

Kansas City, MO Chapter  
of the Barbershop Harmony Society  
**Minutes for May 11, 2009 Board of Directors Meeting  
and July 8, 2009 Online Meeting (Addendum#1)**

Meeting Location: St Thomas Mores Church  
118<sup>th</sup> & Holmes, Kansas City, MO 64131  
Scheduled start time: 6:00PM

**Board Members:**

*Present:* Doug Brott, , Kent Miller, Carl Turlin, , David Miller, Vince Perry, Harvey Shapiro, , John Erwine, Rich Huyck, Brad Dawdy, Kent McClean, and Mike Schumacher

*Absent:* Chuck Ames, Tony Strub, and Bob Murphy

*Quorum present?* Yes

*Others Present:* none

**Proceedings:**

1. *Meeting called to order* at 6:04 p.m. by President, Doug Brott.

-The meeting agenda was reviewed and approved

2. *April 2009 meeting minutes* (attached) were reviewed and approved as submitted.

3. *Finance report (attached)* provided by Treasurer, Harvey Shapiro:

- As of 04/30/2009 the Operating/Social fund was \$16,685.35 & Restricted Fund was \$8850.32

-Shapiro reported that the \$4120.87 final expense for the spring show was paid by credit card and will not be posted until the month when the credit card bill is paid. The net profit for the show is \$7469.79 save any unforeseen bills or adjustments.

-The Chapter has received \$950 in response to the Annual Fundraiser letter. President Brott called the event a success even though the expenses were higher than the revenue. He indicated that this may be the case for the first few years of the program.

MOTION to accept financial report as submitted; seconded and passed.

4. Vice Presidents' Reports

A. *Marketing/Public Relations report* (attached) by Vice President, Brad Dawdy:

- Dawdy has contacted those in charge of upcoming events (Singing for Life & Harmony Festival) and publicity has begun for both with Stepping Stones quartet doing a TV spot for Singing for Life. In response to Dawdy's question about the purpose of the Festival, President Brott replied that it is to promote barbershopping in general, promote interchapter activities, and to promote membership. Guests and area youth have been invited to participate. Any money collected will go to Oak Park High School.

-Work has begun on the website as an initial meeting was held.

-Due to poor response by the membership, the media committee looks like it will not form but Dawdy plans to continue current efforts on media promotion.

B. *Operations report* provided by Vice President, David Miller:

- Miller reported one set of risers will not stand up straight. Mike Schumacher will call Wenger to see about getting a replacement.
- Arrangements for the transportation of needed risers for the St Joe joint rehearsal for the Harmony Festival have been completed.
- The system of locking the meeting hall doors at 7:30PM seems to be working fine as is the Buddy-System of locking up the church at the end of the night.

*C. Music & Performance report (attached) by Vice President Kent McClean:*

- Jim Henry and Cindy Hansen coaching sessions were very successful. Cindy will be asked to return on a Tuesday night sharing expenses with the Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines providing funds are available.
- The Music Librarian has resigned but will stay on until a replacement is found.
- The Music Committee will meet soon with possible agenda items of rehearsal lengths and chorus qualifications. President Brott indicated that the Board needs to make a decision as to the level of chorus HOA is striving to become and then back all efforts by the Music team in attaining such.
- McClea voiced the Music Committee's concern over the turnout (around fifty) for the all day Saturday Cindy Hansen coaching session. The Board agreed that this was because the event was not scheduled far enough in advance.

