

Heart of America Chapter – A048
Barbershop Harmony Society
Kansas City, Missouri
Minutes for Board of Directors Meeting
February 9th, 2015

Location: St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 11822 Holmes Road, Kansas City MO 64131

Meeting called to order at 6:04 PM by President Carter Combs.

Board Members present at that time:

Carter Combs (President),	John Erwine (Imm. Past Pres),	Jerry Meier (Membership VP),
Brad Dawdy (Music VP),	Mike Schumacher (Oper. VP),	Jim Porter (Secretary),
Harvey Shapiro (Treasurer),	Steve Keisker (At Large),	Bob Velazquez (At Large, pending).

Board Members Arriving by 6:25 PM:

Marlin Weidler (Exec VP),	Mike Mathieu (Program VP),	Ted Simon (Marketing VP).
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Board Members Absent:

Tony O'Brien (At Large),	Harry Stewart (At Large, pending).
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The minutes for the previous meeting on January 12th, 2015 were prepared in printed form by secretary Jim Porter. These were accepted as presented by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer Harvey Shapiro presented his report for January. Jim Porter assisted.

Total income for month \$ 3,458.50;	total expenses \$ 4,026.45.
Unrestricted funds (members or social fund) available:	\$ 5,430.68.
Restricted funds (operating fund) available:	\$ 8,594.18.
Designated funds:	Net on deposit: \$.00.
Total in checking account:	\$ 2,894.02,
Total in Truman Foundation:	\$11,130.84; Total: \$14,024.86.

It was noted that the report showed a total of \$1,328.86 was paid to Jack Stack Barbecue for the cost of the Awards Banquet. This was the actual amount paid in January. At the meeting it was noted that an additional deposit was paid in the fall of 2014. After the meeting, Jim Porter reviewed his records and found that a deposit of \$750.00 was paid to Jack Stack Barbecue on October 1st, 2014 (check #1385) and was included in the final report for calendar year 2014.

The report was placed on file for audit as presented.

Membership Report (Jerry Meier) Written report.

Harmony Explosion (February 21st). Final planning is underway. The chapter received a \$1,500 grant from Harmony Foundation to cover costs of this program. BHS is requiring that all adults participating in the program undergo an online Youth Protection Training as part of the requirements for this grant. Olive Garden is providing the food for the luncheon and the Leavenworth chapter Cody Choraliers will be serving the lunch.

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Membership Report (Cont.)

Awards Banquet: (January 17th). Society President Don Fuson was the emcee. Linda Schumacher installed officers for Heartbeats and Dr. Dale Neuman installed the HOA chapter officers. Awards presented:

Heartbeat of the Year: Linda Fuson. John Cross Award: Carter Combs.

Barbershopper of the Year: John Erwine.

New Members: **Ryan Bradley** was approved as a new member by a unanimous voice vote of all present.

Dan Wager has transferred his membership from Reno, NV.

Tom Millot has transferred his membership from Overland Park chapter.

Potential members: Richard Matthis, Michael Beck, Russ Craig.

Guest Nights: A schedule for 2015 was presented, next guest night is Feb. 24th.

Music Team Report (Brad Dawdy) Oral report.

The music team met Sunday Feb. 8th.

The lineup for the spring show is now set. The chorus will perform most of its 11 songs in the first half of the show, saving only "Armed Forces Medley" for the closer. The second half will feature quartets from Harmony Explosion, also a chorus of H.E. participants. In the discussion, it was noted that school events at the time may limit participation by school students, and it was suggested our chorus be prepared to join the student chorus to sing their song "Down on the Corner". Our featured quartet is Double Date. To encourage attendance at the show, it was moved (later in the meeting) to provide for discounts for show tickets for family members of all show participants. See below.

Plans are being made to have a chorus retreat in 2015. Camp Chippewa (west of Ottawa, KS) was contacted, but have not as yet responded to our inquiries.

Operations Report (Mike Schumacher) Oral report.

The chapter sound system was made available to the district for the HEP school at the end of January. All four wireless microphones have now been located. The work on the chapter trailer has not yet been completed, are awaiting a cost estimate from David Jobe to complete necessary repairs.

Marketing Report (Ted Simon) Oral report.

Publicity for Spring Show: Postcards and posters are on order, the chorus treasurer has an invoice for a cost of just over \$900. These should arrive next week. Ted has consulted with his attorney and is confident that we may purchase and use costumes depicting Disney characters (from Toy Story) in the spring show.

