

Heart of America Chapter – A048
Barbershop Harmony Society
Kansas City, Missouri
Minutes for Board of Directors Meeting
August 8th, 2016

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

Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM by President Carter Combs.

Board Members present at that time:	Carter Combs (President),	Jerry Meier (Membership VP),
Steve Keisker (Operations VP),	Jim Porter (Secretary),	Harvey Shapiro (Treasurer),
John Erwine (Imm. Past Pres),	Ted Simon (Marketing VP),	Bob Murphy (At Large).

Late Arrivals (time): Charles Ramirez (At Large, 6:04), Barry Sanders (Exec. VP, 6:07),

Board Members Absent: Bob Velazquez (Music VP).

Two vacancies exist for at-large board members. The Program VP position also is vacant.

The minutes for the previous meeting on July 11th, 2016 were prepared in printed form by secretary Jim Porter. These were accepted with one correction. Jerry Garrard, not Jerry Meier, sought out a coach for our retreat.

Treasurer Harvey Shapiro provided his report for July.

Total income, month: \$ 100.00; total expenses \$ 3,104.95.

Net (deficit) for month: \$(3,004.95); budgeted: \$(1,345.00).

Net (deficit) for year: \$(8,645.11); budgeted: \$(8,140.00).

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

The 2016 budget was distributed at the meeting, and was approved the next evening. See last page.

Significant income item: Donation to cover Guest Night ice cream,	\$ 100.00.
Significant expense items: Annual Show Hall Deposit,	\$ 500.00.
Chapter Retreat Facilities Deposit,	\$1,200.00.
Harmony University, Director stipend (each month)	700.00.

Unrestricted funds (members or social fund) available: \$ 7,602.39.

Restricted funds (operating fund) available: \$ 507.82.

Designated funds: Net on deposit: \$ 900.00.

Total in checking account: \$ 2,334.99;

Total in Truman Foundation: \$ 6,675.22; Total: \$ 9,010.21.

The final installment of the \$750 deposit to Jack Stack Barbecue to secure the date for the 2017 Awards Banquet was made in August. There will be income in August from the Balloon Festival, plus member payments for the retreat.

The report was placed on file for audit as presented.

Marketing Report (Ted Simon), oral report.

Ted noted the Blue Springs Fun Festival (Sept. 17th), the Annual Show (Sept. 24th) and Holiday Show (Dec. 3rd). Ted also prepared prototypes for the mailer for the Annual Show, see below for further information.

Membership Report (Jerry Meier) Prepared written report. Summary:

Total members as of July: 111, down 1 from July. Charles Greene (deceased) is dropped. Seven members are overdue for paying their dues (was 9 in July). It is probable at least two of these will not renew.

The Annual Awards Banquet for 2017 is now scheduled for January 7th (Saturday), at Jack Stack's Barbecue, Martin City. The chapter has made all 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.

The ice cream social was held on Tuesday July 19th and was a huge success, as 36 men from Central Standard joined with 8 to 10 members each from Leavenworth and Olathe chapters and about 30 Heart of America men, some among those not currently active with the chapter. All had a good time, performances included a set by Heart of America, a set by Central Standard (less than 2 weeks after winning the 2nd place silver medal at International), a set by Armchair Chorderbacks, and one from Priorities (Sweet Adelines). Jim Bagby then worked with the combined group, which closed the evening by singing "That Old Quartet of Mine". Gordon Coleman hit the jackpot in the marbles drawing, then all enjoyed ice cream, for which the entire cost was covered by a donation from an anonymous HOA member. All agreed this should become an annual event.

Jerry continues to pursue contacts with quartets from Harmony Explosion to perform on the show planned for September 24th. He hopes to have several quartets added to the show program. He will also handle planning for the afterglow at the show, there is space available in the theater for that event.

Music Team Report (Bob Velazquez) Absent, no report. Music team is set for Sunday, August 14th.

A summary of items discussed at the July meeting, likely also at the August meeting:

1. The retreat date is finalized. It will take place Friday, August 19th, in the evening, consist of three sections (Friday evening, Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon) at Three Trails Camp in Independence.
2. At the Blue Springs Fun Fest (September 17th), the plan is to do a set of songs for the annual show, which will take place one week later.
3. The Annual Show now has a date fixed (Saturday September 24th), a venue (Liberty Performing Arts Theatre) and a show committee (the entire board is the committee). The music team has determined a lineup of songs to be performed on the show. At this time, a headliner quartet still has not been identified.
4. District Convention, October 7th, 8th, Cedar Rapids, IA. With the several performances now planned prior to the contest, the music team sees the chapter as being well prepared to perform at their best in the competition.

