

Heart of America Chapter – A048
Barbershop Harmony Society
Kansas City, Missouri
Minutes for Board of Directors Meeting
March 14th, 2016

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

Meeting called to order at 6:15 PM by President Carter Combs.

Board Members present at 6:00 PM:

Carter Combs (President), John Erwine (Imm. Past Pres), Jim Porter (Secretary),
Jerry Meier (Membership VP), Harvey Shapiro (Treasurer), Charles Ramirez (At Large).

Late Arrivals (time): Barry Sanders (Exec. VP, 6:10), Ted Simon (Marketing VP, 6:25),
Bob Murphy (At Large, 6:35), Steve Keisker (Operations VP, 6:55).

Board Members Absent: Bob Velazquez (Music VP), Tony O'Brien (At Large).
There is no Program VP as yet.

Also Present: John Gathright, Keith Schweer (Past Presidents), Jerry Garrard (Chorus Director).

The minutes for the previous meeting on February 8th, 2016 were prepared in printed form by secretary Jim Porter.
These were accepted as presented.

Treasurer Harvey Shapiro provided his report for February.

Total income, month: \$ 4,705.45; total expenses \$ 2,524.40.

Net surplus for month: \$ 2,181.05; budgeted: \$ 125.00.

Net surplus for year: \$ 817.99; budgeted: \$ (1,080.00).

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

Holiday Show Income: \$ 8,270.00; total expenses \$ 3,814.34. (final, includes KCSA share)

Valentines Income: \$ 2,146.00; total expenses \$ 291.87. (not final, expenses remain)

Harmony Explo Inc: \$ 2,517.62; total expenses \$ 969.63. (not final, expenses remain)

Unrestricted funds (members or social fund) available: \$ 8,437.34.

Restricted funds (operating fund) available: \$ 9,535.97.

Designated funds: Net on deposit: \$ 500.00.

Total in checking account: \$11,784.47;

Total in Truman Foundation: \$ 6,688.84; Total: \$18,473.31.

The report was placed on file for audit as presented.

Fourth quarter 2015 earnings in the Truman Fund added \$193.83 to that account.

There was discussion about adding to this fund, but no action was taken.

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. Two of our quartets including "Armchair Chorderbacks" are interested. The theater will pay the chapter \$50 for each show in which one of our quartets plays the role. Should other members wish to fill this role and are able to form a quartet that can sing with quality one song in the show, the opportunity is available to them.

Ted also reported that additional casual T-Shirts are being prepared, but there are no additional 3-X Large shirts.

We are also seeking performance opportunities at local festivals in the area. Several towns in the areas sponsor at least one festival during the warm months where a choral performance could be part of the program. This opportunity is ours since Central Standard has stated that they would no longer accept such performance requests. 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) Prepared written report. Summary:

Total members as of February: 115, same as in January. Five members are overdue for paying their dues, 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 first 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. BoomTown and Premium Blend were the featured quartets, together with Dynamix and HEAT for the ladies. We hosted 150+ students who formed 34 quartets for the day. The program was quite successful and all had a good time.

Jerry noted that with the reality of Central Standard, we should focus our membership recruitment efforts toward older men who would be comfortable singing with our group and not wanting to take on the challenge of singing with Central Standard. He noted that the most effective method to recruit from this demographic would be personal contact.

Music Team Report (Bob Velazquez) Absent, provided written report. Music team meeting was Sunday March 6th.

A summary of items discussed:

1. A new rehearsal format was implemented. There will be no break but the meeting is planned to end by no later than 9:45 PM. The intent was to have more members remain to the end of the meeting.
2. There also was discussion about members arriving late. A suggestion was made to start later. In the end, it was recognized that the chapter meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:00 PM and end at 10:00 PM, but the portion devoted to chorus rehearsal was free to be altered by the chorus leadership as they pleased without action by the Board. The initial few minutes and/or the final few minutes can be activities other than chorus rehearsal time. In light of this fact, it was concluded no board action was required in this area. The goal ought to be to have the meeting be stimulating enough for the members to want to come on time and stay to the end.

Music Team Report, continued.

3. 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. A motion was made later in the meeting to accept his invitation, which was passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Operations Report (Steve Keisker) No report. Later in the meeting: Update on the need to relocate.

