

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

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

Meeting called to order at 5:50 PM by President Carter Combs.

Board Members present at that time: Carter Combs (President), Jim Porter (Secretary),
Steve Keisker (Operations VP), John Erwine (Imm. Past Pres), Harvey Shapiro (Treasurer),
Bob Velazquez (Music VP), Ted Simon (Marketing VP),
Charles Ramirez (At Large), Bob Murphy (At Large).

Late Arrivals: (6:21 PM) Barry Sanders (Exec. VP).

Board Members Absent: Jerry Meier (Membership VP).

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

The minutes for the previous meeting on October 17th, 2016 were prepared in printed form by secretary Jim Porter. These were accepted as presented.

Treasurer Harvey Shapiro provided his report for October.

Total income, month: \$ 6,877.21; total expenses \$ 2,529.99.
Net surplus for month: \$ 4,347.22; budgeted: \$ 3,920.00.
Net (deficit) for year: \$(11,021.39); budgeted: \$(16,395.00).

Significant income items:	Net of Entries and Sponsors, Golf Tourney	\$ 3,445.00.
	Net Income, Annual Show	625.21.
	Tickets Revenue, Holiday Show	1,740.00.
	Received from Harmony Foundation	722.00.
Significant expense items:	Expenses Connected to Annual Show	\$ 604.67.
	Expenses Connected to Holiday Show	567.68.
	Expenses from District Convention	718.21.
	Hall Rental, Director stipend (each month)	880.00.

Unrestricted funds (members or social fund) available: \$ 8,181.06.
Restricted funds (operating fund) available: \$ (5,504.58).
Designated funds: Net on deposit: \$ 1,200.00.
Total in checking account: \$ 3,876.48;
Total in Truman Foundation: \$ 2,757.45; Total: \$ 6,633.93.

As of November 9th, income received in November: \$ 2,104.78;
Expenses paid to date: \$ 395.36; balance: \$ 5,585.90.

Treasurer's Report, concluded.

A summary report for activities since 2014 was presented. Highlights from recent events as of November 9th:

Holiday Show 2016:	Income:	\$1,960.00.	Expenses:	\$ 820.55.	Net gain:	\$ 1,139.45.
Annual Show 2016:	Income:	\$2,902.85.	Expenses:	\$6,598.58.	Net loss:	\$(3,695.73).
Golf Tourney 2016:	Income:	\$7,640.00.	Expenses:	\$3,696.02.	Net gain:	\$ 3,943.98.
District Conv 2016:	Income:	\$1,054.68.	Expenses:	\$3,686.64.	Net cost:	\$(2,613.96).
Fall Retreat 2016:	Income:	\$1,600.00.	Expenses:	\$2,235.20.	Net cost:	\$(635.20).

Figures for the district convention include district photos and expenses paid for director hotel and hauling risers.

The report was placed on file for audit as presented.

Marketing Report (Ted Simon): Oral report.

Holiday Show mailers and flyers are now out. We have extras available for distribution by individuals.

No radio ads are planned, as no spots are available for free, and paid spots have not been worth the cost.

No program ads have been sold. Plans are to prepare a simple quadrifold program, like in previous years.

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

Total members as of November: 105, down 1 from October. Larry Colburn is now dropped.

Sean Abel and Matt Bostick both are identified as recently overdue. Neither is currently active.

The Annual Awards Banquet for 2017 is now scheduled for January 7th (Saturday), at Jack Stack's Barbecue, Martin City.

The chapter has made all six payments of \$125 each to reserve this date. Anticipated attendance is approximately 60.

The meal charge will be \$40 for a single, \$70 for a couple. Need to identify an installation officer. Anyone can do it, there are no specific qualifications. Several were suggested, including Jim Bagby and Don Fuson.

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

The music team met Sunday, November 13th.

A summary of items in the report:

1. The music team proposes that we plan a series of 3 shows in 2018, joint shows with Topeka and Leavenworth chapters. There would be a show in Topeka, one in Leavenworth, one in our area, and all three chapters would perform at all three shows. The "home" chapter at each show would receive 80% of the revenue and each other chapter 10%. Details remain to be worked out and approved, including the revenue splits.
2. The team is reconsidering the proposal in October to prepare for and perform at the spring convention in Wichita for evaluation only. There is a feeling by some that the competition and judging has not been a positive experience for many in the chapter, and a decision may be made in the future to drop out of the competitions altogether. There will be more discussion about this decision in future meetings. Nothing is final at this time.
3. The Caroling Caravan will have two quartets, Armchair Chorderbacks and Priorities, performing with us.
4. The team is looking for more show performances, in order to increase our public exposure and challenge the men to prepare for these shows and improve their skills to make the chapter more attractive to prospective members. Chillicothe, Trenton and Clinton were suggested for places to present shows.
5. It was suggested that a time be planned where chapter members could meet and discuss the future of the chapter and goals for the members. It would be a team building meeting, not a gripe session.

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Operations Report (Steve Keisker) Oral report.

The November 15th meeting, originally scheduled for Longview College, will instead be at the church. As both our chapter and the Sweet Adelines are smaller now, all should fit on our risers (9 sets). We therefore do not need the platforms nor do we need to rent a U-Haul to move them.

Holiday Show 2016: It is not yet known who will serve as the stage manager.

Caroling Caravan 2016: Mike Mathieu has lined up a 7th performance at a new senior residential center.

Singing Valentines 2017: Still no chairman yet. John Erwine stated that the time may be at hand to put an end to this program. It has gotten smaller each year and in 2016 our profit was just over \$600. Most agreed that is not worth the time and effort required. No final decision as yet, a decision will be made at the December board meeting. We have a few individual obligations to deliver valentines, these can be handled without there being a formal program. We would investigate possible alternative programs for 2018.

Annual Show 2017: Still no firm date. The team expects to hear from Bell Center later this month. An alternative is the Jewish Community Center in Overland Park.

Old Business: While this topic was not identified as "Old Business", a good portion of the board meeting time was given to a discussion about the future of the chapter and what needs to be done to revive the program. Some points that were made include the following:

1. The experience needs to have more "fun" elements in order to attract and retain members.
2. Individual members need to take a greater responsibility for learning the music and improving themselves.
3. We need to add elements to our shows that will attract and excite audience member to join with us.
4. We need to interact with our audiences to a greater degree and invite them to join with us.

New Business: It was revealed that the estate of Wade Dexter will be donating \$5,000 to the chapter to provide scholarships to Harmony University. As the Heartbeats heretofore had been underwriting scholarships (Orval Wilson), there was discussion about the implications. In the discussion, it was noted that there currently are only 6 or so active Heartbeats and they are considering disbanding that organization. If that occurs, the Orval Wilson program would end, and the bequest could potentially allow it to continue several more years, perhaps as the Wade Dexter fund. Wade's son Paul will come to the December board meeting. At that meeting, more specific decisions will be made, no decision was made at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 12th, 2016.

James R. Porter, Secretary