

Heart of America Chapter – A048  
Barbershop Harmony Society  
Kansas City, Missouri  
Minutes for Board of Directors Meeting  
May 9<sup>th</sup>, 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 that time: Carter Combs (President),  
John Erwine (Imm. Past Pres), Jim Porter (Secretary), Harvey Shapiro (Treasurer),  
Steve Keisker (Operations VP), Charles Ramirez (At Large), Barry Sanders (Exec. VP).

Late Arrivals (time): Ted Simon (Marketing VP, 6:25).

Board Members Absent: Bob Murphy (At Large), Jerry Meier (Membership VP),  
Bob Velazquez (Music VP), Tony O'Brien (Program VP).

Two vacancies exist for at-large board members.

Also Present: Keith Schweer (Past President), Jim Bagby (Past President), Jerry Garrard (Director).

The minutes for the previous meeting on April 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 April.

Total income, month: \$ 2,948.30; total expenses \$ 4,025.32.

Net (deficit) for month: \$(1,077.02); budgeted: \$(1,055.00).

Net (deficit) for year: \$(3,559.30); budgeted: \$(5,420.00).

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

President Carter Combs stated his personal and family needs are delaying this work.

Significant income item: Subsidy from Harmony Foundation, \$2,948.30.

Significant expense item: NO FACILITIES RENT in April. Budgeted amount assumed to be \$480.

Also: Liability & Property insurance (annual payment): \$ 1,631.00.

Harmony University Scholarships (2): 1,450.00.

Additional casual uniform shirts (14): 419.32.

Unrestricted funds (members or social fund) available: \$ 8,484.84.

Restricted funds (operating fund) available: \$ 5,011.18.

Designated funds: Net on deposit: \$ 600.00.

Total in checking account: \$ 7,407.18;

Total in Truman Foundation: \$ 6,688.84; Total: \$14,096.02.

The report was placed on file for audit as presented.

Continued on Page 2.

**Marketing Report** (Ted Simon), written report.

The written report was a list of possible opportunities for doing a benefit show, mostly contacts with organizations in towns, counties, or civic groups within 100 miles of Kansas City. Some contacts have been made and in one case there is an agreement to do a show. We have agreed to do a performance in Blue Springs the evening of Saturday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>. Plans are being made to have our chorus retreat the same weekend at a location near Blue Springs, from which we can go together on a bus to do the show, then return together on the bus to close out the retreat weekend.

In all other cases where contacts have been made, scheduling is complete for this year and any opportunities for doing a show would have to be in 2017 or later. This includes the Overland Park Music in the Park series. We will not be able to perform in Santa Fe Commons Park this summer.

At the meeting also, outside the scope of this report, it was announced that the chorus will perform Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, for a benefit performance. Uniform will be our new casual shirt and blue jeans. Show time is 2:00 PM.

In the meeting discussion, it was agreed that the chorus seek for any opportunity to perform in public, whether there was an agreement for payment of a performance fee or not. The chorus needs to be visible in public and the members need to have something to be preparing for as a focus in the weekly meetings.

It was noted in the March meeting that the New Theater in Overland Park is planning a show to run between Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 through Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017. They need a barbershop quartet for the show. "Armchair Chorderbacks" have auditioned. The theater will pay the chapter \$50 for each show in which one of our quartets plays the role. At this point, it is still not known whether or not "Armchair Chorderbacks" will be chosen.

**Membership Report** (Jerry Meier) Absent, but prepared written report. Summary:

Total members as of April: 113, down 1 (Tom Elefson dropped) from February. Eight members are overdue for paying their dues (was 7 in March), but Jerry is confident all will renew and remain with the chapter.

The Annual Awards Banquet for 2017 is now scheduled for January 7<sup>th</sup> (Saturday), at Jack Stack's Barbecue, Martin City. The chapter has made the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 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 7<sup>th</sup>. A partial refund is available if we cancel after that date.

Harmony Explosion 2017 is scheduled at Olathe East High School on Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**Music Team Report** (Bob Velazquez) Absent, written report distributed after the meeting. President Carter Combs summarized the report. Music team meeting was Sunday May 8<sup>th</sup>.

A summary of items discussed:

1. Planning for Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> retreat – John Braden has identified 3 possible locations near Blue Springs.

At the previous meeting, Aug. 27<sup>th</sup> was identified as a possible date for our annual show. This is not feasible, as Leavenworth chapter has their show scheduled for that date. A later date is therefore necessary. It was agreed that the show must be in September or October at the latest, so it now looms more and more likely there will be no show in 2016. Some alternatives were discussed (see next page).

