

Heart of America Chapter – A048
Barbershop Harmony Society
Kansas City, Missouri
Minutes for Board of Directors Meeting
July 13th, 2015

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

Meeting called to order at 6:20PM by President Carter Combs.

Board Members present at that time:

Carter Combs (President),	John Erwine (Imm. Past Pres),	Harvey Shapiro (Treasurer),
Ted Simon (Marketing VP),	Mike Mathieu (Program VP),	Jim Porter (Secretary),
Tony O'Brien (At Large).		

Board Member Connected by Telephone (out of town): None.

Board Members Arriving by 6:40 PM:

Steve Keisker (At Large).

Board Members Absent:

Marlin Weidler (Exec VP),	Jerry Meier (Membership VP),	Mike Schumacher (Oper. VP),
Brad Dawdy (Music VP),	Bob Velazquez (At Large).	

The minutes for the previous meeting on June 9th, 2015 were prepared in printed form by secretary Jim Porter. These were accepted as presented.

Treasurer Harvey Shapiro presented his report for June.

Total income for June: \$ 901.31;	total expenses \$ 1,301.99.
Spring Show YTD Inc: \$16,055.50;	total expenses \$16,829.34. (Unchanged from May.)
Unrestricted funds (members or social fund) available: \$ 6,668.89.	
Restricted funds (operating fund) available: \$ 4,236.54.	
Designated funds: Net on deposit: \$ 600.00.	
Total in checking account: \$ 4,698.93,	
Total in Truman Foundation: \$ 6,908.50; Total: \$11,607.43.	

The report was placed on file for audit as presented.

It was agreed that the shortfall from the Spring Show Afterglow (\$248.00, due to \$397 in ticket receipts not covering the \$645 expense to rent the hall) ought to be taken from the social fund. Treasurer Harvey Shapiro will make a fund transfer to take care of that shortfall. Charles Ramirez now has completed the audit for 2014.

Membership Report (Jerry Meier) Absent, written report submitted ahead of the meeting.

Member Count: 123 presently, a loss of 5 since the June report. Nine overdue, 4 likely will drop.

Six new members have joined since January 1st. (No changes from May report.)

Eleven members have been dropped since Dec. 31st. Twelve prospective members were listed by name.

Next scheduled guest night is July 28th. A picnic is planned prior to the meeting that evening.

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Membership Report (Cont.)

The Annual Awards Banquet is planned for January 9th, 2016, at Jack Stack's Barbecue, Martin City (same location as this year). A deposit of \$750 is needed to secure that date. Treasurer Harvey Shapiro will handle this matter.

Membership Handouts (Spring Show): Unused ones were recovered, can be used later (not date specific).

Membership Growth: Jerry continues to have contact with prospective new members. Board members were encouraged to contact inactive members on the roster to determine why they remain inactive, with intentions to address these issues and reactivate their interest in the chapter activities.

Kansas Choral Directors Association Annual Conference: (July in Topeka) Business needs forced Jerry to cancel his appearance at the July conference. He will continue to maintain contacts going forward.

Music Team Report (Brad Dawdy) Could not be reached by telephone. (Carter Combs reported)

The music team will meet next on Sunday July 19th. Their intention is to settle on music for the Holiday Show.

The team will likely will add 2 or 3 new 8-part songs plus 2 songs for the HOA chorus portion of the program.

They still have not settled on a date or location for the chorus retreat, Sept. 27th appears to be the best date.

Operations Report (Mike Schumacher) Absent, No report.

Marketing Report (Ted Simon) Oral report.

Publicity for Holiday Show: Postcards for the first mailing are ready. Cost is 28.5 cents per card, mailing costs and addressing costs are additional. There was discussion about certain board members moving the materials from or to post offices as needed to reduce that cost. John Erwine can handle transactions at the Liberty MO post office.

Jeffi Combs & Carla Weisz of KCSA will be coordinating group sales for the Holiday Show.

Blue Springs Festival: (Sept. 18th-20th) Contact person Shannon Bray. The committee (Blue Springs Police Dept.) has not yet called back to confirm plans, there is a need for follow-up.

Program Vice President (Mike Mathieu) Oral report.

After a successful Spring Fling, plans now are for a Bush League quartet competition in the fall. The principal difference for this event is that chapter members form their own quartet groups subject to the limitation that no more than two singers can be from an existing registered quartet. Barbershoppers from other area chapters will also be invited to participate in the program. The date for this event has not yet been fixed. October 20th is the target date.

