



Spring 2014 News

Melissa Malde, *Regional Governor*

Regional Board

Ellie Seligmann, *Colorado/Wyoming Governor*, Kevin Hanrahan, *Nebraska Governor*, Amy Rosine, *Kansas Governor*, Ivalah Allen, *Auditions Chair*, Reginald Pittman, *Past Auditions Chair*, Deborah Baxter, Dorothy Crum, Jennifer Edwards, Charles Smith, Linda Starkey and Vernon Yenne, *Former Governors of the WC Region*,

Dear Members of the West Central Region, Happy spring! I hope this message finds you well as we start the home stretch in the spring semester. Following are a few informational items.

GOVERNOR ELECTIONS

You will shortly be receiving a ballot to vote for the next Governor of the West Central Region. The national administration is now requiring us to put two candidates forward for Governor, despite our longstanding tradition of having the Regional Auditions Chair accede to that position.

2014 WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE AND STUDENT AUDITIONS

Our 2014 West Central Regional Conference and Student Auditions will be held **the last full weekend in October (October 24 - 26)** at Metropolitan State University in Denver, Colorado. This is earlier than our usual slot because it was the only weekend Metro could host. We may need to start the auditions later on Friday and continue into Sunday morning. As you may recall, last spring we sent out a survey inviting members to comment on allowing flexibility in timing for the conference. Members who responded were overwhelmingly in favor of this. Ivalah Allen, our Auditions Chair, will keep you posted about the timing as details become available. For now, we ask you to plan ahead and be as flexible as possible.

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE CATEGORIES

We had 33 responses to the survey about adding Musical Theatre categories for High School students. When asked if we should add the category, 23 replied "yes", 7 replied "maybe" and only 3 replied "no". There were many helpful comments. Based on this response, we will ask the new Governor and Ivalah to work out a way to add this class and still keep the auditions manageable. We will very likely limit HS MT to seniors for at least the first year. This will allow us to test our system without it being overwhelmed and younger students can look forward to participating in MT when they are seniors.

WEBSITE

Some of you may have noticed that our website has recently been unavailable. Our web host has converted to a new platform and had to take our site offline for a week or two. That work is now done and our Web Master, Kevin Hanrahan, is working to reload all the information on the site.

NATIONAL STUDENT AUDITIONS

The notices just went out to those eligible to enter the National Student Auditions. We hope you will encourage your students to pursue this opportunity. As we announced at the conference, we have set aside a total of \$400 to divide among the students from our region who make it to the final round in Boston.

COMMENTS

As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions. I know there are lots of changes underway and that can be unsettling. Whether coming down from the national office or generated by the members of the WCR, we hope that all these changes will make NATS better fit the needs of its members.

Melissa Malde
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