

Heart of America Chapter – A048
Barbershop Harmony Society
Kansas City, Missouri
Minutes for Board of Directors Meeting
April 11th, 2016

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

Meeting called to order at 6:10 PM by President Carter Combs.

Board Members present at that time: Carter Combs (President),
John Erwine (Imm. Past Pres), Jim Porter (Secretary), Harvey Shapiro (Treasurer),
Steve Keisker (Operations VP), Tony O'Brien (At Large), Bob Murphy (At Large).

Late Arrivals (time): Ted Simon (Marketing VP, 6:15), Bob Velazquez (Music VP, 6:20).

Board Members Absent: Barry Sanders (Exec. VP), Jerry Meier (Membership VP),
Charles Ramirez (At Large).

There is no Program VP as yet. See below, appointment was made at this meeting.

Also Present: John Gathright (Past President).

The minutes for the previous meeting on March 14th, 2016 were prepared in printed form by secretary Jim Porter. These were accepted as presented.

Treasurer Harvey Shapiro provided his report for March.

Total income, month: \$ 397.50; total expenses \$ 3,697.77.

Net (deficit) for month: \$(3,300.27); budgeted: \$(3,285.00).

Net (deficit) for year: \$(2,482.28); budgeted: \$(4,365.00).

Note that the 2016 budget is not yet finalized, budgeted amounts are based on the 2015 budget.

President Carter Combs stated uncertainty about annual show is delaying this work.

Valentines Income: \$ 2,146.00; total expenses \$ 1,360.87. (final, see report below)

Harmony Explo Inc: \$ 2,517.62; total expenses \$ 1,752.59. (final)

Received in April from Harmony Foundation: Check for \$2,948.30, donations 2nd half of 2015.

Significant expense in April: Harmony University tuitions for J. Garrard & B. Velazquez: \$1,450.

Unrestricted funds (members or social fund) available: \$ 8,609.84.

Restricted funds (operating fund) available: \$ 5,963.20.

Designated funds: Net on deposit: \$ 600.00.

Total in checking account: \$ 8,484.20;

Total in Truman Foundation: \$ 6,688.84; Total: \$15,173.04.

The report was placed on file for audit as presented.

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Marketing Report (Ted Simon), oral report.

New Theater Performance Opportunity: The New Theater in Overland Park is planning a show to run between Nov. 30th, 2016 through Feb. 12th, 2017, where the headliner George Wendt (Norm from the “Cheers” TV show) will star in a production called “The Fabulous Liptones”. That name is a barbershop quartet and the story line has them in a contest with other quartets. The theater is seeking local quartets to play the role of a competing quartet, and all chapters in the area have been contacted. “Armchair Chorderbacks” have auditioned. The theater will pay the chapter \$50 for each show in which one of our quartets plays the role.

Ted also reported that 14 additional casual T-Shirts have been prepared, and \$419.32 was paid for these shirts. The cost to the chapter is therefore just under \$30 per shirt.

As ownership of the church we meet in has changed, there is a need to update all of our publicity materials. We await the placement of signage around the church showing the exact name of the church before proceeding. Vince Perry has already made appropriate changes to our Website. Other materials needing change include our calling cards and other advertising materials. A suggestion was made to prepare ballpoint pens with the chorus name on them. Carter Combs has made an appropriate change in the information available on the Society’s EBiz Webpage.

We are also seeking performance opportunities at local festivals in the area. No progress was noted in the past month. It was noted that the Singing in the Park performance had not yet been set with the City of Overland Park.

Membership Report (Jerry Meier) Absent, but prepared written report. Summary:

Total members as of March: 114, down 1 (Jonathan Fortino dropped) from February. Seven members are overdue for paying their dues (was 5 in February), but Jerry is confident all will renew and remain with the chapter.

The Annual Awards Banquet for 2017 is now scheduled for January 7th (Saturday), at Jack Stack’s Barbecue, Martin City. The chapter has made the 1st 2 of six payments of \$125 each to reserve this date. The chapter may cancel with a full refund of its deposit if that is done before November 7th. A partial refund is available if we cancel after that date.

Harmony Explosion 2016 took place Saturday, February 20th, 2016, at Olathe East High School.

Harmony Explosion 2017 is now scheduled at the same location on Saturday, February 18th, 2017.

Jerry noted that past Presidents are now making telephone calls to our inactive members to welcome them back to the meetings and to encourage them to resume as active members.

Music Team Report (Bob Velazquez) Provided written report. Music team meeting was Sunday April 10th.

A summary of items discussed:

1. The new rehearsal format was implemented. It has been well received and will continue.
2. There also was concern about members arriving late. The intention going forward is to begin the meeting promptly at 7:00 PM regardless of how many (or few) members are then present.
3. Director Jerry Garrard has asked former director Jim Bagby to mentor him. As a result, Jim is now taking a more active role in the weekly meetings. John Braden noted an improvement in Jerry’s directing skills.
4. Bob Velazquez has also asked former Music VP Keith Schweer to mentor him in his role as Music VP.

Music Team Report, continued.

