

Heart of America Chapter – A048  
Barbershop Harmony Society  
Kansas City, Missouri  
Minutes for Board of Directors Meeting  
December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016

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

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM by President Carter Combs.

Board Members present at that time: Carter Combs (President), Jim Porter (Secretary),  
Steve Keisker (Operations VP), Jerry Meier (Membership VP), Harvey Shapiro (Treasurer),  
Bob Velazquez (Music VP), Charles Ramirez (At Large), John Erwine (Imm. Past Pres, left 7:15).

Late Arrivals: (6:08 PM) Barry Sanders (Exec. VP).

Board Members Absent: Ted Simon (Marketing VP), Bob Murphy (At Large), Tony O'Brien (At Large).

Also present at meeting: Paul Dexter.

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

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

Treasurer Harvey Shapiro provided his report for November.

Total income, month: \$ 5,692.28; total expenses \$ 1,400.69.  
Net surplus for month: \$ 4,291.59; budgeted: \$ 4,377.00.  
Net (deficit) for year: \$( 6,729.70); budgeted: \$(12,018.00).

Significant income items:	Tickets Revenue, Holiday Show	\$ 3,410.00.
	Net Ticket Revenue, Annual Show	1,875.64.
	Membership Dues Received	297.50.
Significant expense items:	Expenses Connected to Holiday Show	\$ 737.60.
	Hall Rental, Director stipend (each month)	640.00.

Unrestricted funds (members or social fund) available: \$ 8,378.56.  
Restricted funds (operating fund) available: \$ (1,510.39).  
Designated funds: Net on deposit: \$ 1,300.00.  
Total in checking account: \$ 8,168.17;  
Total in Truman Foundation: \$ 2,757.45; Total: \$10,915.62.

As of December 8<sup>th</sup>, income received in December: \$ 1,440.00;  
Expenses paid to date: \$ 678.83; Balance: \$ 8,929.34.

The report was placed on file for audit as presented.

Treasurer's Report, concluded.

A summary report for activities since 2014 was presented. Highlights from recent events as of December 8<sup>th</sup>:

Holiday Show 2016:	Income:	\$6,490.00.	Expenses:	\$1,473.46.	Net gain:	\$ 5,016.54.
Annual Show 2016:	Income:	\$2,902.85.	Expenses:	\$6,598.58.	Net loss:	\$(3,695.73).

Figures for the Holiday Show are prior to reconciliation with the Kansas City Sweet Adelines, which will not be completed until early in 2017. It is probable we will need to pay them between \$2,000 and \$3,000 at that time.

**Marketing Report** (Ted Simon): Absent, no report.

**Membership Report** (Jerry Meier) Provided a written report. Summary:

Total members as of December: 105, no change from November. No members added in 2016, 11 are dropped.

Sean Abel, Matt Bostick and Micah Jeppeson are identified as recently overdue. None is currently active.

The Annual Awards Banquet for 2017 is now scheduled for January 7<sup>th</sup> (Saturday), at Jack Stack's Barbecue, Martin City. Due to the fact the Website could not handle the agreed price structure for meals, it was moved that all meals be priced at \$35 per plate. This motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. Society President Don Fuson will install the officers.

Harmony Explosion! 2017 is scheduled for February 18<sup>th</sup> at Olathe East High School. We have received a \$1,500 grant from Harmony Foundation to support this event. BoomTown is confirmed as the BHS quartet representative. There is not yet a Sweet Adeline quartet confirmed, Dynamix is probable. The boys chorus will sing "Who Will Buy". HOA will not perform at this event, but members will be invited to serve as volunteers to manage the event.

**Music Team Report** (Bob Velazquez) Provided a written report.

The music team met Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.