There should be a radio spot for Singing Valentines on Tuesday (Feb. 10th). A quartet has been formed.

Program Vice President (Mike Mathieu) Oral report.

Time will be given in the meeting on Feb. 10th to allow Singing Valentines quartets to perform and qualify for doing this work the following weekend. Denny Briley was identified as Mike's backup in meetings where Mike must be away. The plan for each weekly meeting is to have a specified segment of time for working each song, and so far this is working well. Riser discipline, however, remains a concern. Need to "set the bar" to encourage members to be off the paper. In the ensuing discussion, several ideas were put out for guest night activities, including a revival of the Spring Fling and Bush League quartet programs. Ideas were also presented for publicizing Guest Nights to the general public, either via free radio spots (where available) or by social media.

Events Summary (Carter Combs)

Past:

Awards Dinner. The event was generally well received and went off well. It was recommended we plan to hold this event again at Jack Stack Barbecue, Martin City, in January 2016.

Future:

Singing Valentines. Fewer than 200 of the original 1500 pocket cards remain, showing distribution has been good. Consideration was given to ordering more, but since the time frame was so short, this was dismissed as impractical.

A shipment of 310 boxes of candy was received the day of the meeting by John Erwine. Total Valentines ordered as of the day of the meeting was 20, which is about the same as 2014 at this time. Most orders come in the last few days.

Harmony Explosion (Feb. 21st): As noted above, BHS has provided the chapter with a \$1,500 subsidy, but this comes with a requirement that all adult volunteers submit to a 30-minute online training in Youth Protection. The coaching schedule is in order. Reports are showing increased participation in several schools over 2014.

Spring Show 2015: (Apr. 11th): It was noted that show clearance with the district likely has not been settled. After the meeting, secretary Jim Porter checked into this matter, and discovered that it was true. He prepared the needed BMI-SESAC form the next day and forwarded it to treasurer Harvey Shapiro for payment. The Manhattan chapter has already received clearance from Central States District to do their show on the same day, April 11th.

Music in the Park: (July 12th): We have received a definite invitation from the City of Overland Park to put on a 90-minute show on this evening. A motion was made to agree to do this show, it was passed by a unanimous voice vote. In the ensuing discussion, member-at-large Bob Velazquez, who lives within 2 blocks of the venue, offered to host an afterglow at his home. It was agreed that with an afterglow planned, there was no need for a picnic before the show. There will be a \$400 performance fee paid to the chapter for this show.

OLD BUSINESS:

Budget for 2015: President Carter Combs provided a printed report showing final budget numbers. \$400 was added as the anticipated performance fee for Singing in the Park. However, in the discussion that followed, questions arose over several items, principally the Holiday Show allocations. The matter was tabled and will be taken up at the March board meeting. The preliminary budget (released in December) can be used in the meantime.

Chorus Manager Duties: Jim Porter has accepted responsibility for handling attendance at the chapter meetings. He will maintain the records and make them available to Vince Perry via Dropbox. Discussion centered on a Webmaster, one who would be able to update and modernize the chapter Website. New member Dan Wager is being considered.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chapter Directories: New directories for 2015 have been released to the membership. It was noted that Ron McIntire has the database for the directories on his home computer and that it otherwise is not preserved anywhere. In the ensuing discussion, a need to have critical chapter files preserved and backed up in a central location was discussed. Other files include the Friends of HOA data (Rich Huyck), the Treasurer's database, plus others that may be identified later. It was agreed that the first order of business is to identify all such files and who is responsible for each one.

Spring Show Ticket Subsidies: Music VP Brad Dawdy proposed that a discount should be provided for family members of Harmony Explosion participants in the show. It was agreed that the participants that actually sing in the show should be admitted free, but it would be an encouragement to increase participation if the high school students could also obtain discounted tickets for their family members. Brad therefore made a motion that regular \$20 tickets be made available to family members of Harmony Explosion participants for \$10. After a lengthy discussion, this motion passed with a unanimous voice vote. Implementation of this plan will require coordination with Johnson County Community College. The participating students would be given a discount code to use when ordering tickets for their family members.

At-Large Members: Two members are added to the Board, Bob Velazquez and Harry Stewart. (Bob was present at the meeting) These were introduced to the membership at the Feb. 3rd meeting, then re-introduced at the Feb. 10th meeting. The membership will formally vote them in as Board members at the Feb. 17th meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 9th, 2015.

James R. Porter
Secretary