

**Kansas City, MO Chapter  
of the Barbershop Harmony Society  
Minutes for January 13, 2014 Board of Directors Meeting  
Meeting Location: St Thomas More Catholic Church, 118<sup>th</sup> & Holmes, Kansas City, MO  
Scheduled start time: 6:00PM**

**Board Members:**

*Present:* John Erwine, Mike Schumacher, Jim Porter, Marlin Weidler, Kent Miller, Vince Perry, Jerry Meier, Barry Sanders, Denny Briley, Harvey Shapiro

*Absent:* Ray Young

*Quorum present?* Yes

*Others Present:* None

**Proceedings:**

1. *Meeting called to order* at 6:07 p.m. by President John Erwine
  - The meeting agenda was reviewed and approved.
  
2. *November 2013 meeting minutes* by Secretary, Rich Huyck.
  - Minutes were reviewed and approved as submitted. There was no board meeting during the month of December. Barry Sanders moved to accept and Kent Miller Second.
  
3. *December 2013 Finance report* by Treasurer, Jim Porter.
  - Marlin Weidler signed as signatory at the Bank
  - Several items did from 2013 did not get paid until 2014
  - Installation Banquet Cost was discussed.
  - Endowment Fund from Don Peck discussed.
  - Unrestricted Funds: \$18,435.54 Restricted Funds: \$1,074.71
  - Vince brought to the table a round of Kudos for all the work Jim did financially for the New York trip in December.
  - Moved by Mike Schumacher to approve and Second by Kent Miller – Motion passed
  
4. Vice Presidents' Reports
  - A. *Marketing/Public Relations report (attached)* by Marketing V.P. Ray Young:
    - No Report.
  - B. *Operations report* by Vice President Mike Schumacher:
    - No Report.
    - Electric Trailer Hitch from Jeff Wolf was discussed
    - Mike also wants to find out from the entire chorus who has what.
  - C. *Music & Performance report* by Music & Performance V.P. Carter Combs
    - Planning Calendar 2014 handed out and discussed
    - Potential new contest set: New York Medley, and Auld Lang Syne
    - Get our pre-rehearsal vocal coaching going (approved last year, but just too busy to implement)
    - Theresa Weatherby to work on staging March 4<sup>th</sup>
    - Invite CS to perform w/ HOA (Circle of Life, Joshua, etc.) on spring show?
    - When is Concert in the Park?

- New CD?!?
- Performance at Kaufmann?
- Continuing Ed / development of our musical leadership.
- New charts & earlier planning for the HHS. Also perhaps a new location?
- Possible VLQ to perform more challenging and/or non-barbershop charts?
- New music for the holiday show.
- VLQ for more challenging charts
- No plan on Vegas so possible new CD was discussed-25,000 to do a CD
- Vince moved to accept music team plan and Harvey second and motion passed

*D. Program report by Vice President:*

- No Report

*E. Membership report by Vice President Jerry Meier:*

- 130 Members – 5 or so members not paid – 16 new 2013 and goal for 2014 is 20 new members. Issue is time factor and expense of dues.
- Installation Banquet – 64 members present – price of banquet was a factor – lower cost would be to give up private room. High School is another option and have students serve. Discussion on possible other locations.
- NEKMEA –
- BHS grant 1500.00 provided for Harmony Explosion (scalable depending on the number of kids attending.) photo of all kids on stage – sexual molestation training online before the date of event. Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>

5. Old Business:

A. Carnegie Follow Up

- Ray asked about posters that contributed receive a \$20 poster

B. Annual Banquet Follow Up

- Nothing

C. Holiday Show

- Barry discussed holiday show and attendance and dollars down – possible changes in the holiday show – venue, format, etc.

D. Casual Uniform

- Oly needs more guidance into what we are after. The bowling shirt concept may not be workable. 28 -35 dollar range. Discussion centered on styles and possible action. Possibly get a couple of shirts to look at.

E. Program VP search.

- Carl Turlin on sabbatical. Discussion centered on how to get a volunteer for this position. John will get with the nominating committee to see who showed interest.

F. Singing Valentines/Sunshine/Group Sales/Attendance/Grapevine/Chapter Historian

- Singing Valentines planned for 14<sup>th</sup> only. Barry will be organizing the quartets. Discussion on how what other options may be available for Singing Valentines

G. Singing Events in 2014 to promote Membership: organizations, communities & chapters

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H. De/Re-Qualification for Performing Chorus Guidelines

- Discussion on guidelines. Vince presented a draft on removing a member from the performing chorus. Discussed why certain members were asked to step down. There was continued discussion but no action taken. The guidelines will be taken back to the music team for them to act on.