5. Members will be encouraged to have and use recording devices at the weekly meetings. It was emphasized that the intention was personal growth, not as a qualification requirement for shows or competitions.
6. There was concern that members were not doing anything to improve their skills between the meetings. It was proposed that the team prepare a mid-week E-Mail to members to encourage them to work at home.
7. Jerry was reminded of the need to give time each week to all repertoire songs in order to keep them fresh.
8. Former Fremont director Pete Stibor, who currently is the Central States District Vice President of Chorus and Director Development, has offered his services to our chapter. His program, Membership Growth Through Musical Excellence, is designed to help us recruit new members. It was noted he appeared at our meeting once in March, but arrived too late. He visited with members at the afterglow and shared some of his ideas. It was agreed he would come at a later time to meet with the chorus. As there is no cost involved, no motion was deemed to be necessary.

Operations Report (Steve Keisker) Oral report.

At present, the church building remains available for our use. St. Peters is now finished and out, but the real estate deal will not close until Thursday, April 14th. In the meantime, the old keys still work, and we do not as yet have instructions about paying the hall rental. In time, new keys will be provided and it is probable we will continue with the same rental agreement (\$120 per evening).

Program Vice President (No Program VP, President Carter Combs reports.)

Jerry Meier has been preparing the In-Tune and it has been available each week.

President Carter Combs stated he had a person in mind for this position, and Tony O'Brien, currently an at-large member of the board, is that person. Tony is looking for a mentor, and in the discussion at the meeting, Jim Bagby was identified as the mentor. At that point, Tony accepted this responsibility. This change does not require an election, it is a presidential appointment. Therefore, Tony will subsequently be identified as the Program Vice President and his at-large position on the Board will be vacant.

The Budget Committee has not yet completed the 2016 budget. Uncertainty about the Annual Show is the reason.

Wendell Shaffer will take responsibility for the annual audit of the chapter's finances. This is not yet completed.

Events Summary. (Previous to meeting).

Valentines 2016: (Sun. Feb. 14th) John Erwine presented his final report. It showed there were 40 total deliveries, 27 were paid, 10 were complimentaries, and 3 were "in kind" deliveries, intended to cover our dues as members of the Kansas City Convention and Visitors Center. Total revenue was \$1,790, expenses \$437.25, net revenue \$1,352.75. From this amount, \$350 was passed to the Sweet Adelines and \$363.15 was allocated to Children's Mercy Hospital, leaving a net income to the chapter of \$639.60. (Note the Treasurers report shows \$1,840 revenue plus \$306 from sales of candy, offset by \$1,360.87 in expenses, for a net revenue of \$793.25. The expenses included \$719 of the amount donated to Children's Mercy, plus the \$350 given to the Sweet Adelines.)

John showed the results together with parallel results from the 8 previous years and it was clear that the number of deliveries has declined year by year. In 2010, there were 100 deliveries (the 14th then also was on a Sunday).

Events Summary. (Subsequent to meeting)

Annual Show 2016: It has been decided that the Bell Cultural Center on the campus of Mid-America Nazarene University in Olathe would be the best place to hold our annual show. A decision was made to schedule the show for August 27th (Saturday evening). The Trails West Chorus has their show scheduled at the same theater 3 weeks later (September 17th) and is concerned that our show would cut into the audience that would otherwise come to their show. In the ensuing discussion, it was agreed this is a legitimate concern, so there was a need to re-think our plans. To summarize:

1. Offer to sell tickets to their show at our show, at a discount that we would absorb.
2. Seek to do the show either at the Jewish Community Center in Overland Park, or in Liberty.
3. Seek to invite them to join with us and produce a joint show.

There were problems seen with each of these proposals and none was considered to be a good solution.

As a consequence, discussion of this matter was tabled until next month's meeting.

Mike Schumacher has accepted the responsibility as the show chairman.

Adding recommendation by Membership Chairman, submitted via E-Mail Wed. evening April 12th:

1. HOA should proceed with the August show at the Bell Cultural Events Center as planned.
2. HOA should promote the Olathe Chapter Show - \$5 or more discount on Olathe Show tickets sold by HOA (at HOA expense).
3. HOA should emphasize to the Olathe Chapter that this is a one-time-only scheduling change (August show).
4. HOA should emphasize to the Olathe Chapter that its annual show will return to March - April 2017.
5. HOA should emphasize to the Olathe Chapter that HOA will not market to THEIR customers or go after THEIR customers.
6. HOA should emphasize to the Olathe Chapter that HOA will promote the Olathe show to HOA customers.
7. HOA should commit to attend the Olathe Chapter Show in appreciation for their cooperation.

District Contest, Cedar Rapids, IA, October 7th, 8th, 2016:

The decision to participate in this competition made at the March meeting has been very well received by the membership. The need at this point is to get a list of members who plan to go to Cedar Rapids so that proper hotel reservations can be made and convention registrations purchased.

NEW BUSINESS: Note that items discussed at this point are in previous sections of these minutes.

Suggestions made to the board with the intent of being an example to the members include:

1. Board members be on time, be prepared for the evening, have recording instruments.
2. Board members prepare articles for the next Harmonotes, to be published in May.
3. A summary balance sheet be made available to members. Harvey S. and Jim P. to work on that.

Good of the Order: President Carter Combs presided, even though his brother died suddenly on Sunday.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 9th, 2016.

James R. Porter, Secretary