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## **NODA South East AGM**

**to be held via email on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April**

### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence
2. In memory of those members who have passed away since last year's AGM.
3. Report of the Annual General Meeting held on March 24<sup>th</sup> 2019 – see attached
4. Matters Arising
5. Councillor's Report
6. Membership Secretary's Report – see attached
7. Treasurer's Report - to follow
8. President's address by Mrs Christine Hunter Hughes
9. Re-Election of Regional Councillor – Kay Rowan - willing to continue
10. Election Regional Representatives 2020– 2021 – those willing to stand

District 1	Mark Hall resigned – Lance Milton standing for election	District 10	Mark Donalds
District 2	Brenda Gower	District 12	E. Gloria Smith
District 3	Anne Lawson	District 13	Marie Coltman
District 5	Gordon Harris	District 14	Chris Horton
District 6	Cheryl Marksford	District 16	Christine Blow
District 7	Doreen Grierson	District 17	Mark Allen
District 9	Jose Harrison	District 18	Pauline Surrey
		District 19	Graham Botterill

#### 11. Appointment of Officers 2020 – 2021

Hon Treasurer	Keith Smithers
Hon Secretary	Pauline Catterall
Hon Membership Secretary	John Barnes

#### 12. Appointment of Co-opted Members 2020 – 2021

Hon Editor	Gregory Gower
Hon Awards Secretary	Margaret Coltman & Mary Coyte
Hon Web Manager	Mark Donalds
Youth Advisor	Mike Mullen

13. Regional Conference 2021: Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – The Electric Theatre, Guildford

14. Any Other Business

### **National Operatic and Dramatic Association**

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**Minutes of the NODA SE AGM held, The Electric Theatre, Guildford, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2019.**

**Present:** as per registered list.

Regional Councillor, Mrs. Kay Rowan, welcomed members and friends to the meeting, and thanked the staff of The Electric Theatre for their hospitality and assistance, and Pauline Surrey (district rep.) for her local knowledge and help. She then introduced the President of the National Operatic & Dramatic Association – Mrs Jacquie Stedman, and the district representatives, as follows:

District 1	Dee Sharpe	District 12	Gloria Smith
District 2	Brenda Gower	District 13	Marie Coltman
District 3	Anne Lawson	District 14	Chris Horton
District 5	Gordon Harris	District 16	Christine Blow
District 6	Cheryl Mumford	District 17	Mark Allen
District 7	Doreen Grierson	District 18	Pauline Surrey
District 9	Jose Harrison	District 19	Jon Fox
District 10	Mark Donalds		

**1. Apologies for Absence:** Elizabeth Knight, David Bedford, Priscilla & Robert Blanchard, Leanne Hardy (Canterbury Operatic Society), Jade Powers (Broadway Players), Greg & Brenda Gower, Christie Hinchliffe (Lindley Players).

**2. In Memoriam:** The following long-standing members of societies in the SE Region have died this year. They were remembered with a minute’s silence.

Vi Fox, Jim Hatley, Betty Haslam, Reg Humby, Kay Lee-Wright, Bill Marshall, Janet Taylor, Ann Bray, Gwen Vant, Doug Goddard, Marilyn Cummings.

**3. Report of the Annual General Meeting.** Minutes of the meeting held at The Playhouse Theatre, Whitstable, on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2018 had been circulated and posted on the NODA website. These were not read out. [SEP]

**4. Matters Arising:** there were none and the Minutes were duly signed. [SEP]

**5. Councillor’s Report:**

May I begin by thanking all those who invited me to their productions in 2018. I had a delightful year visiting new societies as well as those I have visited before. The welcome you all extend is very much appreciated and I look forward to many more in the year to come.

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As well as visiting societies, chairing committee meetings, organising the judging for the Programme & Poster competition I have attended numerous Council meetings in Peterborough. I attended the National AGM in Wokingham at which Jacquie became president. During 2018 I continued with my role on the NODA Theatre Summer School Committee and thoroughly enjoyed my week as a “gofer”. Last year 24 students attended from the South East with 4 bursaries and to date we have 26 booked and 2 bursaries applied for. Jacquie will undoubtedly bring you further up to date with what is happening.