**Music Team Report**, continued.

2. One possibility is a cabaret style show. We would not need a headliner quartet and could do a show in an area where a meal was served. The atmosphere would be similar to that of an afterglow, no stage would be needed.
3. Another possibility is a “pay the rent” show at the church for our new landlords. We could arrange to allow our patrons to purchase tickets for the event but allow the church’s members to enjoy the show for free. It should be noted that both of these are possibilities, NOT commitments. There is still no definite plan for a show.
4. The Holiday Show will be Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, later than usual and on the date we would normally be doing our Salvation Army Caravan. The venue (Unity Village) is reserved and a headliner quartet is identified. It has not yet been determined if there will be one or two shows, it is the desire for most to have two shows.
5. The issue of learning media was discussed. The time required to learn “The Way You Look Tonight” without prepared learning files is a concern. In the past, we have prepared our own learning media with designated section leaders performing each part. The chapter has a recording device (currently with Mark Fortino) that can be used for this purpose. In our present situation, obtaining tracks prepared professionally is no longer considered to be an affordable option for the chapter. There is a need to identify men to do the singing.
6. 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. It was noted he is now directing the Sioux City, IA chapter, which meets on Tuesdays. This makes it difficult for us to schedule a time for him to visit us.

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

Steve offered no prepared report, but it was noted that often he is left to set up the risers by himself prior to our weekly meetings. This was not considered to be wise in the long term, as the other members would come to expect the risers to be in place when they arrive and would therefore have no commitment to help out. It was agreed that Steve should wait for others to assist him, and if such help was not available prior to the meeting, then the risers would not be set up at the outset, and would have to be set up later.

**Program Vice President** (Tony O’Brien) Absent, no report.

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

President Carter Combs stated Jim Bagby is mentoring Tony as he learns the responsibilities of his new position.

The Budget Committee has not yet completed the 2016 budget. President Carter Combs stated that personal and family concerns has hindered the process, and that it should be done before the next meeting.

The annual audit of the chapter’s finances remains un-done. Wendell Shaffer has left town and President Carter Combs needs to find a replacement. The Society requires each chapter to complete this task by May. It was noted that papers from last year’s audit were requested but have not yet been found. Charles Ramirez performed the audit last year, and will check into this need.

**Events Summary**. (Subsequent to meeting) Note that some of the items were covered previously.

Summer Schedule: Consideration was given to cancelling the regular weekly meeting for Tuesday July 5<sup>th</sup> (first full day of the International Convention) and Tuesday July 26<sup>th</sup> (Harmony University, both director Jerry Garrard and assistant director Bob Velazquez will be there). A final decision is deferred until the membership may be polled.

Golf Tournament 2016: This is now set for Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, at the Falcon Lakes location, same as in previous years. This is now one of our most significant fund raising events of the year and all are encouraged to line up hole sponsors and participants. Kent Miller will again coordinate this program and has prepared flyers for distribution.

District Contest, Cedar Rapids, IA, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016:

The decision to participate in this competition made at the March meeting has been very well received by the membership. The chapter will pay for the registrations of each member of the competition chorus.

Mentoring: Jim Bagby identified there was a need for one to mentor Jerry Meier as Membership VP. New ideas were needed for recruiting new members. Secretary Jim Porter suggested an idea used by the Des Moines chapter to offer \$25 rewards to patrons of their show to identify new members. It was also suggested that free ads could be inserted into neighborhood newspapers inviting singers in the area to consider joining the chapter.

**NEW BUSINESS**: Note these items were first suggested at the previous board meeting.

Suggestions made to the board with the intent of being an example to the members include:

1. Board members be on time, be prepared for the evening, have recording instruments.
2. Board members prepare articles for the next Harmonotes, to be published in May.
3. A summary balance sheet be made available to members. Harvey S. and Jim P. to work on that.

Report from President Carter Combs from the House of Delegates meeting at the Omaha convention:

1. A new category for membership in the Society is now available. An interested person may now join the Society, pay the Society dues, but not be associated with any local chapter. Such a person would not be eligible to compete in a quartet contest, but could be a member of a quartet and attend Society conventions as a member.
2. Plans to have a chorus contest for senior singers at the Midwinter Convention. Each district would form a chorus from interested singers in the district, this would not be considered to be an individual chapter. The Central States District would form the chorus at its annual spring convention.
3. The Spring 2017 convention is now scheduled to be in Wichita, KS.
4. Harmony Foundation in the future would seek to limit its grants to support NEW programs for reaching out to youthful singers. Ongoing programs (such as Harmony Explosion) are expected to become self-sustaining.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

James R. Porter, Secretary