*D. Program report (attached) by Vice President Carl Turlin:*

- All five HOA quartets contesting in Springfield, MO International Prelims on April 24-25 were invited to sing at an HOA meeting prior to the contest. ListenUp!, Back in Business and Stepping Stones did perform.
- The InTune focus switched from the Golf Tournament to the Cindy Hansen coaching sessions, Singing For Life program and the Harmony Festival 2009.
- Singing For Life (HOA supporting the community blood center drive through song) is scheduled for May 16, 2009 with twenty-seven singers signed up. The chorus will sing from 9AM to 10AM with Jerry Garrard as the director.
- The venue of the 2010 Installation/Awards Banquet search has been narrowed to two: the Golden Ox and the Doubletree of Overland Park. A decision will be made in the next couple of weeks.
- A Back to School Barbershop Night (guest night for area youth) in August will soon be in the planning stages with John Erwine and Tony Strub.

*E. Membership report (attached) by Vice President John Erwine:*

- During the month of April there were seven guests.
- Membership is actively trying to contact visitors as far back as January 2007 as well as continued follow up with recent visitors with emphasis on men in the 20-40 age group.
- The Jim Henry Coaching/Guest Night with cookout sponsored by Stew Grosser yielded three guests and several inactive members.
- MOTION: Accept the membership application submitted by bass Max Fillmore pending Bass Section Leader Keith Schweer's recommendation; seconded and passed.

5. Old Business:

- A. Annual Four Person Scramble Golf Tournament* report was given by Executive Vice President Kent Miller:

- The event was very successful with 56 players participating. Preliminary results indicate the net income to the chorus will be around \$3200.
- The date for the 2010 Tournament will be announced in a couple of weeks.

B. *Foundations & Grants* report -Update presented by Executive VP Kent Miller:

- Received a reply letter dated May 1, 2009 from the Truman Foundation to our request for \$5000 to help fund a membership/advertising program to attract new members stating 'they are unable to provide support at this time.'
- Later this month Miller will open an endowment account through the Truman Foundation for the KC, Missouri Chapter of BHS, Inc under the performance name of The Heart of America Chorus using a \$500 donation from the Truman Foundation for the HOA Golf Tournament as seed money understanding that the Board will follow as soon as possible with a resolution as to the percentage of the account that may be used by the Chapter annually to sustain operations (recommended 5%)
- Miller has written a Harmonotes article explaining the differences between the HOA Foundation and the Endowment programs.
- The HOA Chorus Foundation of \$500 started by David Hokanson is presently not listed as a Chapter financial asset. Miller will discuss this with Dale Neuman.

C. *Annual Show* report by President Doug Brott:

- Brott had requested an Annual Show Final Report from the Show Chairman but has not received one to date.
- An itemized ticket accounting report was also requested from the Show Ticket Chairman who responded that he was unable to provide that information because he had turned over many of his records to the Yardley Hall Box Office. He also stated that the accounting provided by the Yardley Hall Box Office was correct to his knowledge.
- The Board agreed that in the future, no one will be approved to be a show ticket chairman unless he agrees to track all ticket sales with the computer software Wintix owned by the Chapter.

D. *Policy for Comp Tickets*: MOTION: Table this agenda item until next month; seconded and passed.

E. *New Rehearsal Site Search- Update* report by Operations Vice President David Miller:

- The committee will be visiting St Catherine's School at 105<sup>th</sup> Grandview Rd.
- Chuck Ames will contact St. Peter's (our present meeting place) and let them know about our financial problems and our need of a less expense meeting place and see if they are interested in renegotiating the terms of our contract.
- Carl Turlin will contact St. Thomas More's Church about the price and whether it would be for the new addition or the room presently used for Board meetings.

6. New Business:

A. *Budget*

- The Board agreed to work on revising the budget in an Executive Session during the month of May and make recommendations to the Board at the June 2009 Board Meeting.

B. *Recruiting Video* introduced by President Brott:

-All present who had seen the Homestead Harmonizers YouTube video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oru1Nnw4MQc>

agreed that HOA should pursue something similar to help the recruitment of new members.

-Finding a producer and director for the project are now in progress.

7. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

· Minutes submitted by Secretary, Vince Perry.

