

Minutes for NSAA Board Meeting

Date: July 31, 2020 10:00amCDT

Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

The meeting was called to order on Zoom at 10:00 a.m. by President Paul Larson

Roll-call showed the following members were present: Paul Larson, Rich Bjorlo, Jim Slostad, Dave Judisch, Roger Buhr, and Don Berg and Rich Leake joined by phone. Penny Leake joined to help take notes for minutes. Absent: Thor Fjell and Gary Hendrickson.

Minutes of the NSAA Board meetings on March 17 and March 24 (as published in March-April 2020 of *Sanger-Hilsen*) were approved as printed.

Report by Director-in-Chief Dave Judisch.

- In light of the current situation of Covid-19, he posed a question “What do we do now?”
- Dave reported on Luren activities this spring using Zoom meetings with members of Luren, listen to recordings of music that allowed members to “sing along” and to help keep people connected. He sees no option to resume normal practices for 2020.
- Changes in Bjornson Chorus needs to be discussed (see below).

Report by President Paul Larson.

- Disappointed that Sangerfest 2020 didn't happen. Good news was that force majeure clause reduced financial risk. Only about \$4000 costs were lost. Recommended that NSAA use the term “postpone” instead of “cancel” for easier transition to 2022.
- Grieg Chorus has agreed to host Sangerfest 2022. With downtown Madison experiencing lots of damage, including the Overture Center, they are considering holding Sangerfest 2022 at the Marriott Hotel in Middleton which would reduce expenses as well.
- The future of NSAA and future choruses must be discussed. With the aging of participants plus disbanding of Bjornson and Harmony Choruses, we need to ask the questions: How can we grow? How can we change? How can we make it easier to bring new choruses & people into the organization?

Report by Corresponding Secretary/*Sanger-Hilsen* Editor Don Berg

- Don announced that the next issue will be delayed. No information coming from choruses at this point except obituaries. Discussion focused on need to publish soon as a way to keep the choruses connected.
- Topics to be included in next issue: minutes of this meeting, change in correspondents from some choruses, changes in index of officers, obituaries, letter from Bjornson, and article about 1890's Sangerfest in Omaha. Don raised questions about Christmas issue, but decisions about that issue can be delayed until later this year.

Report by Treasurer Rich Bjorlo

- Rich reviewed the three pages of financial records submitted. Total NSAA assets are \$27,487.34. The 2020 summary report shows \$6600 income from *Sanger-Hilsen* plus dues of \$1300 and a transfer of \$132 from Veterans Chorus. Expenses for *Sanger-Hilsen* were \$8424.28 for a loss of \$1869.84. *Sanger-Hilsen* costs about \$1400 per issue, so perhaps need to consider dropping one summer issue.
- A letter and check from Bjornson Chorus for \$4000 was received by Don Berg upon the dissolution of Bjornson. Treasurer will deposit this check and hold it as a CD to wait for final resolution of this issue at the next Sangerfest biennial meeting.
- There is a continued decrease in membership and dues. No dues have been received by Normenenes to date for 2020. Rich B recommended no change in dues.

Report from Marshall Jim Slostad

- No actions without Sangerfest and biennial meeting.

Report from Rich and Penny Leake on NSAA website

- Cancellation of Sangerfest 2020 was posted. Will update upon receiving additional information.
- Rich L reported that both the *nsaaonline.org* and the *nsaaonline.com* names are being maintained (dropped the *nsaaonline.net* a couple of years ago). Clarified that we pay for the website and for each name registered to the site.

Unfinished business

- ***Motion made by Rich Bjorlo (based on prior discussion) to amend previous motion from March 17, 2019 from "Cancellation of Sangerfest 2020" to "Postponement of Sangerfest 2020." Motion seconded and passed (MSP).***

New business

- **Need for a Biennial meeting** -- After considerable discussion and checking the Bylaws, it was determined that without Sangerfest 2020, there is no required Biennial Meeting in 2020. ***Motion made to postpone Biennial meeting until Sangerfest in 2022. MSP.***
- **Audit for Treasurer** -- With no biennial meeting, the need for an audit was shifted to 2022. Treasurer agreed to have 2020 and 2021 reports available at that time and is willing to submit the reports to a committee earlier if requested.
- **Review of honoraria, membership dues & subscription rates**
 - Currently the Recording Secretary does not get any compensation for duties which now include maintaining the website. According to bylaws, only the Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer receive compensation for their duties. ***Motion made to compensate the recording secretary the same \$300 for his/her duties. MSP.*** A change in bylaws can be discussed at the next Biennial meeting, but will be paid at this time based on Board action.
 - Currently dues are \$5 per member. Discussion followed with agreement to leave dues and subscriptions (\$20) at the same level as last year.

- Discussion on future of Bjornson and Harmony Choruses. Letter received regarding Bjornson Chorus. Paul will follow up on Harmony Chorus. Don reminded that all chorus records should be sent to the Center for Western Studies. ***Motion to postpone action on Bjornson Chorus until next Biennial Meeting. MSP.***
- **Invitation for Sangerfest 2022** – no action needed at this time as Grieg Chorus has agreed to host Sangerfest 2022 following the postponement of Sangerfest 2020.
- **Officer vacancies** – Assistant Director-in-Chief Jonathan Schroerlucke has resigned for personal reasons. Bylaws state this position must be filled by an active singer, but previously directors have also held this position. Perhaps a change in the Bylaws is needed for clarification in the future. Usually the Assistant Director-in-Chief comes from the host chorus, but Grieg does not yet have a director. Grieg Chorus is approaching several people to take on the position of Grieg Chorus director and Assistant Director-in-Chief, but it was agreed to allow other choruses to submit names in order to fill the Assistant Director-in-Chief position prior to the end of the year. Send suggestions to Paul Larson or Dave Judisch.

Adjournment occurred at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Richard Leake, Recording Secretary