



2018 Woodwind Competition contestants pose for a group photo during the national convention at the Athenaeum Hotel at Chautauqua Institution, May 26, 2018

October News Update

Art is a nation's most precious heritage. For it is in our works of art that we reveal to ourselves and to others the inner vision which guides us as a nation. And where there is no vision, the people perish.

-Lyndon Johnson, on signing into existence the National Endowment on the Arts

Dear NSAL Members,

While I have not been in touch of late, please know that quite a lot has been happening. The executive board and I have been working diligently to bring about positive changes to our organization. We have been listening to your concerns and requests for greater communication and assistance from the national office and are working on a regular monthly schedule to keep you updated. Consider this the first step of many to come.

The Strategic Planning Committee has been outlining plans for addressing our organization's most urgent concerns, including more chapter support from the national office in the form of marketing materials, social media guidance and membership development. Together, we are creating a master plan for long and short-term corrections.

Chapter presidents should recently have received the updated membership directory that many of you have been looking for. We will be posting it on the Members Only page of the national website in order to make it available to all members, not just the board and chapter presidents. The password **NSAL12member** will get you into the Members Only page. Most of you have visited this page, but if you haven't, this is where you will also find links to Bylaws, Policies and Procedures and other key information about our organization.

The trend among most non-profits today is to deliver almost all news and updates via e-mail and social media blasts, preferring that to expensive printing and mailings. We hope to adopt this practice going forward. Sharing communications via e-mail will help us redirect funds used for printed materials and postage toward other efforts that will be helpful to our organization's future.

We have recently received exciting news from the 2018 national competition's first-place **oboist**, Ryan Roberts. After winning in the NSAL Woodwinds Competition in Chautauqua, N.Y., Ryan went on to spend his fourth summer at the Aspen Music Festival as an Oboe Fellow. Immediately following that, he flew to Granada, Spain, where he competed in the International Double Reeds Society 2018 Young Artist Competition. Ryan said, "It was such a thrilling conference with oboe players from every corner of the world and, whether by luck or by lots of hard work (probably a bit of both) I was awarded first prize at the competition. Right after my winner's recital in Spain, I flew to Miami to start my fellowship with the New World Symphony under the direction of Michael Tilson-Thomas."

Denna Shiben and Doni Lystra have been reaching out to our 2018 award winners and scholarship recipients for their career updates. We hope to have everyone's latest news in time for the November e-letter.

What do you think can help your chapter and all of NSAL? Please communicate your concerns, ideas, successes, and failures, so that we can all benefit from them and incorporate lessons learned from them. We want to hear from you.

I was drawn to the quote at the top of this page because it is in harmony with our founders' view that the arts are essential to a peaceful and civilized society. Ryan Roberts' news perfectly illuminates why we carry forward that sacred mission today, so that fine young artists can pursue their careers, their calling, and contribute to the good of society. We have a great responsibility to assure the longevity and health of this organization. We are taking that responsibility seriously. It's time for us to shepherd NSAL to the next level.

*Thank you for all you do for NSAL,
Margaret Johnson
National President*

