President's Letter

VASTA has spent a very visionary Tenth year. In addition to publishing a list of future dreams, hopes and plans in VASTA Newsletter's last fall issue, we have done the following:

We have in print our first book of essays, THE VOCAL VISION, Views on Voice, published by Applause Books. We owe special thanks to Marian Hampton and Barbara Acker for editing this collection of 22 essays as well as to the authors for sharing their wisdom and thought.

We have produced our first joint conference with the Association of Theatre Movement which would never have been possible without the stellar work of our own Kate DeVore, assisted by our on-site person Dawn Arnold, and Colleen Kelly, the President of ATME. What an exciting time you created for us with wonderful presenters and lovely lakeside setting!

We had our first Board meeting in conjunction with a LORT Theatre, the Tyrone Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis, and have begun lines of communication which we hope will affect not only present theatre companies, but up and coming young actors and directors. We especially thank Ken Washington of the Guthrie Theatre for his arrangements and collaborative discussions.

We have gone on the web and the NEW website address is http://www.valpo.edu/ organization/vasta/home.html. You will be able to get on it by the time you read this. We owe special thanks to Eric Armstrong, who designed, developed and built our website and to both Windsor College and Valparaiso University for being willing to host it. We hope within the next several months to have all basic VASTA information on the website as well as the beginning of the VASTA Professional Index.

With this issue, we are losing several staff members. Susan Conover retires as Editor of the VASTA Newsletter. We are grateful for her graciousness and persistence in getting the Newsletter out in a timely manner. We deeply thank Bob Davis, who as VASTA Secretary brought us very far forward in the computer age and whose grace, wit and wisdom have eased long Board meetings. Thanks also goes to Richard Sullivan-Lee for his services as Membership Chair.

In the coming year, we can look forward to:

Our VASTA Board Retreat which takes place on the campus of Collin Community College in Dallas, Texas. The past and present Board members and officers will meet with a facilitator to examine our growth and plan our future especially in relation to the issues and proposals presented at the Tenth Year Anniversary Conference in New York City.

And our 1998 VASTA Conference which will be on the campus of Incarnate Word College, San Antonio, Texas - by invitation of our past VASTA Board member, ATHE President-Elect Donna Aronson. The team putting together the 1998 conference will again have Kate DeVore leading it and will include Kate Ufema and Sandra Shotwell.

The development of the VASTA Journal, we are pleased to announce, will be under the editorship of Rocco Dal Vera. There will be more information regarding the journal in upcoming Newsletter issues and, of course, you will each get a postcard asking you to "Pass the Hat" and donate to this VASTA adventure, as many of you were asked to do when VASTA was founded.

There is a new direction for our International Liaison Project, which Carol Pendergrast has so graciously developed and for whose work we are deeply grateful. Naomi Frankel and Marlene Johnson will be bringing us monthly reports via VASTAVOX on national and international conferences which VASTA members can attend, as well as dates and deadlines for making presentation proposals. Carol, as always, will know how to travel most inexpensively.

We are also pleased to announce that the Editorship of the VASTA Newsletter will be assumed by the Associate Editor, Sandra Shotwell and our new Associate Editor will be Craig Ferre, in Hawaii. In addition, Joan Melton has agreed to take the position of VASTA Secretary and Theresa Davis has honored us by accepting the VASTA Membership Chair.

To all the many members whose work seems to go unnoticed, special thanks. Without your support, the Board, the Officers, the Committee Chairs, the Newsletter staff could not accomplish what they do...and we know it. Talk to you on VASTAVOX!

Peace,
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