

Heart of America Chapter – A048
Barbershop Harmony Society
Kansas City, Missouri
Minutes for Board of Directors Meeting
December 11th, 2017

Location: St. Peter and All Saints Episcopal Church, 100 E. Red Bridge Road, Kansas City MO 64114.

Meeting called to order at 6:10 PM by President Barry Sanders.

Board Members present at that time:	Barry Sanders (President),	Carter Combs (Imm. Past President),
Jim Porter (Secretary),	Harvey Shapiro (Treasurer),	Mike Schumacher (Executive VP),
Bob Velazquez (Music VP),	Jerry Meier (Membership VP),	Steve Keisker (Operations VP),
Bob Murphy (At Large),	Charles Ramirez (At Large).	

Board Member Absent: Ted Simon (Marketing VP).

2018 Board Members Present: John Braden (Music VP) (Arr. 6:45). Jim Davis (At Large).
Don Fuson (Marketing VP) was out of town, listened by telephone.

Also present: John Erwine (Past President) (Arr. 6:23)

Vacancies exist for Program Vice President and for one at-large position.

The minutes for the previous meeting on November 13th, 2017 were prepared in printed form by Secretary Jim Porter. These were accepted as presented.

Treasurer Harvey Shapiro provided his report for November.

Total income, month: \$ 10,915.46; total expenses \$ 2,530.67.

Net surplus for month: \$ 8,384.79; budgeted: \$ (780.00). (Ahead: \$9,164.79)

Net surplus for year: \$ 14,453.68; budgeted: \$ 5,441.00. (Ahead: \$9,012.68)

It was noted that the budget had nothing for the Holiday Show, as it was not anticipated that a change would cause all cash flows for the Holiday Show to flow through the chapter's account, which is the case this year.

Significant income items:	Golf Tournament sponsorship	\$ 500.00.
	Holiday Show ticket sales	9,065.00.
	Performance at Blue Ridge Bank	500.00.
	Membership Dues Received	516.61.
Significant expense items:	District Convention Expenses	\$ 157.37.
	Holiday Show Expenses Total	430.32.
	Hall Rental, Director stipend (each mo)	880.00.

Unrestricted funds (members or social fund) available: \$ 7,345.55.

Restricted funds (operating fund) available: \$ 8,879.68. (plus \$868.78 in Truman fund)

Designated funds: Net on deposit: \$ 6,598.99.

Total in checking account: \$17,725.23;

Total in Truman Foundation: \$ 6,067.77; Total: \$23,793.00.

Treasurer's report, concluded.

To date in December, an additional \$2,740 was received as Holiday Show income, less \$34.86 CC fees.

Holiday Show expenses paid total \$2,768.00. Yet to be paid: \$3,825.74 to Unity Village.

To date in December, \$240 hall rent was paid. Also paid: \$40.15 chorus manager expenses.

The balance in the checking account as of Dec. 8th is \$17,382.22.

The final report for the Holiday Show will be prepared by the end of December. Including the payment due to Unity Village, total income is \$12,810, total expenses \$7,935.37, net profit \$4,874.63. This does not include the \$2,000 "seed" money received in October. In the end, ½ of the profit will go to the Sweet Adelines chapter.

The treasurer's report was placed on file for audit as presented.

Marketing Report (Ted Simon): Absent, no report.

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

Total members as of Nov. 30th: 96, no change from October. Likely future drops: Craig Wilcox.

Year to date: Add 3 new members, less 7 members dropped, less 4 members to Chapter Eternal. Net loss: 8.

Tom Hadley has recently visited the chapter and will likely join. Other prospects: Fred Homan, Brian Marston.

The next Guest Night is scheduled for late February (20th or 27th), after Harmony Explosion. Plans are also being made for guest nights in April (80th Anniv. Event), June (after annual show), late July (3rd annual all-KC chapter event) and for late October or early November (after district contest).

The Installation Banquet for 2018 is now scheduled for Saturday, January 13th. The location will be at Cinzetti's Italian Restaurant, 7201 W. 91st Street (just west of Metcalf) in Overland Park. Provided we have 50 or more at the banquet, all may enjoy an all you care to eat buffet for a cost of \$20 to \$25 per person.

Harmony Explosion! 2018 is scheduled for February 17th at Olathe East High School. Harmonium has agreed to be the featured quartet for the day. Pizzazz has agreed to be the featured Sweet Adelines quartet. Notice has been received that the application to Harmony Foundation was successful and the chapter will receive a \$1,500 grant in 2018. At present, he is reminding members planning to volunteer to take the BHS Youth Protection training seminar.

Music Team Report (Bob Velazquez) Provided a written report. The music team met Sunday, Dec. 10th.

A summary of items in the report:

- Holiday Show: (Dec. 2nd) Evaluation: Many good things. Concerns: Length of show, quality of chapter quartets including the VLQ, too many directors, backstage coordination (needed a manager), logistics of getting on and off stage, emcee format. Recommend an artistic committee separate from the show (business) committee.
- Holiday Show: (Dec. 1st, 2018) Considering songs for next year's show, adding "Mary Did You Know" (sung by the ladies heretofore), "Little Drummer Boy" and "O Come Emmanuel" (8-part arrangement). Other song suggestions were also given by individual music team members.
- Future Rehearsals: Intent is to have as much of the new music for 2018 online and available to the members as soon as possible, to encourage members to work on them before the first 2018 rehearsal on January 2nd. The first song, "That Old Quartet of Mine", was introduced in the meeting on December 12th.