A summary of items in the report:

1. The earliest available date for our annual show at the Bell Center in Olathe is Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. The date is presently marked as tentative. The board agreed that we should ask the Bell Center to confirm the date so we could begin the search for a headliner quartet and start other planning for the show. As our desire is to have the show in April, the committee is looking to confirm a date for the 2018 show in Bell Center in April.
2. The team has identified a dozen songs for the June show. Five are new, four are songs we sung within the past 10 years but are not in our current repertoire, and the other three are current repertoire songs. Not all will be sung on the show, a final decision for the show songs will be made at a later time.
3. There was discussion about changing the schedule for our regular rehearsals to provide time for sectional rehearsals and other "fun" activities. To do this, members must have good learning media to learn the music at home, removing the need for learning notes and words at the rehearsals. Effective sectional rehearsals would require there be selected capable men to serve as section leaders for each section.
4. The team is concerned that the closing song (Keep The Whole World Singing) has degenerated to a gang sing. The proposed fix is to have it be directed either by the director, an assistant director, or one interested in becoming an assistant director. Heretofore, the marbles drawing winner has been invited to direct.
5. The music team was reminded that they should lead by example at our meetings.

Continued on Page 3.

**Operations Report** (Steve Keisker) Oral report.

The December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting was held in a room without heat. The temperature hovered in the low 50s throughout the evening. Steve contacted people in the church about the problem, and at length it was determined there was a problem with the heating system that required a repair. As of Saturday (Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>), the room was warm. Steve also determined that some in the church had taken some of our sound equipment, thinking it was their own. We are missing 3 wireless microphones. Steve is working to get this matter settled. Also, the parking lot is inadequately lighted, several lights need to be fixed. Liability issues are a concern, as last year Jan Mathieu fell and was seriously hurt while walking through the dark parking lot.

**Events Summary:**

**Holiday Show 2016:** The final report showed 604 of 971 tickets were sold (62%), gross revenue was \$11,755.

**Caroling Caravan 2016:** Tallgrass Creek cancelled this year, this leaves us with just 5 venues.

**Singing Valentines 2017:** It was moved that we NOT do Singing Valentines as has been done in the past. This motion passed with a unanimous voice vote. As an alternative, Barry Sanders reported a conversation with David Jobe about "Valentines Date Night", where the Ambassadors of Harmony is planning a one night banquet event at which each couple present would share a meal at a first class dining facility and be treated to singing by the chorus and other groups at the event. In the ensuing discussion, it was concluded this idea was worthy of further pursuit with some changes in the format that would be within our capabilities as a chapter to perform. No conclusions were made at the meeting, but it was agreed that if we were to do this in 2017, plans needed to be formulated quickly. It is probable that any board decisions would be made via E-Mail prior to the January meeting.

**Old Business:** The Heartbeats will meet Tuesday Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, for probably the last time. It is anticipated they will vote to disband their organization. They would continue to assist the chapter in their events as before, they would simply no longer have a board or regular board meetings. Funds in their checking account would be donated to the HOA chapter.

**New Business:** Continuing from the November meeting, Paul Dexter, son of Wade Dexter (who passed Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>) was present at the meeting to discuss his intentions that the estate of Wade Dexter would donate \$5,000 to the chapter to provide scholarships to Harmony University. Discussion centered on who would be granted a scholarship (the fee for this year is \$750), whether or not travel costs would be included, and management of the fund in future years, as the \$5,000 would cover a scholarship for about 7 years. Some in the chapter would be qualified to be fund managers. It was also discussed having additional money added to the fund, such as the Heartbeats closing fund balance.

**Leadership Academy** (Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>): It was moved that the chapter cover the \$60 registration fee for each board member at this event. All board members are encouraged to set aside that weekend for this educational event. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

**Chapter Dues:** It was moved that chapter dues be increased from \$35 to \$40 for 2017. One board member was concerned this would result in the loss of several members. The motion passed by voice vote with one "nay" vote.

**Directors Contract:** After some discussion, during which it was noted that director Jerry Garrard had improved his directing skills in 2016, a motion was made to renew his contract for 2017 with the same terms as 2016. It was agreed that Jerry be advised that given the reduced size of the chapter, a reduction of his stipend might be deemed necessary in 2018. This motion was passed with a unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

James R. Porter, Secretary