6. New Business:

A. Spring Show

- Contract signed – on JCCC website – change in pricing of tickets. No \$45 tickets. 3 show chairmen. Tony O'Brien, Carl Turlin, Kent Miller
- \$5 discount for any organization or corporations. Also going to Retirement Centers and promoting – promotion for drawing of mini ipad and selling of tickets for chapter member that sells the ticket for free dues – by Feb 28<sup>th</sup>.

B. Leadership Academy – Feb 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>

- John requested to let him know if attending.

C. Paul Ellinger Membership seminar: similar function to promote Membership

- Jerry approached John concerning splitting the chorus - \$500 plus expenses.

D. Mid Chorus support for Mid Winter

- Discussed chapter assistance. Members of our chorus not invited. Pitch Forks should contact us before we act.

E. Director Contracts

- Same as last year except for Harmony U – which is in Nashville.
- Tuition \$640 for member
- John will make changes to the contracts and get them signed by Mark and Jerry.

F. Annual Resolutions

- Signatories – Chapter
- Vince moved to approve and Kent Second and all vote passed

G. Jerry wanted to make sure that the Membership VP was listed.

- Jerry listed on the BHS database. Marlin will make sure and list Jerry in the letter.

7. Carter moved to dismiss the meeting and Denny second – Approved

- Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Minutes submitted by Secretary, Marlin Weidler

**Membership Vice President Jerry Meier presented this document regarding Performing Chorus Membership for board consideration.**

## ***Chorus Qualification Guidelines (Revised Nov xx, 2013)***

The Heart of America Chorus has an audition process comprised of two levels: Chapter Membership and

Performing Chorus.

### **Chapter Membership (for chorus performances with other groups such as a festival chorus)**

1. Attend and participate in a minimum of three (3) consecutive rehearsals.
2. Complete a live audition for the Music Team by singing the Tenor, Lead, Baritone, or Bass part of the song, "The Story of the Rose (Heart of My Heart)" in a quartet.
3. Receive approval from the Music Team (simple majority).

The song must be memorized, and all of the words and notes must be sung correctly, with good intonation, and in a tone quality that will blend with the chorus. Sheet music and learning media will be provided upon request.

A singer will be given three (3) months and three (3) attempts to pass the initial qualification. If a new member is unable to pass the initial audition after three (3) months or three (3) tries, the Music Team may

suggest other possibilities for further learning and singing.

### **Performing Chorus (for stand-alone performances of the chorus)**

1. Pass the initial Chapter Membership (live quartet) audition.
2. Record yourself singing your part with the chorus on the "Contest Set" songs, or songs specified by your Section Leader. Review the recording(s) to check for wrong words / wrong notes / wrong rhythms, etc. The recording should be word and note perfect, and sung with a tone quality that blends with the chorus before it is turned in to a Section Leader for approval.
3. Learn and perform the choreography to the songs in the chorus repertoire.
4. Receive Approval from the Music Team (simple majority).

There is a strong visual component required when performing barbershop music that goes along with the

singing component. A barbershop singer will visibly portray the "story" and the "emotion" of the song while performing the song. The visual component communicates the emotional content of the songs and engages the audience during each performance. The entertainment value is enhanced when a performance includes the believable visual involvement of the singer. A barbershop singer simply cannot

stand like a statue and sing without showing any form of emotion during a performance.

Barbershop choreography education is provided throughout the year – usually before rehearsal and also

during rehearsal – to teach the hand and head movements, and the face and body movements that enhance the overall chorus performance.

A singer will be given three (3) months and three (3) attempts to qualify for the Performing Chorus.

Approval comes from the Section Leaders (vocal performance), the Presentation Team (visual

performance), and the Music Team (chorus performance). A member is part of the Performing Chorus for

as long as they keep up with the chorus repertoire – singing and presentation. Each Performing Chorus Member is on the honor system to self-police his own performance, and is expected to remove himself from a performance when necessary – does not know all the words / notes / rhythms / moves, etc. Performing Chorus Members are expected to attend rehearsals on a regular basis to maintain the chorus

performance levels on the entire chorus repertoire. Minimum attendance requirements are 65% for the Performing Chorus and 75% for members of the Front Row.

The Music Team has the overall responsibility to determine if and when a member of the Performing Chorus will be asked to re-qualify. Section Leaders and members of the Music Team and Presentation Team will monitor chorus performance during rehearsal to ensure that every member of the Performing Chorus knows all words / notes / rhythms / moves, etc. Individuals may be removed from the Performing Chorus if they are unable to perform all the words / notes / rhythms / moves, etc. repeatedly on the risers.

