



# National Society of Arts and Letters

Supporting young talent in the performing, visual, and literary arts since 1944

## Call to Annual Meeting 2024

*The arts are so important not only to society but to ourselves as human beings. The arts keep us in touch with our own humanity. So access to the arts in any way, shape or form is vital.*

*-Audra McDonald*

### The Celebration Begins May 16

Twenty years ago this May, the National Society of Arts and Letters embraced musical theatre as one of its national competitions. We have been celebrating the successes of our national winners ever since.

On May 16th, we will gather in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, for the 2024 National Annual Meeting and Musical Theatre Competition, hosted by the Illinois Chapter. In addition to celebrating musical theatre, we will be celebrating the 80th anniversary of the National Society of Arts and Letters. Please join us as we honor not only outstanding young artists, but also the incredible people who founded our society in 1944 and those who have carried on their mission.

As we look back at musical theatre competitions, we can't help but be proud of our national winners.

- Megan Hilty, Pittsburgh Chapter, was the 2004 winner and she has gone on to have an outstanding career on Broadway and television.
- The 2012 winner, Allan K. Washington, VA/NC Chapter, has had supporting roles on Broadway in *SpongeBob Squarepants: the Broadway Musical* and the Tony-Award-winning revival, *Once on This Island*.
- John Clay III took first-place honors in 2016 representing the Pittsburgh Chapter. He has just finished a run of *Jelly's Last Jam* at New York City Center.
- In 2020 Nina Donville, Indiana Chapter, won first place. Shortly after she moved to New York, she was cast as a swing in *A Beautiful Noise: The Neil Diamond Musical*.



Mary Ann Osborne

We are happy to welcome a new chapter, the Central Iowa Chapter. It is always exciting to have new people with new ideas at the table.

NSAL is having a successful year, but there are some problems we need to address at the annual meeting and find ways to solve them.

The most pressing problem is our financial situation. Thanks to a robust stock market, we have plenty of money to support awards and scholarships. The area of concern is our operating expenses. The \$40 dues we receive each year from our members just does not cover the costs of managing our organization.

We have established the NSAL Centennial Fund, a Lifeline for the Future, aimed at bringing in funds to allow NSAL to support the work of young artists until its 100th anniversary in 2044—and beyond. Please be part of the solution and send a donation check for \$100 or more to NSAL National Treasurer, Ronald Ivey, 2801 New Mexico Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20007. Any donation is tax deductible.

I look forward to seeing you in Champaign-Urbana

Mary Ann Osborne  
National President



# National NSAL Annual Meeting

## Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

### May 16th-18th, 2024

Dear NSAL Membership,

We are thrilled to welcome you back to Champaign-Urbana on this 20th anniversary since hosting the 2004 National Musical Theatre Competition. As home to the world-renowned University of Illinois, our community has attracted scientists and senators, teachers and trades people, Grammy and Nobel Prize winners. The I-Hotel and Conference Center serves as the headquarters for this event, boasting over 700,000 square feet of conference center space and AAA Four-Diamond standard operations.



**Krannert Art Museum**

The Musical Theatre Competition will be held in the acclaimed Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, a 300,000-square-foot performing arts and academic facility, housing five indoor stages. We are especially delighted to offer you a private reception at the University of Illinois President's House following Friday's competition and grammy-award-winning entertainment from the Chip McNeill Quartet before Saturday's Annual Awards Banquet.

Transportation from I-Hotel and Conference Center to all scheduled events will be provided. Although we have many exciting plans for you, we hope you take some time to stroll around the tranquil Japanese Gardens at the Japan House or check out the Krannert Art Museum's collection of over 11,000 works of art.

We look forward to welcoming you to Champaign-Urbana and celebrating the inspiring young talent that this National Musical Theatre Competition is sure to bring this May!



**Japan House**

Sincerely,

Sarah Wigley, Illinois  
2024 Annual Meeting  
Host and Competition  
Chair





# National NSAL Annual Meeting

## Schedule of Events

I-Hotel and Conference Center

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

**Registration Deadline: April 10th**

**Hotel Registration Deadline: April 16th**

### Thursday, May 16th

10:00-a.m.- 1:00 p.m. Registration

1:00-5:00 p.m. General Session

1:00-5:00 p.m. Contestant Orientation

6:00-7:00 p.m. President's Reception

7:00 p.m. Dinner "Meet and Greet"

Technology Room

Technology Room

\*Tryon Festival Theatre, KCPA

Quad Room

Quad Room

\*Located in Krannert Center for the Performing Arts

### Friday, May 17th

7:00-8:30 a.m. Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Bus departs for KCPA

9:00 a.m. -1:15 p.m. Musical Theatre Competition

1:30- Load bus at KCPA for I-Hotel

2:00-3:30 p.m. Presidents' Luncheon

3:30-5:00 p.m. President's Meeting

5:30 p.m. Bus departs from I-Hotel

6:00-7:30 p.m. Reception (heavy appetizers)

