

MINUTES FOR NSAA BIENNIAL BUSINESS MEETING June 18, 2022

Meeting called to Order by President Paul Larson at 8:24am. Copies of the Agenda were made and distributed to those interested.

1. **Roll call of Officers by the Recording Secretary** [Rich Leake] -- Leake called for Motion to waive reading of the List of Officers present. Officers signed in on the Delegates Worksheet.
Moved, Seconded and Passed [MSP]
2. **Credentials' committee report** [James Slostad] -- Slostad reported 33 attendees from Delegates Worksheet including Officers and Directors.
3. **Action on the minutes of previous business meetings** [Paul Larson] -- Larson called for Motion to waive reading of previous Minutes and accept Minutes as previously printed in *Sanger-Hilsen* issues. Jan 6,2021 zoom [SH Jan-Apr 2021]; Feb 17,2021 zoom [SH Jan-Apr 2021]; July 8,2021 zoom [SH May-Aug 2021] **Moved, Seconded and Passed [MSP]**
4. **Action on applications of new choruses** [Paul Larson] -- Motion made by NSAA Board to Accept an Application for a new chorus: Chicago Norsemen. The NSAA Board recommended this action. [Minutes July 8,2021]. **Motion Seconded and Passed.**

Reports submitted in writing are attached to the official minutes. Summaries of reports are provided in these Minutes

5. **Director-in-Chief report** [Dave Judisch] The music directors of NSAA choruses met for lunch and renewed friendships. Discussion focused on activities that help improve chorus situations. Some discussion of NSAA history, new choruses in IL and MN, and future Sangerfests. Covid and age of members has taken a serious toll on membership for most choruses. Judisch commended chorus directors for preparing their choruses so well for the Grand Concert this year. He also commended individual choruses for their presentations, and ended by thanking Paul Larson and the many committees for their hard work leading to a great Sangerfest 2022.
6. **President's report** [Paul Larson] With Covid causing a postponement of Sangerfest 2020, many changes were made including a move to Middleton and the Marriott Madison West. The move to this single-venue facility also facilitated a change [reduction] in the Sangerfest 2022 schedule and an opportunity to coordinate with a Sons of Norway conference taking place at the same time. The number of choruses and membership remain challenges moving forward.

7. **Vice-Presidents' report and State VP reports** [Frank Potempa, et al.] Covid caused irreparable damage to some choruses including those in South Dakota, Illinois, and Minnesota. Traditional rehearsal spaces were no longer available, and opportunities to perform were greatly reduced. Fundraising events and social events have also needed changing. Some choruses have had to search for new directors. The loss of members and a global pandemic have certainly challenged us. And yet, it has been great to participate when able and we are grateful to health workers. We need to look forward -- that is part of our history.
8. **Corresponding Secretary's report** [Rolf Svanoë] Medals and other items were "inherited" from Don Berg. If you are no longer using an older medal, consider submitting it back to NSAA for "reuse". Thanks given to individual chorus Corresponding Secretaries for their stories and information submitted.
9. **Committee and Website reports** [Rich Leake] Thanks to the Center for Western Studies at Augustana University in Sioux Falls for continuing to archive NSAA documents. Leake also thanked Curt Hepner for filing our non-profit status documents with the State of South Dakota each year. The NSAA website [nsaaonline.org, nsaaonline.com] continues to attract digital visitors from around the world averaging 750-875 unique visitors per month, with some months peaking at near 2000. Google searches are most common (86%) and the most common pages visited are Sangerfest information, previous issues of *Sanger-Hilsen*, and translations of songs. Choruses are encouraged to send information for posting.
10. **Treasurer's report** [Rich Bjorlo] "The good news is we are solvent." The Statement of Revenues and Expenses shows a small loss in fiscal 2019 and 2020, and a small profit in 2021 and 2022. Seed money was provided to Sangerfest 2020/2022, and a few choruses have not submitted current dues. Cash balances in bank accounts and CD's remain healthy. NSAA received \$4000 from the Bjornson Male Chorus upon their dissolution to be used to help establish new choruses. The Treasurer also maintains the subscription list and financial records for *Sanger-Hilsen*. The current cost of each issue is about \$3.18 per subscription.
11. **Auditor's report** [Jim Glesne, Frank Potempa, Jon Lewis] Glesne reported that the Audit Committee had reviewed the financial statements from the previous 4 years and all looked in good shape. They did note a lack of internal controls due to only one person handling all incoming and outgoing transactions, as well as reconciling bank accounts and preparing financial reports. No recommendations to change the Treasurer's duties were made. All questions by Delegates were answered and the Audit report accepted.