During 2018 I visited over 40 societies not only to see productions but also to present long service awards. I particularly like that part of my role, which enables me to congratulate and thank those who have given so much of their time and energy to their societies. The latest edition of NODA Today takes space to give credit to those who have received awards in 2018.

I have seen new shows both drama and musical, I enjoyed “The Masked Ball” in the same week as “Honk”, “The Revenge of Sherlock Holmes” was swiftly followed by “Daisy Pulls It Off”. “Whistle Down the Wind” was very popular together with “Priscilla Queen of the Desert”. Many societies paid tribute to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ending of the First World War either with productions such as “Accrington Pals” and “Oh What a Lovely War” or with tribute concerts and shows. The compilation show has become a very popular alternative to the traditional concert for making money in order to put on the more expensive shows. Such has been the number and particularly the quality of such shows we have introduced an award which will be presented today for the first time. Both the categories of New Shows and Compilations contained a long list of contenders.

I continue to try and reach as many members of your societies as well as your committees with my newsletters and NODA information of interest to everyone. Still I find people who don't know what NODA is and yet their society have been members for years. In this age of networking, NODA can prove an invaluable link for bringing likeminded people together and particularly for finding that elusive principal or MD.

During the year a Facebook page was set up for NODA Volunteers, that is those people who are on the Regional Committees. This has proved to be very useful for passing on information as well as sharing ideas and problems. Indeed, a Volunteer Conference was held in Warwick earlier this month, which was attended by 6 of your regional committee and was a great success. When I write a South East Newsletter it is intended for absolutely everyone involved in your societies so not only does it get sent to your NODA liaison, but it goes on the NODA South East Facebook page. Please share.

NODA Today our magazine has taken on a new style and more people are reading the whole thing rather than just their regional page. Hopefully the upbeat style and content will have something for everybody. Keep your articles and photos coming for the magazine without them we would have a blank page.

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At NODA head office we have a new Marketing & Publishing Executive, Rob Williams who is trying to get a more corporate approach to marketing and publishing within NODA. He has been very helpful in getting today's programme laid out and printed. Dale Freeman the Chief Operating Officer and his staff continue to support us all whether it is a problem with a show or the inability get round the hurdles on the website when trying to pay subs, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank him and his staff for their forbearance and good humour.

Your committee always work very hard and I would like to thank them, on your behalf, for all their efforts including their tremendous support for me.

Just before I finish if you can think of ideas for how NODA can add to or improve its services to you please do not hesitate to contact me. Finally, thank you to the societies and individuals who support and promote NODA in all its activities, and I wish everyone a very successful 2019.

This is my report and I offer it for adoption.

**6. Membership Secretary's Report:** A detailed analysis of membership had been circulated, with a total of 284 members. This is a slight drop from last year, but further renewals are expected in the next few months. Societies were reminded that society committee changes should be notified to NODA Head Office. Appreciation was expressed to John for once again efficiently maintaining our records.

**7. Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report had been circulated prior to the meeting and there were no questions. Keith was thanked for all his hard work, particularly with all the changes to the bank account and to the system of reporting. The Treasurer's Report was adopted.

**8. President's Address:** - I feel very honoured to attend your Conference and stand before you as the President of the National Operatic & Dramatic Association – a role I never envisaged taking on.

As a rep 19 years ago I never had any aspirations of being anything other than that, but when fate takes a hand it is really useless to try and fight it. I believe that Regional Reps are the lifeblood of this organisation – they work tirelessly and passionately, for the good of their societies, supporting their Councillor and working with other members of their Regional Committee. They are always available to offer advice and guidance, report on shows, find cast members when groups have been let down, and be the first point of call when there is any sort of query. I'm absolutely convinced that members have no idea how much is done on their behalf, for absolutely no money whatsoever. In fact, when I attended a chairman's dinner some years ago as a Councillor, someone remarked that we must get a very generous salary for the amount of hours that we put in. Once I had finished laughing and explained that the post was voluntary, the look on this person's face was a picture; even more recently than that someone remarked that they had only found out that very week that we all worked 'for the love of it'. It's quite something, don't you think, that a group of people with a common aim can take their work ethic and apply it to a 'hobby' with the same diligence as if they were still in paid employment. In fact, I would say that for 'diligence' read 'passion'.....because

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that’s what it is. We are all passionate about theatre – in all its guises and disciplines – and we want to share that passion with like-minded people. We want to instil that passion into groups who struggle through adversity, lack of talent, lack of money. That passion is what drives us to stand on a stage and strip bare our souls in the pursuit of a true character in a production, .....putting ourselves at the mercy of the Regional Rep and ‘the report’ and allowing ourselves to be both criticised and praised.

