

September 29, 2008

Dear Tahoma Chapter Members,

I am very excited to begin my term as Chapter President. The summer has been eventful in both positive and disappointing ways. I began this summer with the National Convention in Nashville in June. It was a great experience to meet many prominent NATS members and hear great presentations and wonderful performances by Dawn Upshaw and the 2006 NATSAA winner.

Our chapter also had a significant setback this summer. We had planned a very exciting event with Richard Miller this fall which he unfortunately had to cancel due to health issues. I promise you that no one was more disappointed than the committee led by Darrell Born, Janis Thompson-McConnell, Nedra Gaskill and myself. The committee met numerous times and worked tremendously hard to organize another wonderful event.

Our fall event now features internationally renowned pedagogue and delightful speaker Marvin Keenze on Saturday, October 11th. Marvin last gave a workshop in this area in 2004 and those who attended then gave rave reviews about his masterclasses and lectures. He is very knowledgeable and entertaining. We have kept the costs very low on this workshop at just \$30 for pre-registered NATS members. If you have seen Marvin work before, you know that this is a huge bargain. I know that no one can replace Richard Miller but I hope you will seriously consider attending this exciting workshop and masterclass. Registration is still open for the workshop and will be accepted at the door.

The second event on our schedule is the Fall Recital on November 15th. Chapter Recitals are an important tradition in this chapter and I strongly encourage you to prepare your students to participate. Following the recital we will have a chapter meeting and a potluck social. So often our events are jam-packed with activity and this social will give us an opportunity to connect better socially. This event will be held at Highline Community College.

Spring time is Adjudication Time. Our Student Adjudications have grown substantially in recent years and it has become necessary to make this a two day event. However, to better accommodate our college students we are splitting the adjudications into two separate events. Our High School Adjudications will take place on January 24th at Highline Community College and will include both classical and musical theatre categories for high school students. The College and Adult Adjudications will take place on April 18th and will also include our Spring General Meeting, Spring Fling Recital and Awards Recital for winners of both Adjudications. There will also be some important changes in the rules so please read the packets carefully when they arrive this fall. As always, we will need our chapter members to make themselves available to adjudicate.

Among the other developments this summer is the creation of our chapter website by Kerstin O'Shields husband, Dennis O'Shields. You can now find all forms and chapter information at www.tahomanats.org. I am very excited to begin doing our adjudications registration online this year. I believe we are the first chapter in the nation to have online registration and this gives us an opportunity to provide a model for other chapters and NATS as a whole.

The elections last May added several new people to the board including Kerstin O'Shields, Sandra Glover and Jim Brown. Since that election, we have had two board positions vacated. First, the position held by Chris McKim who has moved to Colorado for other opportunities. New member Nancy Vancil has graciously accepted the appointment to fill this position. I was impressed by her enthusiasm when she adjudicated for us last spring and I am thrilled to have her on board. The second position opening is Nancy Bos's seat. Nancy was appointed as the District Governor and will continue to be involved with our chapter in this new capacity. Nancy's seat has not yet been filled and I would be happy to hear from anyone interested in serving as a board member.

As you can see, our chapter has a lot going on and many people working hard to make this an organization worth belonging to. I hope you will take advantage of the many opportunities to be involved, learn and continue growing professionally. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Erin Guinup
President, Tahoma Chapter
(253) 472-8013
guinupke@juno.com