

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

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

Meeting called to order at 6:05 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),	Barry Sanders (Exec. VP),	Ted Simon (Marketing VP),
Bob Velazquez (Music VP),	Bob Murphy (At Large),	Charles Ramirez (At Large),
Tony O'Brien (At Large).		

Late Arrivals (by 6:15 PM): Steve Keisker (Operations VP), Jerry Meier (Membership VP).

Board Members Absent: None. There is no Program VP as yet.

The minutes for the previous meeting on December 14th, 2015 were prepared in printed form by secretary Jim Porter. These were accepted as presented.

Treasurer Harvey Shapiro provided his report for December and for year end.

Total income, month:	\$ 5,330.00;	total expenses	\$ 4,127.04.
Total income, 2015:	\$55,827.59;	total expenses	\$52,765.08.
Net gain for year 2015:	\$ 3,062.51;	budget estimate	(770.00).
Holiday Show YTD Inc:	\$ 8,270.00;	total expenses	\$ 2,986.89. (Pending SA Final Report)
Installation Income:	\$ 60.00;	total expenses	\$ 1,050.95. (as of Dec. 31)
Installation Income:	\$ 1,710.00;	total expenses	\$ 2,961.95. (at present, s/b final)
CSD Registration Inc:	\$ 3,300.00;	total expenses	\$ 1,805.00. (Incl District \$1,500 Dec.)
Total District Income:	\$ 7,936.42;	total expenses	\$ 4,104.40.

Unrestricted funds (members or social fund) available:	\$ 8,308.34.
Restricted funds (operating fund) available:	\$ 8,946.98.
Designated funds:	Net on deposit: \$ 400.00.
Total in checking account:	\$11,160.31,
Total in Truman Foundation:	\$ 6,495.01; Total: \$17,655.32.

The report was placed on file for audit as presented.

A worksheet in spreadsheet form was formed for the 2016 budgeting committee to prepare a 2016 budget. With assistance from Secretary Jim Porter, files for 2016 are prepared and ready and tax forms for the 2015 tax return have been downloaded from the IRS Website. These forms should be ready to file before the next meeting.

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

Total members as of December: 116, including 1 now deceased, a decrease of 2 from November. There have been 19 members dropped since the start of the year, with 7 new members added. Ed Grape and Mike O'Dell dropped in Dec.

The Annual Awards Banquet took place as scheduled January 9th, 2016, at Jack Stack's Barbecue, Martin City. Total attendance was 77, including members, spouses and guests. Six meals were paid by the chapter for guests. Total cost for the meals was \$2,890, plus \$50 for bar setup and \$578 (20%) for a required tip for the servers. Awards given:

John Cross Award: Steve Keisker. Barbershopper of the Year: Jerry Meier.
Joe Stern Lifetime Achievement Award: Ron Abel; Bruce Wenner.

Harmony Explosion 2016 will take place Saturday, February 20th, 2016, at Olathe East High School. Harmonium had to cancel out. Boom Town will be the featured male quartet. Premium Blend may be available to assist, not confirmed as yet. Female quartets not yet determined. Legacy and/or Dynamix may be available. Volunteer recruiting sign-ups will be available soon. The event will be shown in the Kansas City Star in their 435 magazine.

Marketing Report (Ted Simon) Oral report.

Show Package Development: (Dates pending) The chorus has begun work to learn songs to prepare show packages. There is a need to know what we plan to do and how much we are charging before we can present a show package to a group that might want to schedule a show. There is also a need to utilize social media to provide market exposure for our chorus in the community.

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

The report identified 7 objectives for the music team and the chapter.

1. Learning schedule for 3 new songs: Work is already under way, starting on Jan. 5th. Pleased with progress.
2. Take notes for things to work on at next meeting, working with director Jerry Garrard.
3. Interact with those seeking a new rehearsal site (see below for an update).
4. Continue development of show packages (note marketing report above).
5. Assist the director on working in chairs on notes & words and on risers for performance issues.
6. Lining up dates for outside coaching assistance (Steve Scott identified).
7. How to handle sectionals and develop sectional leaders.

Discussion included implementation of suggestions from contest judges at the district competitions.

Operations Report (Steve Keisker) Oral report.

It was noted that there were not enough chairs set up at the meeting January 5th. It was agreed that the plan to be in chairs for words and music learning was working out well. Carter Combs plans to have a budget committee meeting starting at 6:00 PM on Tuesday January 19th and requested the church doors be open in time for that meeting.

Program Vice President (No Program VP, Carter Combs gave oral report)

Discussion on how to continue publishing In-Tune, since that has been the program VP's responsibility. Some alternatives were suggested, but most agreed we should keep it going. Jerry Meier has agreed to handle this in the short term.

