

October 24, 2008

Dear Tahoma Chapter Members,

Our fall event with Marvin Keenze was a wonderful success and a tremendous learning experience. Thank you to all of you who were able to attend. The event was attended by 89 people, which exceeded our expectations and included attendees from Puget Sound, Cascade and Vancouver chapters. I'm sure all that attended gained some valuable new tools from Marvin's unique perspective. Darrell Born did a tremendous job organizing this event with the help of Janis Thompson-McConnell, Nedra Gaskill, Kerstin O'Shields and Jim Brown. Thank you for all of your hard work.

Our next 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. We have adjusted the schedule slightly and will begin the recital at 3pm at Highline Community College. 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.

Spring time is Adjudication Time. Our Student Adjudications will be significantly different this year. There are some new rules, a new online registration process and the event itself has been split into two 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. NATS members have an obligation to make themselves available to adjudicate at these events.

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. We will 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. Our goal is to ultimately become a paperless chapter which would save our chapter substantial sums on printing and postage.

We have had a number of new members join our chapter this fall and I hope they enjoy the collegiality and friendship I have found in this chapter. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Erin Guinup
President, Tahoma Chapter