These members will be given three (3) months and three (3) attempts to re-qualify for the Performing Chorus.

### **Performing Chorus Re-Qualification Process**

1. Vocal Re-Qualification – record yourself singing your part with the chorus on a song specified by your Section Leader. Visual Re-Qualification – perform on the risers with the Performing Chorus and be video recorded by the Music Team for evaluation. Review the recording of your vocal and/or visual performance; complete a self-assessment. Turn in your self-assessment (and your vocal recording) to the Music Team for evaluation.

2. At least two (2) Section Leaders (for Vocal) or Music Team Members (for Visual) complete an assessment of the vocal and/or visual performance. Simple majority required for approval.

### **Music Team Assessment / Individual Self-Assessment – VOCAL**

Poor Evident Good Excellent Score

Correct Notes 2 4 6 8 \_\_\_\_\_

Words/Rhythm 2 4 6 8 \_\_\_\_\_

Maintain Pitch 2 4 6 8 \_\_\_\_\_

Tone Placement 2 4 6 8 \_\_\_\_\_

Blend/Vowels 2 4 6 8 \_\_\_\_\_

A score above 23 is required to remain active in the Performing Chorus. Score = \_\_\_\_\_

### **Music Team Assessment / Individual Self-Assessment – VISUAL**

Poor Evident Good Excellent Score

Stance/Posture 2 4 6 8 \_\_\_\_\_

Head/Face 2 4 6 8 \_\_\_\_\_

Emotional Range 2 4 6 8 \_\_\_\_\_

Staging Moves 2 4 6 8 \_\_\_\_\_

Body Involvement 2 4 6 8 \_\_\_\_\_

A score above 23 is required to remain active in the Performing Chorus. Score = \_\_\_\_\_

### **Treasurer Jim Porter Presented this document regarding Performing Chorus Membership for board consideration.**

The manual of rules and regulations published by the Society contains a section entitled "Standard Chapter Bylaws", within which there is a description of conditions and procedures for suspending or expelling a member for cause. This paragraph is part of that description.

A member may be suspended or expelled only for such acts or omissions as shall constitute conduct unbecoming a member or conduct detrimental to the best interests of the Society in the fulfillment of its objects and purposes, or for willful violation of the Code of Ethics of the Society or of its rules, regulations or statements of policy promulgated by the Society Board. Nonattendance at chapter meetings shall not be considered such conduct for the purpose of suspension or expulsion, but may, at the discretion of the chapter board of directors, be considered reasonable cause for refusing to accept renewal dues tendered by the member, as permitted under Section 3.03 above.

(Note: Section 3.03 addresses conditions and procedures for accepting new members, also for former members seeking to apply for reinstatement as members.)

Points to be made as pertains the Heart of America chapter:

1. Our weekly meetings are for the performing chorus members only. Those who are not part of the performing chorus have no part, there is no reason for them to attend the meetings as there is nothing for them. Such members are in effect expelled from the chapter, and this is shown by the fact that few of these members attend the meetings, and they come only occasionally.
2. Nothing is stated in the by-laws to support the suspension or expulsion of a member for failure to maintain a level of performance acceptable to a music team. Only the board of directors has the authority to suspend or expel a member. (Following sentences make this clear.)
3. Nonattendance at meetings may be used as a reason not to accept the annual dues renewal from a member, but NOT as a reason to suspend or expel a member.

It should also be noted that a chapter is free to define for itself qualifying standards for prospective new members, and by implication, to impose qualifying standards for participation in particular chapter events such as a competition. A member failing to meet the standards for a particular event may be denied participation in that event, that does not constitute a suspension so long as the member is allowed to continue his normal association with the chapter after the event.

With the above in mind, the following two pages is presented as an alternative to the document Jerry Meier has offered to define qualification standards for the performing chorus. Significant differences:

1. A member may be removed from the performing chorus, but only for gross negligence of his responsibility to prepare for chorus performances over an extended period of time, and only if the music team obtains consent from the Board of Directors for that action.
2. The Board of Directors may designate a particular event (such as a competition) as a special event that requires members pass a qualification process before they are allowed to participate in that event. The qualification process must apply to EVERYONE participating in the event. A member that fails the qualification process may be denied a place on the risers for that event, but he is NOT removed from the Performing Chorus.