12. ***Sanger-Hilsen* Editor's report** [Dennis Barnaal] Thanks was offered to all Corresponding Secretary's for their vital articles about chorus activities. Long-time editor Don Berg passed away shortly after the Nov-Dec 2020 issue and Barnaal became Acting Editor. Although Barnaal had worked with Berg for nearly 15 years, there have been some interesting learning experiences. Since Covid there have been far fewer chorus activities and Sangerfest 2020 was postponed, and the number of *Sanger-Hilsen* issues was reduced to about 3 per year instead of 6 issues. The recommendation is that *Sanger-Hilsen* produce 4 issues per year in the future. Loss of choruses in SD, IL, and MN will impact subscription numbers.
13. **Review and determine the honoraria, membership dues, subscription rates, etc. as specified in the by-laws** [Rich Bjorlo] Honoraria for Corresponding Secretary of \$300 and Treasurer of \$300, Dues of \$5/yr, and *Sanger-Hilsen* subscription rate of \$20 was recommended. [MSP]
Continuation of honoraria for Recording Secretary of \$300 recommended. [MSP]
14. **Unfinished Business** -- none identified from previous minutes
15. **New Business** -- [a] Veterans Chorus [Herb Nelson]: Discussion of Veterans Chorus. It will continue to exist, sing when asked, and continue to participate in Sangerfest events. Nelson recommended eliminating the formal organizational structure including officer positions. [MSP];
[b] *Sanger-Hilsen* [Barnaal,Bjorlo]: Discussed reducing the *Sanger-Hilsen* from 6 issues to 4 issues per year.[MSP] Also recommended continuing the compensation for the *Sanger-Hilsen* Editor at \$300/ issue [MSP]
16. **Invitation for the next Sangerfest** -- Luren offered to be the host chorus for the 2024 Sangerfest. Brief discussion and many thanks offered. [MSP]
17. **Election of NSAA Officers** [Paul Larson] -- Most current officers agreed to continue in their current office, and nominations for all positions were requested from the floor. Nominees presented for election:
President: Bill Fried
Vice President at Large: Frank Potempa
Recording Secretary: Richard Leake
Corresponding Secretary: Rolf Svanoe
Treasurer: Richard Bjorlo
Grand Marshall: Jim Svanoe
Assistant Grand Marshall: James Slostad
Director-in-Chief: David Judisch

Assistant Directors: Ed Kramer & Linda Svanoe

Past President [appointed]: Paul Larson

Motion to Elect All Nominees, Seconded and Passed.

NSAA STATE VICE-PRESIDENTS

Nominees Presented:

Illinois: Frank Potempa

Iowa: Jim Glesne

Minnesota: Herb Nelson

South Dakota: Curt Hepner

Wisconsin: Jon Lewis

Motion to Elect the slate of Nominees, Seconded and Passed

Announcements:

- a. Luren Singing Society is preparing for a singing tour to Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Estonia from June 15-28, 2023. An invitation for NSAA singers to join was extended. Other travelers are welcome. Contact Luren if interested.
- b. President Larson extended thanks to Past-President Buhr for his guidance, and also to Past-President Jon Lewis for his organizational skills and assistance for Sangerfest 2022.
- c. Incoming President Bill Fried expressed that he was looking forward to the next couple of years and announced that Art Roseland would be the Coordinator for Sangerfest 2024.
- d. With an abundance of gratitude, the Delegates/Officers/Directors all thanked Paul Larson for leading us as the NSAA President for the past 4 years!! Thanks, Paul!!

18. **Adjournment** [Paul Larson] President Larson called for a Motion to Adjourn at 9:37am.

Motion to Adjourn [MSP]