma Region Governor