

Heart of America Chapter – A048  
Barbershop Harmony Society  
Kansas City, Missouri  
Minutes for Board of Directors Meeting  
February 8<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), John Erwine (Imm. Past Pres), Jim Porter (Secretary),  
Steve Keisker (Operations VP), Jerry Meier (Membership VP), Bob Velazquez (Music VP),  
Bob Murphy (At Large).

Late Arrivals (by 6:15 PM): Barry Sanders (Exec. VP).

Board Members Absent: Tony O'Brien (At Large), There is no Program VP as yet.  
Harvey Shapiro (Treasurer), Ted Simon (Marketing VP), Charles Ramirez (At Large).

The minutes for the previous meeting on January 11<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 January. Jim Porter presented it in Harvey's absence.

Total income, month: \$ 2,040.00; total expenses \$ 3,403.06.  
Net (loss) for year: \$( 1,363.06); budgeted: \$ (1,200.00).  
Note that the 2016 budget is not yet finalized, budgeted amounts are based on the 2015 budget.

Installation Income: \$ 2,100.00; total expenses \$ 2,961.95. (final, corrects Jan. report)

Unrestricted funds (members or social fund) available: \$ 8,437.34.  
Restricted funds (operating fund) available: \$ 7,454.92.  
Designated funds: Net on deposit: \$ 400.00.  
Total in checking account: \$ 9,797.25;  
Total in Truman Foundation: \$ 6,495.01; Total: \$16,292.26.

The report was placed on file for audit as presented.

Harvey also reports that the 2015 tax return has been completed and filed with the IRS.

**Marketing Report** (Ted Simon) Carter Combs reporting, oral report.

Singing Valentines: There will be a TV spot on WDAF on Sunday morning (Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>). Armchair Chorderbacks will provide their talent to this spot. Plans also are made to have some radio spots on Thursday and Friday morning.

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

Total members as of January: 115. Walter Bates (deceased) is dropped. There were 19 members dropped in 2015, offset by 7 new members added in the year. Previous member Scott Haines is seeking to return to the chapter.

The Annual Awards Banquet took place as scheduled January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016, at Jack Stack's Barbecue, Martin City. Plans have been made to have the 2017 banquet at the same facility, on January 7<sup>th</sup>. The early reservation is with the provision that the \$750 deposit be paid in 6 monthly installments of \$125 each, beginning in March. The chapter may cancel with a full refund of its deposit if that is done before November 7<sup>th</sup>. Jerry Meier made a motion that this plan be accepted and payment of the deposit installments be authorized. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Harmony Explosion 2016 will take place Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016, at Olathe East High School. BoomTown and Premium Blend will be the featured quartets, together with Dynamix and HEAT for the ladies. Most volunteers have been recruited and coaching is in progress. Volunteers must take the BHS Youth Protection Training course each year. The chorus is NOT scheduled to perform. The event will be shown in the Kansas City Star in their 435 magazine.

**Music Team Report** (Bob Velazquez) Provided written report. Music team meeting will be Tues. Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>.

The report posed 8 questions. Some were not music team responsibility. Items highlighted:

1. The music team is putting together a show package. Their responsibility is that package.
2. The music team continues to work with director Jerry Garrard to provide "best practice" techniques to help the chorus develop consistent singing techniques. Bob Murphy noted that some of the technical matters presented by the director were not understood by the members and were therefore not useful.
3. "Over the Rainbow", version in the new polecat songbook, is considered a good choice for our contest song.
4. The team wants to continue reminding the singers to use the Steve Scott coaching techniques.

**Operations Report** (Steve Keisker) No report.

Carter Combs did mention that the Coptic congregation that is purchasing the St. Peters church building IS interested in allowing us to continue to rent the room for our Tuesday meetings. Given the deal is completed (that is not yet confirmed), we can continue to meet as before, there would be no need to move.

**Program Vice President** (No Program VP, no report.)

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

The Budget Committee has had one meeting and the 2016 budget is about 80% finalized.

Wendell Shaffer has been asked to take responsibility for the annual audit of the chapter's finances.

**Events Summary.** (Previous to meeting)

Holiday Show (December 5<sup>th</sup>): Barry Sanders report s a preliminary financial report has been prepared, which shows the bottom-line profit for each chapter is about \$4,676. (The treasurer's report in December shows a profit of \$5,283 for our chapter, so this would indicate we would need to pay KCSA \$607.) He noted it was not final and that some large expense items are not included. The final figures are likely to be close to \$4,000 for each chapter.

**Events Summary.** (Subsequent to meeting)

Valentines 2016: (Valentine's Day is Sunday) John Erwine has agreed to help Carol Ramirez and Jeffi Combs to take care of handling things at headquarters. John will work with them on Thursday to set things up and Sunday evening to close up. The ladies will handle everything Friday and Sunday during the day.

It was noted that to the date of the meeting there were 10 orders requested (9 paid).

At this same time last year we had 19 orders. Most orders are placed in the final 24 hour period.

It was also noted that the chapter is a member of the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce (Visit KC) and that in lieu of the \$650 annual dues we present Singing Valentines to their members free upon request. So far, we have just 3 requests. We plan to offer free birthday presentations to make up the difference.

Annual Show 2016: Kent Miller was not present to report on the venue search.

All agreed that a top priority must be to establish a date and place for the show.

Very little can be done in the way of planning until this is taken care of.

It is virtually certain that the date will be in the summer.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Leadership Academy. Carter Combs presented some recommendations from that time:

Robert's Rules for small boards: Use of these rules would streamline board interactions with one another and with the chapter members. Carter noted that our procedures fell somewhere between these guidelines and the traditional Robert's Rules of Order. It was agreed we should consider this, and to obtain a complete written version of these rules.

Website modernization: An effective Website can help to attract new members to the chapter. Vince Perry has been our Webmaster for over 20 years, and agrees that an update should be done. He may not have the technical expertise for this task and we may need to seek it elsewhere. All agreed it should be a matter for future discussion.

Mentoring: Carter has assembled a list of a dozen or so past board members who are willing to work with present board members in the positions once held by these past members. Ten are past chapter presidents. This is a resource available to present board members. It is up to these present board members to enlist this assistance. Each present member was challenged to consider who might be his successor and be willing to train him to take over that board responsibility before the nominating committee must make its choices next fall.

**Good of the Order:** Nothing new was suggested. Note from January:

We will be unable to meet at the St. Mores Church on Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

James R. Porter, Secretary