*-Executive Session followed to discuss Barbershopper of the Month & Extra Mile Award(s)*

*Addendum #1: Special Online Board Meeting* initiated by President Brott on 07/8/2009

MOTION-Forgo first year HOA Chapter dues for dual memberships and have music team move forward with contact of area chapters as per the plan provided in the letter (Attachment to Addendum#1) submitted by Section Leader/Assistant Director Mark Fortino; seconded and passed online 07/9/2009

*Attachment to Addendum#1*

Based on the e-mails I have received, these are the results of the question at hand:

Tony Strub officially submitted the motion as indicated below and was seconded by both Rich Huyck and Vince Perry. There were a total of 8 Yes votes with no dissensions (constituting a quorum). There were several questions raised that would not change anyone's vote that have been addressed in e-mails or we can address at the Board Meeting Monday.

Therefore, based on the above I declare the motion passed.

Mark, unless something happens that I am not aware of, you may proceed with your contact with Leavenworth.

Doug Brott  
President - HOA

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Doug Brott <cdbhdad@yahoo.com>  
**To:** HOA Board <hoabd@yahoogroups.com>  
**Cc:** Mark Fortino <markfortino@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 8, 2009 1:02:09 PM  
**Subject:** [hoabd] Fw: Leavenworth Invitation

Please read the e-mail below carefully. Mark had called and discussed this with me prior to rehearsal last night. I told him once the MT approved of this plan to send me the information and I would pass it on to the board. I am sending this to you to solicit comments as quickly as possible. The MT would like Board approval prior to next Monday so they can present to Leavenworth if approval is granted. These steps need to be accomplished in the next few days, if you are all in agreement to proceed this way:

1. On line discussion of the idea - I have included Mark as a cc so please use "Reply All" so that he will see your comments also. Please make sure you read the last sentence of Mark's e-mail about dues carefully. The board members need to understand what that means and the precedent it may set.

2. Bd members will need to move and second the proposal and then we will need to vote. At this time, I do not see any reason why this cannot take place on-line. However, if any of you have any objections, please definitely speak up and we can table until the Bd meeting. That would delay everything for MT presentation to Leavenworth by two weeks, but if that is the Bd members wishes, that is what we must follow.

Thank you for your attention. I look forward to seeing your comments.

Doug

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** "markfortino@ [aol.com](mailto:markfortino@aol.com)" <markfortino@ aol.com>

**To:** cdbhdad@yahoo. com

**Cc:** hoamt@yahoogroups. com

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 8, 2009 12:39:46 PM

**Subject:** Leavenworth Invitation

Doug,

This email is to confirm our phone conversation yesterday and provide you with something to forward to the HOA Board for approval.

It has been brought to our attention that the Harmony Festival generated a lot of excitement for barbershopping in our area, and many area barbershoppers found the opportunity to sing in a large chorus to be very exciting and rewarding.

HOA is in a rebuilding mode right now. Our focus has clearly changed under David's leadership to that of singing IN-Tune and achieving higher and higher levels of musicality and artistry. It is clear that not everyone wants to do this and so our active membership numbers have not grown and in fact are down. I heard last night of a member, that hasn't been very regular recently, say: "I'm tired of working on this detail stuff on couple of songs each week, I want to sing A LOT of songs when I come to practice. This is part of the rebuilding process. The good news is that I believe we have found out who our CORE group of guys are that really want to work hard and have a desire to strive for excellence. The bad news is, it's only about 50 maybe 55 guys.

Based on where we are at in our development, many of us on the music team do not believe it likely that we will win the District Championship with the 50 or 55 guys that we have. At the same time, as the musical leaders of the chapter, we believe we should do everything possible to give these 50 or 55 guys every opportunity to win the District and compete at the International level. In order to do that we need more guys who have the same desire and want.

As you know Jerry has been directing Leavenworth this past year and they are really pumped up about the same things that we are currently pumped up about in HOA. Singing IN-Tune, and performing at a high level. However, given their even smaller size, it's more difficult for them to have a chance to compete at the International level. They will not be competing this fall in Lincoln as a chapter.