## Chorus Qualification Guidelines (Revised Nov. xx, 2013)

A prospective new member of the Heart of America Chorus is qualified for membership by an audition process, as follows:

1. Attend and participate in a minimum of three (3) consecutive rehearsals.
2. Complete a live audition for the Music Team by singing the Tenor, Lead, Baritone or Bass part of the song "The Story of the Rose (Heart of My Heart) in a quartet.
3. Receive approval from the Music Team (simple majority).
4. Complete the application process, including initial payment of dues.

The song (step 2) must be memorized, and all the words and notes be sung correctly, with good intonation, and in a tone quality that will blend with the chorus. Sheet music and learning media will be provided upon request. The prospect should own and know how to use a hand-held .MP3 device for recording his voice while singing with the chorus.

A singer will be given three (3) months and three (3) attempts to pass the initial qualification. If the prospective member is unable to pass the initial audition after three (3) month or three (3) tries, the Music Team may suggest other possibilities for further learning and singing.

Once this process is completed, the applicant is accepted as part of the Heart of America chorus, and it becomes his responsibility to learn the songs in the current chorus repertoire as quickly as possible in order to be able to perform these songs with the chorus from memory, demonstrating accuracy in words, notes, and visual actions. The applicant is not permitted to appear with the chorus in any public presentations until he has demonstrated that he is able to perform with the chorus at a level of proficiency acceptable to the Music Team. Once he has obtained the approval of the Music Team, the member is admitted to the Performing Chorus. While the applicant is preparing himself for approval, he is permitted to be with the chorus on the risers during the weekly rehearsals.

When the applicant believes he is ready to perform with the chorus, it is his responsibility to request the Music Team approve him as a performer with the chorus. The Music Team at that time may request the member record himself singing one or more songs with the chorus and submit that recording to the Music Team. The applicant should review the recording himself before turning it over to his section leader, checking himself for wrong words, wrong notes, wrong rhythms, etc., since the recording should be word and note perfect, and sung with a tone quality that blends with the chorus. There is a strong visual component required when performing barbershop music that goes along with the singing component. A barbershop singer will visibly portray the "story" and the "emotion" of the song while performing the song. The visual component communicates the emotional content of the songs and engages the audience during each performance. The entertainment value is enhanced when a performance includes the believable visual involvement of the singer. A barbershop singer simply cannot stand like a statue and sing without showing any emotion during a performance.



## Chorus Qualification Guidelines (Revised Nov. xx, 2013), Page 2

Barbershop choreography education is provided throughout the year – usually before rehearsal, but sometimes during rehearsal – to teach the hand and head movements, also face and body movements, that enhance the overall chorus performance. .

A singer is given three (3) months and three (3) attempts to qualify for the Performing Chorus.

Approval comes from the Section Leaders (vocal performance), the Presentation Team (visual performance), and the Music Team (chorus performance).

Once a member is qualified for the Performing Chorus, he is permitted to perform with the chorus at any and all public presentations of the chorus, including the competitions and major shows. A member is expected to exercise due diligence to learn all aspects of all songs in the current chorus repertoire (words, notes, visual components, intonations, etc.) so that his presence in the ensemble at least blends into the overall picture and not be a distraction. A member is expected to know his own level of preparedness, and if he is not adequately prepared, to take himself out of the ensemble for that event. Certain events may be designated by the chapter board as being special events that require that anyone seeking to perform with the chorus in the event first pass a qualification process. A competition is usually designated in this way, but the board may also elect to do this for a major show. In this case, the qualification process should be defined by the music team and clearly presented to the membership. There should be NO EXCEPTIONS. EVERYONE wishing to participate with the chorus in this special event should be required to pass the qualification process defined for that event. A minimum attendance requirement should be a part of the process. If a member is unable to pass the qualification process by a deadline established for that event, then he may be denied a place on the risers for THAT EVENT ONLY. The member remains a part of the Performing Chorus after that event is concluded.

If a member demonstrates a continuous neglect of his responsibility to properly prepare himself to perform with the chorus, either by failure to meet minimum attendance standards or by willfully refusing to apply himself to learn the chorus repertoire, then the music team may recommend to the chorus board of directors that the individual be removed from the performing chorus. The affected member shall be advised of this action and be invited to attend the board meeting when this matter is considered, and be allowed to speak to the board in his own defense before a vote is taken. If the board approves the proposal to remove the member from the performing chorus, his status reverts to that of a new member and he is allowed three (3) months to re-qualify himself as a member of the performing chorus. It is important to note that removal from the performing chorus is NOT a termination of his membership in the Kansas City Chapter, Heart of America Chorus. The individual remains free to continue any volunteer work for the chorus, including holding a position on the board of directors. He is also free to come to the regular meetings of the chapter and be on the risers with the chorus.