Operations Report (Steve Keisker) Oral report.

Steve offered no prepared report, but stated that additional closet keys are being prepared.

New Harmony Handful has requested risers for a show at John Knox Village on Oct. 23rd. All agreed to allow this. It is not yet clear if we will haul our risers to Cedar Rapids for the District Convention.

Program Vice President (Vacant)

President Carter Combs invited suggestions for men to take this position and several names were offered.

Events Summary. (Subsequent to meeting)

Chapter Retreat: (Aug. 19th, 20th) The coaches for the weekend will be Steve Scott (local) and Evan Boegehold (Ohio), who has agreed to coach for remuneration of his expenses only. The facility (Three Trails Camp) is secured. The facility has a kitchen, but there will be no staff to prepare meals (we could use the kitchen and prepare our own meals). In the discussion, the option to let all get meals on their own at nearby restaurants was discussed, as was the option to have all gather at one restaurant and have meals together. While no plan was finalized, all agreed that lunch on Saturday all together at one restaurant was preferred, with members using the kitchen to prepare Saturday breakfast on site.

The total cost of the retreat (hall rental, coaches expenses, etc.) was estimated to be about \$2,000, or about \$80 per man if 25 are present. Barry Sanders made a motion to require each man to pay \$80 for the retreat, Charles Ramirez seconded the motion and it was passed by a unanimous voice vote. All agreed that if an individual member had financial concerns about the cost that consideration would be given to using the President's Fund to assist that member.

Balloon Festival: This event will take place in Hodge Park near Liberty (it was forced to move from Smithville) the weekend of August 26th-28th. Sign-ups could not be done on their Website, so John Erwine is handling this on his own. Some will visit the Sweet Adeline's at their meeting on August 14th to encourage them to volunteer to help out. There are 44 time slots to be filled, at the time of the meeting, 25 were filled. NOTE: At the time of the meeting, the plan was to sell tickets at Ameristar Casino and shuttle people from there to Hodge Park, but a few days later, these plans were changed and all activity will take place at the park (there will be no shuttle).

Blue Springs Fun Fest (Sept. 17th): It was noted that most will need to park off-site and use a shuttle to get to the venue.

Golf Scramble, Sept. 29th. Kent Miller is coordinating this, as in past years. Board members were urged to publicize the event. At this point, about 12 players have signed up, together with 10 non-playing volunteers.

District Convention (Oct. 7th, 8th): Registration is now open. The chapter will pay for the reservations of members of the competing chorus. At this time, 26 members have signed up to participate in this competition.

Holiday Show 2016: The show committee will meet on August 9th. A new 8-part arrangement for the combined group is now in hand. The music lineup will be finalized at the meeting. All agreed that doing one show is the best plan.

Caroling Caravan, December 17th. It is anticipated that Mike Mathieu will again coordinate this event. It is probable there will be a change, dropping one senior center in favor of a new facility, a move that was successful last year.

Annual Show, 2017: This will be in the Bell Center in Olathe. Inquiries have been made to determine a date.

OLD BUSINESS:

The budget committee presented the budget for 2016 to the board. It calls for a total income of \$65,147, which includes \$33,000 from gross ticket sales from the Annual Show and Holiday Show. Total expenses were \$62,590, leaving a net surplus for the year of \$2,557. A motion to accept this budget was deferred (see next page) to the next evening.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Sweet Adeline's Renaissance Fest fundraiser is looking for volunteers. This event covers several weekends through September and October, a period during which our chapter already has several commitments. Given that fact and the fact that these would be all-day commitments makes it unlikely we would be able to offer much help. The Sweet Adeline's continue to seek a director (Bob Velazquez is among those that have been contacted) and continue to meet on Tuesdays with a temporary director. As Vocal Standard meets on Monday and several of the ladies are singing with both chapters, it is probable that they will continue to meet on Tuesdays indefinitely into the future.

It was also noted the time was at hand to name a nominating committee for the 2017 board.

To this point, there has been little discussion about the annual show. All board members were asked to remain for a special planning meeting for the annual show. See below.