7:30 p.m. Load bus for I-Hotel

Quad Room

I-Hotel Lobby

\*Tryon Festival Theatre, KCPA

\*KCPA

Quad Room

Quad Room

I-Hotel Lobby

University of Illinois President's House

University of Illinois President's House

### Saturday, May 18th

8:00-9:30 a.m. Breakfast

10:00-12:00 p.m. Masterclass

12:15 p.m. Bus Departs for U of I Campus

12:30-1:30 p.m. Lunch on Own

1:30-4:00 p.m. Krannert Center Tour/Spurlock Museum

6:00-7:00 p.m. Reception

7:00-10:00 p.m. Awards and President's Dinner

Chancellor Ballroom

Chancellor Ballroom

I-Hotel Lobby

Houlihans (I-Hotel) or Campus Eateries

Chancellor Ballroom

Chancellor Ballroom

### Sunday, May 19th

9:00 a.m. Meeting for Incoming Officers and Board Members

11:00 a.m. Check-out of I-Hotel





# National NSAL Annual Meeting

## Reservations and Registration

### Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

### May 16th-18th, 2024

## I-Hotel and Conference Center

1900 S 1st St, Champaign, IL 61820

Group Booking Link: <https://book.rguest.com/wbe/group/1907/stayatthei/auth>

**Block Code: NATSOCON24**

**Guest Password: zHJ4\$**

**Phone: #217-819-5000 (MUST mention the block code NATSOCON24)**

Room Rate= \$169.00 *NSAL Annual Meeting Rate expires April 16th, 2024*

All Annual Meeting and National Competition Registration payments will be completed through **Simpletix**:

**<https://www.simpletix.com/e/nsal-2024-national-musical-theatre-competi-tickets-159810>**

**Full registration is \$375.00**

Thank you for navigating this switch to online registration. *Please note that there is a processing fee, just as with Ticketmaster or any other online event ticketing system.*

## Transportation

There are many options for getting to Champaign-Urbana. Flights from Chicago, IL and Dallas-Fort Worth, TX fly into Champaign's Willard Airport (CMI) daily. You might opt to fly into Bloomington-Normal Airport (58 miles from CU), Indianapolis International Airport (125 miles from Champaign-Urbana), or St. Louis Lambert International Airport (180 miles from CU) with other options of Midway International Airport (140 miles from CU) or O'Hare International Airport (160 miles from CU). Parking at I-Hotel and Conference Center is free for all guests.



# National Society of Arts and Letters

Supporting young talent in the performing, visual, and literary arts since 1944

## Officers' Reports Due on April 22

To all NSAL National Officers, Board Members, and Chapter Presidents: Your annual report is due Monday, April 22nd, 2024. Please email your report to both: Recording Secretary: Edgar Farr Russell III, [edgar\\_f\\_russell\\_iii@hotmail.com](mailto:edgar_f_russell_iii@hotmail.com) and Historian: Sarah Moore, [seomoore@yahoo.com](mailto:seomoore@yahoo.com)

The Chapter President reports should take the following form:

Part I: What awards have you given and their amounts?

Part II: How many times has your chapter met this year?

Part III: How many members does your chapter have?

Part IV: Any information you have about your chapter's former winners.

## Election of Annual Meeting Delegates

All members in good standing are cordially invited to attend the National Annual Meeting, but will not be voting delegates until elected as such by their chapter membership. Delegate nominees must be active members in attendance at the 2024 Annual Meeting in Champaign-Urbana. Each chapter may elect one voting delegate for every 10 members, not to exceed five delegates, in addition to the Chapter President (or alternate), past National Presidents, and Chapter members serving on the National Board

## Recommendations for National Officers

On January 22nd, 2024, the nominating committee submitted the following recommendations for national officers for the 2024-2026 term to the executive committee. The slate will be voted on during the annual meeting in Champaign-Urbana.

### Members being nominated are:

- Twyla Martins, National President, Kentucky Chapter
- Gail Fisher, National First Vice-President, Greater Arizona Chapter
- Judy Martorelli, National Second Vice-President, New Jersey Chapter
- Marilyn (Mindy) Rossi-Stabler, National Secretary, Pittsburgh Chapter
- Ron Ivey, National Treasurer, Washington, DC Chapter

### Thanks to the nominating committee for their work. They are:

- Anne C. White, Chair, Arizona Chapter
- Sherry Henderson, Arkansas Chapter
- Norman Brown, Pittsburgh Chapter

## In Memoriam

Each chapter president is asked to send the names of their deceased members since May 2023 to our National Chaplain, Charles Altman, so those members can be recognized at the annual meeting. You can write or email Charles at Charles Altman, 3955 Bigelow Blvd., Apartment 617, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 or email him at [craltman@comcast.net](mailto:craltman@comcast.net).

Please send these names to Charles by May 1st.

## Insignia

The cost of the NSAL Pins is \$30 each and the cost of the NSAL Notecards is \$15 for a packet of 10 cards. Both the NSAL Pins and the NSAL Notecards will be available to purchase at the NSAL 2024 Annual Meeting and Musical Theatre Competition in Champaign-Urbana. To purchase at other times contact Sherry Henderson, NSAL Insignia Chair, at: [slhsinger@yahoo.com](mailto:slhsinger@yahoo.com) and she will respond with instructions on payment.