

MINUTES FOR NSAA BIENNIAL BUSINESS MEETING June 8, 2024

Meeting called to Order by President Bill Fried at 9:09 am. Copies of the Agenda were made and distributed to those interested.

1. **Roll call of Officers by the Recording Secretary** [John Jefferson for Rich Leake] -- Jefferson 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** President Fried determined that everyone present had signed in and that everything was in order.
3. **Action on the minutes of previous business meetings** [Bill Fried] -- Fried called for Motion to waive reading of previous Minutes and accept Minutes as previously printed in *Sanger-Hilsen* and/or posted on NSAA website. June 18,2022 [SH May-Aug 2022]; Sep 16,2023 zoom [nsaaonline.org]; Moved, Seconded and Passed [MSP]
4. **Action on applications of new choruses** [Bill Fried] -- No new applications have been received.

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] Dave pointed out that this Sangerfest has been trimmed down to two days from the three days which has been the norm for many years. While there is somewhat less time to spend with old friends and less time for rehearsal to prepare for the Grand Concert, this is a way to hold down costs and yet be able to include the essential parts of a traditional Sangerfest: A memorial service, a medals ceremony, a banquet, rehearsals, a luncheon for spouses, and a Grand Concert. And that while he indicated that he personally thinks the three-day Fest is great, he encouraged future host choruses to consider this two-day format as an option. He also mentioned the importance of recruiting new, younger members to our choruses since this remains an issue for most of our choirs and he encouraged persistence and a willingness to bring singers who do not come from Scandinavian roots to become members. Further, he mentioned that there are ways to acquire names and email addresses of former college choir participants for recruitment and that the emphasis here should be younger participants. Dave indicated that while there was not a formal meeting of chorus directors during this Sangerfest as they have done in the past, numerous informal conversations and email

messages have been the norm in preparing for the gathering this year here in Decorah. Dave commended the chorus directors for preparing their choruses so well for the Grand Concert this year and also congratulated the individual choruses for their presentations last evening at the banquet. He indicated that he thought all chose music appropriate for their group and presented it in a most professional manner. Finally he asked that a special thanks go to Art Roseland, Sangerfest chair, and the many committees who worked so very hard to bring success to another great Sangerfest this year!

6. **President's report** [Bill Fried] Bill mentioned the difficulties that the choirs have had in maintaining their numbers due to Covid as well as our aging memberships. He mentioned the opportunity to recruit new members and sing with the 2025 bicentennial of the beginning of Norwegian immigration . He also pointed out that he thought the performance we were treated to last evening by the Journeymen subgroup was wonderful. This group is indicative of the popularity of male choruses and should encourage us to think about how NSAA can play a role. Finally he thanked everyone for making his time as president very enjoyable.
7. **Vice-Presidents' report and State VP reports** [Frank Potempa, et al.] Frank mentioned how special it was to be here in Decorah, and that he appreciated the Lur instrument being featured in the program.
8. **Corresponding Secretary's report** [Rolf Svanoe] Rolf thanked everyone for their help with keeping track of the medals. He also shared some of the background on the extraordinary honor it was to be a part of giving Joseph Campion a four-diamond medal. Rolf mentioned that our supply of medals was in good shape for the next Sangerfest, although we might need to purchase additional silver medals in the near future.
9. **Committee and Website reports** [Rich Leake] John Jefferson read Rich's report, which included thanks to the Center for Western Studies at Augustana University in Sioux Falls for continuing to archive NSAA documents, thanks to Curt Hepner for filing our non-profit status documents with the State of South Dakota each year, and thanks to Penny Leake for managing the NSAA website. The report also mentioned that the NSAA website [nsaaonline.org, nsaaonline.com] continues to attract digital visitors from around the world averaging 1000+ visitors per month. The most common pages visited are Sangerfest information, previous issues of *Sanger-Hilsen*, and chorus information such as locations and officers. His report encouraged the choruses to send information for posting to keep the website current.

