

State of the NASB for 2017

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 2017.

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, 2016 is \$16,676 against \$15,447.13 in 2015.

Glenn Boberg, SOKII Bezirk agreed to join the Vorstand and write grants to help us finance some of the programs we would like to get started. The Foundation is a 501(c)3 corporation and donations are tax deductible.

NASB Treasurer Report 2016

| 2015 | 2016 |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Wells Fargo account balance | |
| \$33,345.95 | \$30,003.79 |
| WBF Genoa City Retirement Fund | |
| \$10,000.00 | \$10,000.00 |
| The operating account balance | |
| \$ 1,494.20 | \$ 3,769.05 |
| Balance for all accounts | |
| \$44,840.15 | \$43,772.75 |

Significant expenses for the past year were a result of Sängertag 2016. To date the Sängertag has not shown a profit. The expected 25% share of Sängertag was not realized.

The Sängertag publication and postage is the major expense of the NASB. The Board is attempting to reduce this expense by reducing the number of copies printed. The Zeitung is now available via email, on the www.nasaengerbund.org webpage, and via traditional US Postal Service. The Zeitung is also now accepting paid advertisements, of which there are currently three, to increase revenue.

Membership Report

Peter Herdeg, working together with Webmaster, Geoffrey Kroening, has updated the NASB membership roster and mailing list. We will report on the membership in the next Sängertag.

Archivist/Historian

Gary Luther continues to work closely with Marlena Voigt, our Archivist and Wolfgang Wengler, our Archivist Emeritus, in achieving the goal to preserve our files

and documents this upcoming year.

Publications

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

The Website continues to be updated more frequently by our Webmaster, Geoff Kroening. The website is found at www.nasaengerbund.org.

The Facebook is showing continued increases in "Likes" each month.

Our fine Newsletter die Sängertag is now published by Ron Kabitzke. Let Ron know of any items you might wish to have published in the publication. His email: lutheran@wi.rr.com.

Newsletter via email

The Board continues to meet monthly via a conference call. There is a newsletter published reflecting the activities discussed during the call. 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@sbcbglobal.net

NASB Calendar. We are attempting to keep you up to date with events occurring around the NASB. It is a difficult task, but we are showing progress. There are more and more events posted on our website and also in the Sängertag. Please contact Peter Herdeg with updates to your choral and district calendars.

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62. Sängertag 2016

Everyone agrees, Sängertag 2016 was a pleasurable event. Unfortunately, the Fest did not show a profit. A major factor for lack of a positive cash flow was the attendance. The cause of the lower attendance, we realized is that a significant number of singers cannot afford the cost of traveling the long distances and elevated rooming rates. A low attendance is a double edged sword. First, it places a per person cost significantly higher due to publishing, venue leasing and banquet costs. Secondly, the lower number of attendees reduced the number of rooms provided free of charge which thereby is ultimately a loss of revenue. The Board has taken this into consideration and is taking steps to alleviate these conditions in the future.

What your Board is evaluating to improve on the profitability of future Sängertag

while reducing the financial burden on singers, choruses and district.

- The number of active singers is dwindling. The NASB must find venues which fit our size. An example of this is the 2019 Sängertag which will be held in Peoria, IL. By moving to smaller convention cities, the room rates and banquet costs/person are reduced. The cost of the venue for concerts is considerably lower.

- Smaller cities have convention and visitor bureaus which readily lend assistance at preparing for the events.

- The NASB Board will search out future sites with travel distances close to the same as possible for all districts and choral groups.

Sängertag 2018

This Delegates Meeting will address the need to update our Constitution and Bylaws. During the next 16 months you will receive suggested changes to this document directed at improving the effectiveness and productivity of the administration of the NASB. If all goes as planned, the Delegates will be able to vote on the changes with knowledge and commitment to better this Association which we all cherish.

63. Sängertag 2019

Mary Dempster and Debbie Heddemann, Chair Persons of the Fest, sent the following update on our Sängertag 2019 in Peoria: – Just to let you know that the fest directors for the 2019 National Saengerfest will be Loesje Chandler, Glen Sorgatz and Russ Bolton (our director). They will work out the rotation. Mary has been in contact with Steve Lipnichan, Pittsburgh recently. Steve graciously offered to work on copyrights and retyping the music chosen by the Music Committee last year. He will be working closely with Loesje Chandler on getting it as close to perfect as possible! It is a work in progress and we very much appreciate the help everyone is giving us.

In conclusion, we continue to make 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 Chorus a successful, enjoyable 2017.

Mit besten Sängertaggrüßen,



President