Plans are also being made for the next Guest Night (July 28th) to have a picnic as part of the welcoming activity.

Mike was not able to obtain any copies of the new Polecat Songbook at the Pittsburgh convention. He is prepared to order a batch from Nashville and will encourage chapter members to agree to purchase songbooks for their own use at a cost of approximately \$20 (some reduction is possible if we order a larger batch of songbooks). After the meeting, Mike sent out an E-Mail on HOA Network inviting chapter members to purchase these songbooks.

Events Summary.

Music in the Park (July 12th): All agreed this was a successful show. John Erwine prepared a video of the entire show.

This video can be used to add content to the chapter Website and/or be the basis for future improvements.

Golf Tournament (September 24th). Chairman Kent Miller was not present. All agreed it was time to start rounding up prizes, sponsors and participants for this event.

Events Summary

Vocality Show: (Oct. 2nd): Don Fuson is handling arrangements for this show. Shaun Whisler has suggested his church in Lawrence could be a suitable venue. Mike Mathieu said his church in south Overland Park could possibly handle it.

District Convention: (Oct. 8th-10th): The chapter has agreed to host this event, but there is much work to be done and the time frame is short. The St. Charles chapter will definitely be there, they should add considerably to the bottom line for this event. Need yet to determine our responsibilities and to find people willing to take responsibility. At this point, there is no decision yet of what the registration fee will be.

Great Midwest Balloon Festival (Oct. 23rd-24th): A venue is set, it will be near the Schlitterbahn Water Park in Kansas City, KS. Other plans are still not finalized. We will be paid to assist, possibly have an opportunity to perform.

Holiday Show: (Dec. 5th): As noted in June, the decision has been made to do ONE show, at 3:00 PM. Ted Simon and Jennifer Roberts of KCSA will handle marketing. The printed program will be redesigned to allow for advertisements, there will therefore be a need to sell ads. It is probable there will be no headliner quartet, at least not a well-known top-ranked quartet. The committee is looking into alternatives to make this an attractive show.

Valentines 2016: (Valentine's Day is Sunday) John Erwine reports there has been some preliminary discussions as to what to do to revive what is seen to be an activity that is slowly dying out. Each of the past several years has produced fewer deliveries and less income than the previous year. John is not willing to continue to direct this activity. Jeff Wolf of Central Standard has been involved in some of these discussions and one possible solution is a joint effort involving both chapters. Unless something is done to improve interest, it is quite possible this activity will come to an end.

OLD BUSINESS:

Amazon Smile Fund Raiser: This is now active and available. Some members report they were able to successfully use the option to make purchases through Amazon. There is a need to continue to encourage others to do the same. No payments have been received as yet from Amazon, these likely will come once per quarter.

Historical Archives: Jim Porter placed all he has for contest results dating from 1975 on Dropbox. He has added updates to include results from Pittsburgh. There continues to be others with treasure troves of past "stuff" coming forward.

NEW BUSINESS:

Other Shows: It was noted in this discussion that in past years the chapter did shows in nearby towns for a fee. Such shows can be an opportunity for the chorus to perform (songs from our annual show could be used) and earn \$2,000 for the chapter. Several locations were mentioned. It was agreed that places within a 2-hour drive could be considered. Should a town have its own BHS chapter, the show would be planned to be a joint appearance with that chapter.

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New Business (cont.)

Casual Uniform Shirts: Ted Simon opened this discussion, but there still was no clear consensus. It was agreed that some sort of polo shirt would be best, but it should be “distinctive”. There was no agreement as to what is meant by “distinctive”. This discussion will likely continue for some time. Past efforts were not successful.

William Jewell Partnership: This was identified as old business, but it was not a topic at the previous meeting. Earlier, in a meeting including Don Fuson and John Erwine focusing on the Vocality show, this matter came up. There is a possibility here of working up a program similar to Harmony Explosion in the Liberty, MO area.

Coaching: Sheri Hart has agreed to coach us between now and the October convention. She will be with us on several Tuesdays, not just one or two. In addition, Steve Scott has agreed to coach us on several Tuesday evenings.

Honor Flights: This is a program where veterans are chosen to be honored and are taken to Washington, D.C. for that purpose. At the send-off, there is an opportunity to perform as part of the festivities. This offers no monetary fee for the chapter, but is an opportunity to improve our image in the community. The next send-off is September 6th. No decision was made at the meeting about whether or not the chapter should take this opportunity.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 10th, 2015.

James R. Porter
Secretary