

State of the NASB 2016

Dear Singers:

Happy New Year to all!

As per the Bylaws of the NASB, I write this State of the NASB letter to you as an update relative to our Association's current well-being and plans for 2016.

Financial Status:

Paul Bockstege, our treasurer provided the following financial breakdown for the NASB Foundation and NASB Organization:

NASB Foundation

The current NASB Foundation Financial Balance as of December 31, 2015 is \$ 15,447.13 against \$18,366.39 in 2014.

We could really use someone to come forward and write grants to help us finance some of the programs we would like to get started.

This is a 501(c)3 corporation and donations are tax deductible.

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The last time a dues increase was suggested and approved was during the term of President Emeritus Elmer Menhart. The NASB Steering committee is evaluating the need of an annual dues increase.

NASB Treasurer Report 2015

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Wells Fargo account balance | \$33,345.95 |
| WBF Genoa City Retirement Fund | \$10,000.00 |
| The operating account balance | \$ 1,494.20 |
| Balance for all accounts | \$44,840.15 |

Membership Report

Lois Lynch, our outgoing Secretary of 20+ years, and keeper of the membership files, provided the following status of our membership and choral organizations by district:

Thank you Lois for your dedication and professional posture supporting the goals and objectives of the NASB through these years!

2013 - 2015 Membership Comparison

| District | 2013 | | 2014 | | 2015 | |
|---------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| | Choruses | Singers | Choruses | Singers | Choruses | Singers |
| Central | 14 | 321 | 14 | 339 | 13 | 321 |
| Chicago | 8 | 274 | 8 | 263 | 8 | 218 |
| Michigan | 3 | 127 | 3 | 130 | 3 | 126 |
| Pittsburgh | 6 | 424 | 6 | 140 | 5 | 119 |
| SOKI | 12 | 424 | 12 | 427 | 12 | 400 |
| Southern | 13 | 498 | 13 | 482 | 13 | 481 |
| St. Louis | 8 | 164 | 8 | 155 | 7 | 132 |
| Wisconsin | 8 | 241 | 8 | 233 | 7 | 216 |
| Independent | 2 | 35 | 2 | 29 | 2 | 24 |
| Totals | 74 | 2231 | 74 | 2198 | 70 | 2016 |

As can be seen, a number of the choral groups are having difficulty-maintaining singers. The Vorstand is hard at work making efforts to find methods to stimulate growth in the NASB and its membership. We believe, this, in part can be achieved through evaluation of choral activities currently being implemented and successfully practiced internationally. Here are a few suggestions, which have been proposed this past year:

1. Seminars for singers. These could be offered online in the form of Webex presentations.
2. Specific training for choral directors. Underwrite choral directors attendance at general director music seminars.
3. Introduction seminars on the Bezirk/choral level. Institute a traveling seminar offering for districts.
4. Conferences and seminars for choral directors. Set up Webex conferences for choral directors to discuss national opportunities and open ideas for furtherance of German American choral singing.
5. Developmental courses for adults working on youth choral groups, jazz, Sunday performing choral groups. Lean on knowledge of the Deutsche Chorverband to stimulate discussions and courses for youth vocal education.
6. Training for youth and their mentors. Hold training camps for vocal training of youth during summer months.
7. Training classes for choral Vorstandsmitglieder. Institute curriculum for board members of choral groups relative to funding, archiving, organizing, and general management.
8. Regional recognition for choral levels of performance
 - o Level one: Performing choral
 - o Level two: Concert choral
 - o Level three: Master choral in the NASB.
9. Conditions for recognition of achievement in various areas of singing: POP, JAZZ, and GOSPEL with the awarding of the LET'S SING medal in gold, silver and bronze along with recognition of the director.
10. Enhance singing of Volkslieder at concerts by awarding a plaque to best rendition by a district of a historic German song at the NASB Saengerfest.

11. Webhosting for members' choral groups.
12. Recognition of children's and youth choruses.
13. Recognition of persons with the NASB Achievement awards.
14. Awards Committee – Develop methods of recognizing singers, choral groups, directors and districts.

Archivist/Historian

Gary Luther will work closely with Marlena Voigt, our Archivist and Wolfgang Wangle, our Archivist Emeritus, in achieving the goal to preserve our files and documents this upcoming year.

Publications

We continue to expand on presenting our membership more information in an accelerated fashion.

The Website is being updated more frequently by our Webmaster, Geoff Kroening. Geoff has just retired and is committed to make the NASB Website a top go to place for information regarding the NASB and districts. The website is found at www.nasaengerbund.org.

The Facebook page is becoming more popular with members showing continuing increases in "Likes" each month.

Our fine Newsletter die Sangerzeitung has been so reliably published by Willi Banzhaf these past years. Alas, Willi has retired and is taking a well deserved respite from the publishing field. Ron Kabitzke, a professional printer and current editor of the national D.A.N.K. newsletter, has agreed to take on the task of publishing the Saengerzeitung. This is the first issue of the Sangerzeitung under Ron's editorship. Let Ron know of any items you might wish to have published in the publication. His email: lutheran@wi.rr.com.

Newsletter via email

This past year, we have had an NASB Steering Committee monthly conference call. The activities have been numerous and now the entire Vorstand is invited to attend the conference calls, which occur on the third Wednesday of the month. It was decided the information discussed during the conference falls is worthy of passing on to the membership. With December's conference call, we have begun emailing the salient discussion points to singers. An email address list was initiated from the address lists from past meetings, Sangerfests, etc. Currently 360 (15%) NASB members are on this email address list. If your choral group, or you as a member, would like to be on the email list, send your list or email address to: gary.luther@sbcglobal.net

NASB Calender

Many of our groups have websites, Facebook pages, and newsletters, which are used to let members know of upcoming events. These happenings are great events and often excellent fundraisers for the choral group. Our members travel throughout the country on vacations, visits to relatives, etc.

An NASB Calendar is a great tool for them to be aware of and partake in your events. We have agreed to post a calendar of NASB community events on our website to make members aware of the goings on though out our NASB. Please take a few minutes and send your calendar (even if it is tentative) to our VP, Peter Herdeg, who has agreed to collate the calendar for the NASB and provide it to members through our website. Peter's information:

Peter Herdeg
2 S. 474 Barclay Place,
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137-6912
swisszh10@aol.com

Sangerfest 2016

Nick Lipnichin and his Saengerfest Board continue preparing for a pleasurable fest. The committee has send all information regarding the Fest to all choral groups. An abbreviated copy of the 12-page document is enclosed with this Sangerzeitung. The information is also published on our website at nasaengerbund.org.

62. Nationales Sangerfest

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania U.S.A.

Thursday, May, 26 — Sunday, May 29, 2016

Nick Lipnichan, Fest President

Fest email: pghsaengerfest@gmail.com

Sangertag 2015

The Dayton Liederkranz-Turners put on a wonderful Sangertag. We had great interface and discussions relative to the NASB management, needs of choral groups, and future opportunities.

63. Sangerfest 2019

Remember the Saengerfest in Peoria? What a great city and great hosts they were. Well, Peoria, thanks to Mary Dempster, has again presented a bid on hosting a Saengerfest and the NASB delegates unanimously voted full support for the offer to host.

In conclusion, we are making every effort to make our NASB a friendly, worthwhile organization. We, the Vorstand, greatly appreciate any feedback so that we can provide the tools you need to keep your chorus vibrant and viable.

Wishing you and your Chor a successful, enjoyable 2016,

Mit besten Sangergrußen,



President