St. Peters Church will have its last Sunday service on April 3rd. After that date, the church building will be closed. Should the deal be closed at that point, allowing the St. Mark Coptic Orthodox congregation that is purchasing the building to take occupancy immediately, then we would be able to continue meeting in the church on Tuesday April 5th and thereafter without break. According to their spokesman John McKinty, the deal is not yet complete, so it is possible we will need to find another place to meet for a period of time. Board Member Bob Murphy stated that his church, which is just a few blocks away from St. Peter's, had a space that is available to us and adequate for our needs. He will speak to his church leaders to confirm that availability. We could also meet at Longview College, but if we meet there we would have to meet on Monday evenings.

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

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, but he has not yet been able to contact that person and get an agreement to take the position, so his identity was not revealed at the meeting.

The Budget Committee has not yet completed the 2016 budget.

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

Events Summary. (Previous to meeting)

Holiday Show (December 5th): The final reconciliation with the KC Sweet Adelines has been completed, and we paid them \$646.95 per that report. The net profit for each chapter was \$4,602 per report (Note: the Treasurers report showed a profit of \$4,459.66. The difference is certain expenses, such as refreshments, which we bore alone.) The report showed we had 790 at the show compared to 834 last year. It was also noted that the cost for talent was \$700, compared to last year when Vocal Spectrum was the featured quartet and talent cost therefore exceeded \$3,000. Our profit was therefore larger this year. It was discussed whether or not the extra cost for top level talent was a good investment, but the consensus was that we ought to provide our supporters with the best quality show we can.

Planning for the 2016 show is underway. There has been one meeting, another is scheduled for March 24th. One of the items being considered is a change of venue, another is returning to a two-show format. No decisions made as yet.

Valentines 2016: (Sun. Feb. 14th) John Erwine presented his final report. It showed there were 40 total deliveries, 27 were paid, 10 were complimentary, 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. (Note the Treasurers report shows \$1,840 revenue plus \$306 from sales of candy, offset by \$291.87 in expenses, but those expenses were known to be incomplete.)

Singing Valentines Report, continued.

The report showed that the share for Children's Mercy Hospital was \$338.19 (25% of our net revenues), plus all of the candy sales revenue (\$306) plus donations designated to the hospital (\$330.85) for a total of \$975.04. A motion was made and approved by a unanimous voice vote to round this amount up to \$1,000.

The report also showed that the share for the Sweet Adelines (30%) is \$304.37. It was noted that Carol Ramirez, Jeffi Combs and Pat Ross responded to a crisis of being locked out of the office on Valentine's Day by spending considerable time writing orders by hand that allowed all deliveries to be made in a timely manner. A motion was made to increase the Sweet Adelines share to \$350 as a way of thanking them. This motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

The bottom line profit for the chapter, after these motions were passed, is therefore \$639.60 per the report given.

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. The earliest available date is June 25th (Saturday). June 18th is also available, but the Ambassadors of Harmony show is scheduled for that date. There is also a date available August 27th and there are also two Saturdays in September available. It was the consensus of all present that June 25th, which is the anniversary of our chapter's founding in 1938, would be an ideal date. There is need to contact our headliner quartet Forefront to see if they are available on that date. If we are, then we have a date for our annual show.

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

There was some talk about choosing not to participate in this competition. President Carter Combs stated that this was not something he was proposing, but that some members were thinking this way. In the discussion, it was agreed that this would be counter-productive and would leave the chapter members with nothing specific to work for. After some discussion, a motion was made that the chapter ought to commit to the district competition and commit to do as well as they could in that competition. This motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. A second motion was made for the chapter to pay the registration cost (\$55 per man) for each man participating in the competition chorus. This motion was also passed by a unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS: Friends and Family Show. Tuesday March 29th, 6:30 PM.

This show by the Sweet Adelines chapter is to take place at Longview College. Consideration was given to the idea that all of our members be invited to support the Sweet Adelines by going to this show and starting our chapter meeting after the show was over and the members returned to St. Peters Church (the meeting would start at 8:00 PM). After some discussion, a motion was made to do this, which passed by a unanimous voice vote. If space was available at Longview College, it was proposed that the chapter meeting be held at that location, thus removing the need to drive back to St. Peters. It is necessary to determine if this is possible. If so, that will become the plan for March 29th.

Good of the Order: President Carter Combs noted that a change in his work situation likely will make him less available for meetings and other chapter activities. In that event, Exec. VP Barry Sanders will preside at board meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 11th, 2016.

James R. Porter, Secretary