Events Summary. (Previous to meeting)

Salvation Army Caravan (December 19th): So far, over \$26,000 has been received, our best year ever for this activity. Final results will be available at the end of January. Clarion Court, the venue added this year, contributed the most of any of our venues this year.

Awards Dinner (January 9th): It was deemed to be successful and well run. The layout of the meeting space posed a challenge. Plans are to meet at the same facility in 2017 and to improve on the layout. Space is available to the left of the bar that was not utilized this year. All agreed that the sound system could be improved.

Events Summary. (Subsequent to meeting)

Valentines 2016: (Valentine's Day is Sunday) No replacement has been found yet for John Erwine as chairman.

John stated he was "done", but offered to help his successor. Helzberg and other donors have been contacted for prizes. All is in place, the only need is for someone to take over as chairman. A motion was offered to do deliveries on Friday (Feb. 12th) and Sunday (Feb. 14th), with a fee schedule of \$50 for an 8-hour window, \$75 for a 2-hour window and \$95 for a 1-hour window. (Any requests for a Saturday delivery would be priced at \$95, since a quartet would need to be found.) The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Barry Sanders has agreed to coordinate the formation of quartets to deliver Valentines.

It was noted that we are doing this on our own, no other area chapters will be involved with us.

Harmony Explosion: (Sat. Feb. 20th) Jerry Meier is coordinating this program again this year.

The Sweet Adelines chapter will sing to start the program that morning.

Our chapter will re-learn "Down on the Corner" to sing with the high schoolers that day.

Olive Garden will once again provide the lunches.

Will be inviting the Leavenworth chapter (Cody Choraliers) to assist.

The Society will provide a grant of \$1,500 to cover expenses of this event.

Annual Show 2016: Kent Miller came to the meeting to report on the venue search.

A written report was provided. Three locations stood out as good choices, one in Olathe (Bell Cultural Center at Mid-America Nazarene University), 545 seats, \$2,300 cost; another is the White Theater at the Jewish Community Center, Overland Park, 504 seats, \$3,000 cost; the third is in Liberty (Liberty Performing Arts Theater), 700 seats, \$2,000 cost.

The report also listed other venues that were considered and why they were not placed on this short list.

It was noted that most of our members (and most of those that would be buying tickets) live in the south Kansas City area and Johnson County, so the Liberty location would be less desirable. The White Theater is solidly booked before August. All three venues are considered to be acceptable for our needs.

After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the need at this point is to identify available dates at each of the three venues and match those with dates that the quartet Forefront could come to do the show. The venue available on a date when Forefront was also available would then be the venue of choice.

OLD BUSINESS: Pending closure of St. Peter's church and need to find a new rehearsal space.

A buyer has come forward to purchase St. Peter's church building. It is an Egyptian Coptic church congregation. We are seeking to contact them. If they agree to allow us to remain in the space with a rental agreement similar to that offered by St. Peter's, we would NOT need to relocate.

The report is that the sale of the church would be completed in April.

Casual shirts: Need more of them. Ted Simon asked to obtain a price quotation. Vince Perry and Marty Oldenhoft need to determine how many shirts need to be ordered.

NEW BUSINESS: Annual Resolutions. Carter Combs presented the 2015 resolutions, which included a recognition of Dale Neuman's role as our legal advisor as Board Member Emeritus and Jim Bagby as Director Emeritus and authorization of several members to handle chapter funds. All of the resolutions from 2015 were considered unchanged for 2016 except for date references. A motion to accept all without change was made and approved by a unanimous voice vote.

The Budget Committee for the 2016 budget was identified:

Chapter President Carter Combs, Exec. VP Barry Sanders, Music VP Bob Velazques, also Kent Miller and Vince Perry. The committee will meet for the first time January 19th at 6:00 PM. Treasurer Harvey Shapiro has provided the committee with an Excel spreadsheet to contain the budget numbers.

Auditor: Charles Ramirez has been doing this, but another is needed as the person should not be a board member. Wendell Shaffer will take on this responsibility. Another is needed to assist. Several were suggested.

Director's Contract: A motion was made to extend Director Jerry Garrard's contract for calendar year 2016 with the same terms as in the contract for 2015. The motion was passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Leadership Academy: (Jan. 23rd at St. Joseph) Five board members stated they planned to attend.

A motion was made to have the chapter cover the registration cost for these five members.

The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Good of the Order: As some had expressed concern that it would be a problem to get to board meetings on Mondays at 6 PM, alternatives were discussed. None appeared worthy. No change was made. We will be unable to meet at the St. Mores Church on Monday, October 10th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

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

James R. Porter, Secretary