Jerry believes there is a desire by many guys in the Leavenworth chapter to sing on the

International Stage. Jerry also believes that if we as a chapter were to open our arms and openly welcome them to come join us for this fall contest that as many as 15 guys of the 26 or so would probably do it. Many of those guys have sung with us before so it's really not all that new of a thought.

Jerry has suggested that IF the HOA Board is in agreement, he will talk to Mike Owen and ask him if we could make the invitation. If the HOA Board and Mike Owen and their Board agrees, Keith Schweer and myself have made plans to go to Leavenworth at 8:30pm next Monday night and make the following pitch:

- 1) HOA had a great time singing with all of you at the Barbershop Festival and would like to openly invite all of you to come join us to qualify for the International Contest next summer in Philadelphia.
- 2) As we found out at the Barbershop Festival we are much stronger together than we are apart. Apart, it is likely that none of us will have the lifetime opportunity of singing on the International Stage, but together many great things can be accomplished and our chances increase significantly.
- 3) With the Ambassadors of Harmony winning the Gold, combining forces not only increases the chances for qualification for Internationals as a wildcard, but it also opens the door for each of you to become District Champions.
- 4) We are not making this pitch to St. Joe or the other chorus's involved in the Festival for several reasons. 1st, St. Joe has just recently named a new director and it is not currently known if they intend to compete this fall. 2nd, time is of the essence. HOA only has 13 more rehearsals between now and the District Contest. 3rd, this is a very unique and unusual situation as your director, Jerry, is also a member of our musical leadership at HOA. Jerry has stated you have a show coming up in November. Our two contest numbers, Basin Street Blues, and Beautiful Dreamer would become part of your repertoire and show preparation. Jerry would work with your chorus teaching you all the same interp, stage presence etc that we at HOA are doing each week.
- 5) You are welcome to start coming to HOA rehearsals immediately but we would require or highly encourage you to come to the last 6 rehearsals which would be starting Tuesday, Sept 1st.
- 6) We want to make it clear, the identity of your chapter is critically important to the future of barbershop in your community just as HOA's is to its community. We want this district contest and opportunity to become District Champions and compete on the International stage be something that enhances BOTH the Leavenworth Chapter and the HOA Chapter. It is important that you understand this is not meant to tear down your chapter in any way but instead meant to help build it up and provide your membership with a chance to do something very exciting. We believe the same is true for HOA. We believe members that may not otherwise compete with us now, may come sing if they think there's a real chance to win the District Gold. It's a win win for everyone and a win win for Barbershop in our area. Teamwork is a very powerful thing!
- 7) This is nearly the exact model that happened in St. Louis 10 to 15 years ago. Today, similar to the Leavenworth chapter, the St. Louis #1, Florissant, and the Belleville chapters still maintain their own identity and serve their local communities. But the CORE group that built the International Championship chorus that we all adore came from all of the local chapters joining together, getting dual memberships and providing the MASS needed to attract even more members and create excitement for this hobby and put forth A-Level performances.

We don't know what we can achieve together. But the one thing that was quite evident from the Barbershop Festival is that we are MUCH stronger together than we are apart. Together we could really achieve some great things for barbershopping in this area. The Leavenworth chapter is uniquely positioned, because of its director to take advantage of this unique opportunity and we are simply extending an invitation.

Finally, the HOA Board has agreed to make a one time exception and waive the chapter dues portion of becoming a dual member to make this more possible for you. That means the dual membership would only cost you \$10 which is the administrative fee to get the dual membership.

Thanks much for giving us this opportunity to come visit you. Open for questions?

-----

Doug, that last sentence is what we really need the Board approval on. The music team met after the meeting last night and we all agreed this was worthy of pursuit. I look forward to your prompt approval as we need to move quickly due to the calendar.

Thanks much!  
Mark