

Dear Life Members:

Happy New Year! I trust that everyone is doing well—happy, healthy and prosperous alike. For those of you who are not familiar with me, I am Paul-Martin Bender, president of the R. Nathaniel Dett Club of Music and Allied Arts from Chicago, IL. Thus, I am happy to inform you that I am the new Life Member Guild Chairperson, as of our last convention in New Orleans, Louisiana. Most recently, I was the National Nominating Chairperson.

I have been an active and dedicated member of NANM since 1987; a National Board and Life Member since 2009. I have served NANM in the following offices over the years: 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Recording Secretary and Program Coordinator for the Madame Mary Cardwell Dawson Branch—Pittsburgh, PA; Scholarship Chairperson, Recording Secretary and President of the Dett Club here in Chicago.

As the new Life Member Guild Chairperson, I am EXCITED to announce, and to solicit your humble assistance with our 2019 Centennial Scholarship Fundraising endeavor, which is to raise a total of **\$10,000.00** over the next year to support the *Marian Anderson Vocal Scholarship Award*. As many of you are- or may not be- aware, Marian Anderson was NANM's **first scholarship recipient in 1919**; however, NANM was not able to award Ms. Anderson's prize money at this convention, due to a shortage of funds, until 1923.

This is the manner in which we plan to raise this \$10,000.00; by asking 100 Life Members to donate \$100.00 each, which can be paid in one or two payments over the next 10 months. This \$100.00 gift is of course tax deductible, and will be officially acknowledged in letter form, and in our Convention Journal and historical records. Members will also be individually recognized at our annual Life Member Luncheon at this year's Las Vegas Convention, and at our Centennial Convention in 2019, in Chicago. **This fundraising appeal will officially begin on February 1, 2018.**

The Life Member Guild was established about 50 years ago for the sole purpose of raising money and supporting the National Scholarship Fund. The late Mrs. Florence Billups, wife of our Past President, Dr. Kenneth Billups, was the first Guild Chairperson. As such, all money raised by the guild is used **EXCLUSIVELY** for this purpose, nothing else! Therefore, it's most important that the guild continue to actively function in this capacity. With this stated, I/we need your support and cooperation! **Please find it in your hearts to help make this very worthy endeavor a reality—our young people are depending on us!!!!**

All checks are to me made payable to NANM, Inc. (Life Member Guild) and mailed to our National Executive Secretary, Ms. Dorothy J. Canady, NANM P.O. Box 188-Mattson, IL 60443. **Thanking you in advance for your generous gift, support and cooperation.**

Musically yours,

Paul-Martin Bender, Chairperson

Patricia Pates Eaton, Co-Chairperson

**Committee Members:**

Livingston Holloway-Brooklyn, NY

Charles S. Brown-New York, NY

Yvonne W. Huntley-Chicago, IL

John Massenburg- Raleigh, NC