In the months since David and I took on our new roles – me as President and he as ‘Lord High Everything else’, we have encountered tremendous passion in all the productions we have seen, from the players on the stage to the set and costume designers. From the Director and his production team right through to the Front of House staff – they become one passionate unit, and for the duration of the show they are a family with each member supporting the other.

I couldn’t stand here and talk about passion without mentioning that I believe the most passion you will find within this Association is at Summer School.....where our strapline is ‘Passionate about Theatre’. The NODA Theatre Summer School epitomises everything that I have been saying. The committee, of which I am the Chairman, the tutors, the students – even the visitors that we welcome on Visitors’ Day – all share the same common goal – to be the very best we can in whatever our chosen discipline and to do it with passion, pure, real unbridled passion that allows each person to be themselves, without fear or favour, and to achieve what they never thought they would be capable of achieving.

When we all leave here later today let us, each, hold in our hearts and minds three thoughts.

I do not operate in isolation but as a member of a team; my role is to help, guide and encourage; with passion I will be the very best I can be in theatre..... and in life.

**9. Election of SE Councillor Kay Rowan** – proposed by Jacquie Stedman, under Rule 23 no other nominations having been received, Kay Rowan was duly elected to serve as Councillor for the South-East Region.

**10. Election of Representatives for 2019-2020** – proposed en bloc by Kay Rowan

District 1	Mrs Dee Sharpe	District 12	Mrs E. Gloria Smith
District 2	Mrs Brenda Gower	District 13	Miss Marie Coltman
District 3	Mrs Anne Lawson	District 14	Mrs Chris Horton
District 5	Mr Gordon Harris	District 16	Mrs Christine Blow
District 6	Miss Cheryl Mumford	District 17	Mr Mark Allen
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### 11. Appointment of Officers 2019-2020

The south-east committee wish to appoint the following members:

Hon Treasurer	Mr Keith Smithers
Hon Secretary	Mrs Pauline Catterall
Hon Membership Secretary	Mr John Barnes

### 12. Appointment of CO-opted Members 2019-2020 Officers 2019-2020

The south-east committee wish to co-opt the following members:

Hon Editor	Mr Gregory Gower
Hon Awards Secretary	Mrs Margaret Coltman
Hon Web Manager	Mr Mark Donalds
Youth Advisor & Media Guru	Mr Mike Mullen
Drama Advisor	Mrs Margaret Fields

**13. Regional Conference 2020** – Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2020. – venue to be notified. (The date had to be changed later due to unavailability of venue.)

**14. Any Other Business:** There was none.

Thanks were expressed to all who had contributed to making the day a success and to members for promoting and supporting NODA within their societies.

The meeting was followed by the presentation of Poster & Programme Awards, Accolades of Excellence and Regional Awards.

Signed:

Date:

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## **NODA South East Membership Secretary's Report for 2019**

At the end of the year our membership totalled 318 which broken down gives us 249 Societies, 51 Individual Members, 7 Joint Members, 9 Life Members and 2 Honorary Life Members. We had 9 new societies and 4 IMs join during the year.

Now that NODA has introduced a "rolling" membership year for new members, they benefit from a full 12 months membership from the date of their joining.

The process for membership renewal is that NODA Head Office issue a reminder form that societies need to complete and return, following which an invoice will be issued. Payment can be made on-line via BACS or by cheque.

It is important that when committees' change that they notify any change to their treasurer and/or NODA contact. This will ensure that newsletters, membership renewal etc reach the correct person.

**John W Barnes**  
**NODA SE Membership Secretary**

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