

MINUTES FOR THE NSAA BUSINESS MEETING

Agenda adapted from ARTICLE XI

[Note: *These are unofficial minutes and will be submitted to the Board for approval at their next meeting*]

The meeting was called to order by President Roger Buhr on June 2, 2018 @ 9:45am in the Baker Commons, Luther College, Decorah, IA.

1. **Roll call of officers** by the Recording Secretary was dispensed because all officers had signed in as part of the credentialing process. The following officers were present:

President: Roger Buhr, Decorah, IA

Vice President at Large: Thor Fjell, Naperville, IL

Recording Secretary: Rich Leake, Decorah, IA

Corresponding Secretary: Don Berg, Decorah, IA

Treasurer: Francis Peterson, Decorah, IA

Grand Marshal: Ken Larson, Decorah, IA

Assistant Grand Marshal: Jim Slostad, St. Paul, MN

Director-in-Chief: Dr. David E. Judisch, Decorah, IA

Associate Director-in-Chief: Terry Walter, Sioux Falls, SD

Past President: Marlan Velgersdyk, Sioux Falls, SD

State Vice-Presidents:

WI: Jon Lewis, Stoughton, WI

IA: Bob Lillie, Decorah, IA

SD: Curt Hepner, Canton, SD

IL: Frank Potempa, Des Plaines, IL

MN: Norm Arlandson, Minneapolis, MN

2. **Credentials' committee report** [*Marshal Ken Larson and Asst. Marshal James Slostad*]

Reported 48 credentials/voting members accepted for this meeting. This includes Officers, State Vice-Presidents, other Directors, and elected delegates.

3. **Action on the minutes of previous business meetings** [*Roger Buhr*]

Dispensed with reading of minutes; Moved, Seconded and Passed to approve Minutes of previous biennial meeting [June 14, 2016] as printed in July-August *Sanger-Hilsen*. Also approved were minutes of the most recent Board meeting [October 22, 2016] as printed in September-October 2016 *Sanger-Hilsen*. Written reports submitted are attached to the official copy of minutes.

4. **Action on applications of new choruses** [*Don Berg, Rich Leake*]

No new chorus applications have been received.

Reports by officers and committees are also submitted in writing or electronically and attached to the official minutes. Each report is briefly summarized below.

5. **Director-in-Chief report** [*Dr. Dave Judisch*]

The music directors of the choruses of the NSAA met for a breakfast meeting on Friday, June 1. Guests were Jon Malmin from the PCNSA and Mark Everson, retired director from the Edvard Grieg Chorus in Madison, Wisconsin. After introductions, we updated our addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses.

This biennial meeting is a great way to renew our friendships and to become reacquainted. Most of our discussion focused on activities that may have helped one of our choruses to improve their particular situation or status. We also had some discussion on the history of the NSAA, and the way in which they were instrumental in helping to fund the dissolution of the union with Sweden in 1905.

Recruiting new members continues to be an issue for most of our choruses. We continue to advise our individual choruses to appoint / elect a recruiting chair.

I commend the chorus directors for preparing their choruses so well for the Grand Concert this year. I also want to congratulate the individual choruses for their presentations on Thursday evening at the Parade of Choruses. All chose music appropriate for their group and presented it in a most professional manner.

Special thanks goes to Roger Buhr and the many committees who worked so very hard to bring success to another great Sangerfest. *Complete report attached.*

6. **President's report** [*Roger Buhr*]

President Buhr reviewed the mission of NSAA, and gave a brief history of the NSAA and Sangerfests. Buhr referenced the book, *THEY SANG FOR NORWAY* with the subtitle, *Olaf Oleson's Immigrant Choir*, by Ane-Charlotte Five Aaraset. It is basically the life story of Olaf Oleson who was born in Norway in 1849, emigrated to Fort Dodge, IA, and died there in 1944 at the age of 94. In the book, the author recounts a lot of information about NSAA.

Buhr asked "How are we doing?" We will have 228 singers at the 2018 Sangerfest in Decorah this year representing 10 choruses from 5 states in the Midwest. NSAA could certainly be doing more, but let's not sell ourselves short. We are still an active and vital presence in each of our communities as we promote a love for Scandinavian male chorus music. *Complete report attached.*

7. **Vice-Presidents' reports**

NSAA Vice President at Large [*Thor Fjell, given by Frank Potempa*] Discussed fund raising and membership. NSAA numbers are holding but need to continue to pursue new members. Most choruses perform at least once a month. Many members are very concerned about the cost of Sangerfests -- professional musicians, facilities, food, housing, and transportation. Acknowledged cost is pricing some singers out of Sangerfest attendance. [Complete report attached](#)