10. **Treasurer's report** [Rich Bjorlo] Rich reported that "The good news is we are solvent." Both the bank account statements and a letter of audit, signed by James Glesne and Frank Potempa, were submitted to the recording secretary. The Statement of Revenues and Expenses shows about \$2,300 in checking, \$1,000 in savings and \$40,000 in CDs. Some of the changes from last year reflect a sizable contribution from the hosts of the Sangerfest 2022 (\$8,000), money from the dissolution of the Bjornson Chorus (\$4,000), as well as some changes in revenue from the *Sanger-Hilsen* publication, which was discussed in detail (see below). Note that the Treasurer also maintains the subscription list and financial records for *Sanger-Hilsen*. The current cost of each issue is about \$4.80 per subscription.
11. **Auditor's report** [Jim Glesne, Frank Potempa] The Audit Committee report was received along with the financial statements from the previous 4 years and all looked in good shape. The audit committee did however, 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. When asked about this Rich reported that the current system was working fine and added that electronic copies of the financial report are available. 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** [Bill Fried led the discussion] Thanks were 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; Barnaal became Acting Editor and retired after the Apr-June 2023 issue. Thanks to Steve Hopkins and Stewart Storlie for producing the recent issue. The recommendation is that *Sanger-Hilsen* produce 4 issues per year in the future. Loss of choruses in SD, IL, and MN has impacted subscription numbers. In addition advertising revenue from the publication was reduced, as there was not a Christmas issue and the charges to the individual choruses were reduced. In addition, it was mentioned that some people have been having difficulties with delivery by the postal service.
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** -- No items for discussion identified from previous minutes

15. **New Business** -- [a] No items submitted requiring Bylaw changes; [b] Reduce NSAA mailing costs by using email. There was an extended discussion about moving to electronic delivery, but no action was taken at this time. [c] Frank Potempa led a discussion on the topic of participation by female singers. He pointed out that the picture from the Normenneses Singing Society included women and that there are a number of examples where male-only choruses have prospered in a number of ways by expanding their rosters. It was pointed out that from the perspective of a conductor, music for mixed choruses is very different. Reference was made to the Bylaws and it was pointed out that portions of that document would need to be changed if the group decided to pursue this. No action was taken at this time. [d] Doug Buitenbos from the Grieg Male Chorus in Canton, South Dakota raised an issue concerning whether the “agent” needed to live in South Dakota. It was pointed out that it was easier than reincorporating in another state, and Curt Hepner has offered to continue as Registered Agent for South Dakota. No action was taken at this time.
16. **Invitation for the next Sangerfest (2026)** -- There were two offers to be the host chorus for the 2026 Sangerfest. Joseph Grødahl from the Norwegian Glee Club [Minneapolis, MN] discussed how there was the possibility of involving the Norway House in Minneapolis as well as the Mindekirken church and other facilities on the “Norway Block ” and participation by The Edvard Grieg Society of Minnesota. In addition there would be the possibility of expanding participation to include the The Male Chorus of the American Swedish Institute of Minneapolis. It was pointed out that many of the details for these possibilities have not been formalized and that the Norwegian Glee Club was not completely ready to make this as a formal offer. In addition, Frank Potempa from Normenneses [Chicago, IL] offered to explore the possibility of hosting the next Sangerfest. At this point in the meeting President Fried made a motion that we give both choirs a 2-month window to prepare a proposal and that we make a decision about the 2026 host by Aug 1, 2024. The motion was seconded and passed..
17. **Election of NSAA Officers** [Bill Fried] -- 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: Joseph Grødahl
Vice President at Large: Frank Potempa
Recording Secretary: Rich Leake
Corresponding Secretary: Rolf Svano

Treasurer: Rich Bjorlo

Sanger-Hilsen Editor: Steve Hopkins & Stewart Storlie

Grand Marshall: Jim Svanoe

Assistant Grand Marshall: Carl Haakenstad

Director-in-Chief: David Judisch

Assistant Directors: Ed Kramer & Linda Svanoe

Past President [appointed]: Bill Fried

Motion to Elect All Nominees, Seconded and Passed.

NSAA STATE VICE-PRESIDENTS

Nominees Presented:

Illinois: Frank Potempa

Iowa: Jim Glesne

Minnesota: Robert Olson

South Dakota: Doug Buitenbos

Wisconsin: Greg Haugen

Motion to Elect the slate of Nominees, Seconded and Passed

Announcements:

With an abundance of gratitude, the Delegates/Officers/Directors all thanked Bill Fried for leading us as the NSAA President for the past 2 years!! Thanks, Bill!!

18. **Adjournment** [Bill Fried] President Fried called for a Motion to Adjourn at 10:28 am.
Motion to Adjourn [MSP]

Respectfully submitted by:

Rich Leake, NSAA Recording Secretary with assistance from John Jefferson, Luren Secretary