



AGEORGIAA

NEWSLETTER

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Ann Jones, editor

July, 1977

PRESIDENT'S CORNER —

This is my final column as President of Georgia ACDA, and I trust that I may be forgiven for expressing some of my deep feelings about the organization, its function, and its relationship to the choral art in our state. There are things that were accomplished during the last three years, and there are shortcomings that must be acknowledged if ACDA is to ever be a force in improving the choral art in Georgia.

First, it must be recognized that this organization has increased in membership by approximately 30% in three years. This is significant. However, when numbers are considered it must be pointed out that membership is now in the vicinity of 90, up from approximately 50 in 1974. How insignificant 90 members seems when the number of people involved in choral music in this state is considered. ACDA has not, because of membership limitations (only one of the reasons) been able to exert much influence over our art. There have been many reasons or excuses given to me for not joining ACDA, and I think our membership needs to carefully consider them in light of the future of this organization in our state.

I have been told that the dues for ACDA were too high considering the other organizations that choral people must join and support. Certainly dues and cost of membership is a consideration, but ACDA dues are \$15 annually, or a LIFE MEMBERSHIP for \$200 payable in \$20 installments. That seems to me to be a small amount of money for membership in the only organization whose sole purpose is the promotion and development of the art that we proclaim to be our leading interest. Secondly, the CHORAL JOURNAL is probably the most informative journal published dealing with choral music.

This leads to the second point that I feel must be discussed. I have heard criticism from members and non-members that the Choral Journal is "college oriented", with very little of significance for public school and church musicians. Maybe this criticism is valid if these people are seeking a step-by-step guide to choral conducting. However, in reality the Choral Journal is only "choral music" oriented, and by careful study of the articles one's musicianship and understanding of the art can be so significantly improved that the quality of the choirs that he or she conducts will improve. I accept the fact that there are no step-by-step "pat" (cont.)

(continued from previous page) answers for the many trivial, but very real, problems of our day to day existence, but I know of no publication that does this. While the Choral Journal is not perfect, I submit to you that it is the one publication that the serious choral musician should not be without.

Frequently I have heard, especially at Music Education gatherings, that ACDA is "college oriented". I call your attention to those persons serving on the national standing committees. There are many from the public school and church areas. ACDA is a "Choral Music Organization". That is what is significant.

The 1978 Southern Division Convention will be held in Atlanta in March. The featured performance will be by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Chorus with Robert Shaw conducting. Make your plans now to attend. In addition you should have received tape instructions for performances at this convention. Please submit them to me as soon as possible.

In this issue you will find the nominations for the President-Elect and Vice-President for the next two years. All are excellent leaders. Please vote.

One final thought....ACDA exists because a group of dedicated choral people formed an organization to promote their art and to share their knowledge with each other. Every member has something to give. If the art is to continue to grow and be what it should be, all of us must give. The price may be high, but we get what we pay for.

Hampton Kicklighter

ELECTIONS

Please read the qualifications of the candidates carefully, vote, and return the enclosed ballot to Ada Weaver by July 11.

For President-Elect

James A. Bohart

James A. Bohart is Director of Music and Assistant Professor of Music at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta. He holds the B.S. in Ed. and the M.M. from Northern Illinois University and is active in MENC, GMEA, Phi Mu Alpha, and is a life member of ACDA. He has served on the Planning Committee for the North Central Division Convention and has been Georgia State Vice President for ACDA. Mr. Bohart has been active in church work for twelve years and is presently Minister of Music at Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church.

Robert H. Ellis

Robert H. Ellis is Choral Director at Briarcliff High School in Dekalb County. He holds the B.S. in Ed, from High Point College, North Carolina, and the M.A. from Appalachian State University. Mr. Ellis has served as GMEA Choral Chairman, Director of Choral Activities at Governor's Honors, and All-State Chorus Chairman. Mr. Ellis' choirs have performed frequently at MENC and ACDA conventions.