Wisconsin [*Jon Lewis*] Edvard Grieg Chorus

Mark Everson has retired after over 40 years as Director. Everyone wishes him the very best in retirement. Jonathan Schroerlucke has been hired as a new Director. With the addition of new members, the chorus now has 40 singers. The chorus has had many singing engagements, capped by a very well-attended appearance at the Stoughton Opera House during Syttende Mai. The chorus found new rehearsal space alternating between the Stoughton Opera House and Trinity Lutheran Church in Madison. Members are working on Sangerfest 2020 with the Grand Concert already scheduled in Overture Hall to be held June 18-20, 2020. [Complete report attached](#)

Iowa [*Bob Lillie*] Nordic Male and Luren Singing Society;

Combined membership of 101 in the two choruses. Nordic celebrated 125th anniversary in 2016 and Luren is celebrating 150th anniversary in 2018. Both choirs have performed many times and contributed over \$6000 to charities where concerts were held. A special highlight for Luren was a concert with Luren and the Luther College first-year men's chorus (Norsemen), plus young men's choruses from the Decorah High School and Middle School – 160 men from ages 12-92 all celebrating the joy of music together. [Complete report attached](#)

South Dakota [*Curt Hepner*] Grieg Male chorus, Minnehaha Mandskor, Norse Glee Club, and Sioux Valley Singers.

The three South Dakota choruses have been very busy since the last national Sangerfest. All three choruses continue to rehearse on Monday evenings, and all three perform regularly in a variety of venues averaging 12-15 events per year. The big concert for all the South Dakota Choruses and the Nordic Male Chorus in Sioux City, IA is the Sioux Valley Singers Association biannual concert. The Sioux Valley Singers includes the four choruses on the I-29 corridor and has about 80 singers. The SVSA biannual concert is performed in odd numbered years. [Complete report attached](#)

Illinois [*Frank Potempa*] Harmony in Rockford, Normennenes & Bjornson in Chicago.

All choruses miss former members/friends who have passed on or experiencing health issues. The choruses are making plans for important celebrations and helping local communities. Some choruses are challenged with expenses, but are finding ways to combine with other choruses. [Complete report attached](#)

Minnesota [*Norm Arlandson*] Norwegian Glee Club in Minneapolis

Arlandson reported it has been a tough winter; even animals are moving into Twin Cities. People are proud of the arts in Minnesota, and encourage others to consider visiting. They need new members and have found that the best way is to listen to people sing and find interested singers wherever you can.

8. **Corresponding Secretary's report** [*Don Berg*]

Focus of report is on medals, both on cost of medals and access to a jeweler. Have purchased medals to replenish medal supply. Number of diamond honorees increasing. Berg suggested "retiring medals" when moving to a new medal. NSAA has no gender policy, but accompanists/ directors are dues paying members. [Complete report attached](#)

9. Committee and Website reports [*Rich Leake*]

NSAA continues to be a non-dues paying member of Nordisk Sangerforbund. NSF recently went through a reorganization process and remains a valuable resource for individual members and choruses traveling to the Nordic countries.

NSAA website has been functioning since 2005, with peak activity occurring prior to Sangerfests. Since that time, most individual choruses have also set up and maintain their own website, and all are linked to the NSAA website. The top NSAA pages visited are the home/announcement page, the Sangerfest pages, older Sanger-Hilsen editions, and translations pages. Sanger-Hilsen issues are archived on the website from 2009 to the present, and we continue to receive numerous requests each year for older editions to be archived online. NSAA maintains two domain names [nsaaonline.com, nsaaonline.org] for ease in finding NSAA information.

10. Treasurer's report [*Francis Peterson*]

Francis Peterson distributed copies of treasurer's report. Fiscal year ends June 30. Peterson reviewed total balances and membership trends. The NSAA Treasurer maintains two accounts, the General account and the *Sanger-Hilsen* account, both of which are in sound financial position. The General account receives income from membership dues and 25% of Sangerfest net profits. The *Sanger-Hilsen* account just about breaks even after receiving income from subscriptions and holiday greetings/donations. NSAA operates with a checking account and also has laddered CDs. A full report is attached to the official minutes. Complete report attached.

11. Auditor's report [*Thor Fjell, Chair, given by Frank Potempa*]

Audit Committee [*Curt Hepner, Thor Fjell, and Frank Potempa*]: Potempa indicated that the committee found all records complete and accurate. Francis Peterson thanked for his exemplary service to NSAA. It was noted by Recording Secretary that updated incorporation papers were filed with South Dakota by Curt Hepner. Moved, seconded and passed to accept the Treasurer's report and Audit report. Complete report attached.

12. Sanger-Hilsen Editor's report [*Don Berg*]

Berg thanked Dennis Barnaal, who serves as technical assistant and co-editor, and the various correspondents for their reports. This is Berg's 14th report, covering 164 issues, and *Sanger-Hilsen* has added more pictures and color. Some of the challenges include postal returns, the need to continue updating Officers, rehearsal times and locations, as well as writing feature articles on new members. Number of subscriptions remains steady. Thanks to all who submit information. Complete report attached.