The board meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM. The annual show planning meeting then commenced.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 12th, 2016.

James R. Porter, Secretary

Annual Show Planning Meeting:

John Erwine visited the venue and reported it was suitable for the show, but dressing rooms are small. There is a room in the theater suitable for the afterglow, available for no additional charge. Tickets would be general admission, \$20 each, with a group discount for blocks of 10 or more.

Several quartets have been contacted to be the headliner quartet. Forefront (Int'l champion) remains possible, but they are tightly scheduled, so unlikely. We should know in a week or so. Hot Air Buffoons is also possible, but not certain. Neither of Mark Fortino's quartets are available, nor is Boardwalk. Others such as After Hours were suggested, the hope is to have one identified in the upcoming week.

Other quartets on the program include Armchair Chorderbacks, Priorities, and quartets from Harmony Explosion.

Ted Simon is handling the publicity and presented prototypes for a mailer and a poster. All agreed we should plan for 5,000 mailers, but given the short time frame, no more than 200 posters should be prepared. These cannot be finalized until we have identified a headliner quartet, but they may need to go out without that information.

We can sell tickets ourselves or partner with the theater. The partnership arrangement would require we give 10% of the gross sales to the theater, but in return they would publicize our shows to their patrons and encourage them to purchase tickets to the show.

There was discussion about arranging for radio ads, John Erwine will look into that. There was also discussion about selling program ads, all agreed the focus should be on businesses in the Liberty area. Ad prices were suggested, \$100 for a full page, \$60 for ½ page, \$35 for 1/4 page, \$20 for a patron, \$150 inside front cover, \$200 for outside back cover.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 with agreement to continue the meeting the next evening.

Minutes for Board of Directors Meeting
August 9th, 2016

Location: St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church, 700 E.110th Street, Kansas City MO 64131.

Meeting called to order at 9:40 PM by President Carter Combs.

Board Members present at that time:	Carter Combs (President),	Jerry Meier (Membership VP),
Steve Keisker (Operations VP),	Jim Porter (Secretary),	Harvey Shapiro (Treasurer),
John Erwine (Imm. Past Pres),	Ted Simon (Marketing VP),	Bob Velazquez (Music VP),
Charles Ramirez (At Large),	Barry Sanders (Exec. VP),	Vince Perry (Past Pres).

Board Members Absent: Bob Murphy (At Large).

Jerry Meier moved to accept the 2016 budget as presented the previous evening.

Bob Velazquez seconded, and the motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

At this point, the only possible quartets available as a headliner quartet for the annual show on September 24th are Forefront and Hot Air Buffoons. Other quartets were suggested for contacts about availability.

John Erwine urged us to agree to partner with the theater for ticket sales. Given the short time frame, that may be the best way to sell the tickets. The theater would get 10% of the gross, no additional fees. All agreed to do this plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 PM.

James R. Porter, Secretary

Minutes for Board of Directors Meeting
August 16th, 2016

Location: St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church, 700 E.110th Street, Kansas City MO 64131.

Meeting called to order at 9:45 PM by President Carter Combs.

Board Members present at that time:	Carter Combs (President),	Jim Porter (Secretary),
John Erwine (Imm. Past Pres),	Ted Simon (Marketing VP),	Bob Velazquez (Music VP),
Charles Ramirez (At Large),	Barry Sanders (Exec. VP),	Bob Murphy (At Large).

Board Members Absent:

Harvey Shapiro (Treasurer), Jerry Meier (Membership VP), Steve Keisker (Operations VP).

John Erwine reported he had a visit with a ticket manager at the Liberty theater, who stated that normally the front center section of the theater was sold at a premium price compared to the rest of the seats. After some discussion, It was agreed to retain the original motion that all seats be sold as general admission, \$20 each, with a group discount available (20%, or \$160 for a block of 10 tickets).

Carter Combs reported that there was yet no headliner quartet identified. He had not heard from either Forefront or Hot Air Buffoons. He is continuing to follow up. If neither can do the show, Jim Bagby has some contacts to pursue.

The plan for meals at the retreat has been finalized as follows:

Friday evening, after session (10 PM), Pizza, served in the hall.

Saturday morning, 8 AM, breakfast together at the Cracker Barrel restaurant.

Saturday lunch will be together at the Salty Iguana restaurant at 12 Noon.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

James R. Porter, Secretary