13. Review and determine the honoraria, membership dues, subscription rates, etc.

Moved and seconded that no changes be made to honoraria, dues, or subscription rates. Motion passed.

14. Unfinished business

a. Music Committee -- Change in Article XVIII

[At the October 22, 2016 Board meeting, it was moved and seconded to recommend the Proposed Change to Music Committee language be changed at the Sangerfest 2018 biennial Business Meeting. Motion passed.]

CHANGE IN THE BYLAWS of NSAA CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE XVIII currently reads

1. There shall be a music committee of five members, with the Director-in-Chief and the Associate Director-in-Chief as two of its members, and three chorus directors to be elected by the convention. This committee is to select appropriate music for the Grand Concerts at each Sangerfest, and ensure that competent artists are engaged. This committee shall be responsible for determining the order in which the musical selections are performed.

Proposed Change to read:

1. There shall be a music committee consisting of the Director-in-Chief, the Associate Director-in-Chief, and the directors of the NSAA choruses. Chaired by the Director-in-Chief, they will select appropriate music for the Sangerfest Grand Concerts, and ensure that competent artists are engaged. This committee shall be responsible for determining the order in which the musical selections are performed.

Motion to change the Bylaws was made, seconded, and passed.

b. Suggestions for future Sangerfests – submitted suggestions

- Better coordination with men's and women's schedules and more joint activities.
- Reduce costs/expenses of Sangerfest to encourage attendance.

The suggestions were noted by President Buhr. No discussion.

c. Appointment of Website administrator.

Suggestion made to include duties as part of *Sanger-Hilsen* editor position. It was noted that the website duplicates some of the functions of *Sanger-Hilsen*. The website is currently maintained by Rich and Penny Leake. After brief discussion, it was moved, seconded and passed to include Webmaster duties as part of the Recording Secretary position.

d. Review of Medals – cost (particularly diamond) and eligibility (pianist)

Discussion about the increasing cost of medals, particularly those with diamonds, and clarification that only one medal can be worn at a time. It was moved and seconded to recommend members return old medals to NSAA when receiving a new medal. Motion passed.

There was also discussion about eligibility requirements. It was acknowledged that if you are registered for Sangerfest, you are considered to have attended. If you are a paid member, male or female, you are eligible to receive medals and be included in memorial services.

15. New business

a. NSAA Presidential Citation

This citation was initiated in 2018 by President Buhr after consulting with officers of NSAA. A Presidential Citation was given to Mark Everson, long-time Director of Edvard Grieg Chorus, Madison. The PCNSA award and medallion were recognized. It was moved and seconded that the NSAA President, with the advice of NSAA Officers, may present a Presidential Citation to a member of NSAA who has demonstrated outstanding and sustained service. Motion passed.

b. NSAA-PCNSA joint efforts

PCNSA guests, Jon Malmin and Rick Larson informed NSAA members about upcoming Sangerfests in Poulsbo, WA [2018], Eugene, OR [2019], and Tacoma, WA [2020]. NSAA members are invited to participate, just as we have invited PCNSA members to participate in our Sangerfests.

c. 2022 Sangerfest

No invitations to host Sangerfest 2022 were submitted at this time.

16. Invitation for the next Sangerfest

Invitation extended by Paul Larson of the Edvard Grieg Chorus of Madison, WI, for Sangerfest 2020 (June 18-20, 2020). Larson gave a brief review of the plans and arrangements already underway.

17. Election of officers

Elected for the following Officer positions:

- President: Paul Larson, Edvard Grieg Chorus
- Vice President at Large: Thor Fjell, Normennenes Singing Society
- Recording Secretary: Rich Leake, Luren Singing Society
- Corresponding Secretary: Don Berg, Luren Singing Society
- Treasurer: Rich Bjorlo, Luren Singing Society
- Grand Marshal: Gary Hendrickson, Edvard Grieg Chorus
- Assistant Grand Marshal: Jim Slostad, Norwegian Glee Club
- Director-in-Chief: Dr. David E. Judisch, Luren Singing Society
- Associate Director-in-Chief: Jonathan Schroerlucke, Edvard Grieg Chorus
- Past President: Roger Buhr, Luren Singing Society

Elected for the following State Vice-President positions:

- WI: Jon Lewis, Edvard Grieg Chorus
- IA: Jim Glesne, Luren Singing Society
- SD: Curt Hepner, Grieg Male Chorus
- IL: Frank Potempa, Normennenes Singing Society
- MN: Norm Arlandson, Norwegian Glee Club

18. **Adjournment** at 11:40am by acclamation by President Buhr.

Respectfully submitted.

Richard Leake, Recording Secretary

[Note: *These are unofficial minutes and will be submitted to the Board for approval at their next meeting*]