Music Team Report (Bob Velazquez), concluded.

- Retreat, 2018: Plan is to have a retreat in May, ahead of the Annual Show. The focus would be choreography, coached by either Sherri Hart or Stacy Schumacher. They will be contacted before the January meeting.
- 80th Anniversary Show: (June) Still no agreement on a show title. A list of 11 songs was proposed for the show, several of which are revivals of songs in the chorus repertoire in past years. Consideration was also given to having tributes for past quartets, including Merry Mugs and Rural Route Four. The headliner quartet will be After Hours from Illinois District, which placed 3rd in last July's contest in Las Vegas. Possible to invite members of 12th Street Rag to sing their signature song. Other quartets will be Singamabob and Yowza. It is also planned to have a tribute for the initial meeting that led to the formation of SPEBSQSA.
- District Contest: (October) Early thoughts for a package: "Tie Me To Your Apron Strings Again" and "I'm On My Way", which are two of the 11 songs planned for the Annual Show.

Operations Report: (Steve Keisker)

- St. Mark's Church in the past month asked the chapter to consider doubling the weekly rental fee (currently \$120 per meeting) for the practice room location. The Board has agreed to make a counter-proposal, which would allow a rent increase of 25% (to \$150) or so, with the provision that the church would agree to have the hall temperature be comfortable in the colder months, lighting in the parking lot, and a bathroom repair. In the meantime, board members have been urged to seek out alternatives. John Erwine is coordinating this effort. John Braden has had a good contact with Rockhurst High School, they have expressed interest.
- John Erwine has purchased one stool and shown it to the Board. The stool costs \$40.73, plus \$13.65 for a cushion. The rear legs may be sawn off to allow it to sit properly on the risers. The stool has a load limit of 220 pounds, which could be a problem. The board agreed to purchase the one stool and see if it will work, after which consideration will be given to purchasing more. Where to store them is a potential challenge.

Old Business:

- The deposit for the reservation of the lobby of the Muehlebach Hotel is now paid, so the planned celebration on April 11th is now set. The three other area chapters have all agreed to participate with us in this celebration of the 80th anniversary of the Society. A revised contract for this event is now pending.
- Also, the Valentines Rendezvous at the Station is now set for Saturday, February 10th. Pierpont's will serve the meals at a cost of about \$100 per couple. Plans are to sell tickets to the banquet for \$150 per couple. Note that it is not yet clear that this plan will work out, we should know in January.
- In addition, plans are being made to offer Singing Valentines as they have done in the past, at least on Valentine's Day (Feb. 14th).
- The final report of ticket sales for the Holiday Show was released after the board meeting. It showed 658 tickets sold, total ticket revenue \$12,620. Last year, there were 604 tickets sold, total ticket revenue \$11,755. This is an improvement, but still well below totals seen in previous years.
- President Barry Sanders prepared a letter to be sent to Jerry Garrard to advise him of board intentions for the director's contract in 2018. The other board members read a copy of that letter during the meeting.
- When Pat Kies resigned as treasurer of the Holiday Show committee, that burden fell on our treasurer Harvey Shapiro. During Pat's tenure, the Holiday Show bank account was maintained year to year by holding "seed money" of \$2,000. Pat Kies closed that account and the \$2,000 was added to the chapter's checking account in November. Discussion centered on how to handle that money. Options were to split it with the Sweet Adelines and consider it part of the income for this year's show, or to continue to hold the entire \$2,000 and set up a special purpose fund for the Holiday Show. A motion was made and passed to accept the latter option.

New Business:

- The search for an alternate meeting place has proceeded beyond what was stated in the Operations Report. Several contacts have been made and some appear to be feasible. A list of contacts has been prepared, and was expanded during the meeting.
- A motion was made and approved to have no chapter meeting on Dec. 19th and Dec. 26th. The first chapter meeting of 2018 will take place on Tuesday, January 2nd.
- The task of maintaining chapter legal records has fallen to John Erwine, now that Dale Neuman has resigned and moved out of the area. Discussion centered on particular items and what needed to be done to maintain our status as a 501(c) non-profit organization. John has a large amount of paper files to work his way through. Henceforth, the person with this responsibility will be identified as the Chapter Agent.
- The chapter's trailer was broken into in the time between the Holiday Show and the meeting Dec. 5th, and our entire sound system was stolen. Thom Tisdall donated the sound system to the chapter in 2003, his estimated cost was \$8,000. A claim was filed to our insurance carrier, which demanded evidence of exactly what was stolen and how much it cost when purchased. Alas, the chapter has not been able to provide that evidence. There is a need to keep evidence of what the chapter owns as assets in case of future losses of this nature. There was discussion of how the chapter would replace the lost sound equipment, no decisions as yet.
- The fourth edition of the Harmonotes for 2017, in the past published in November, has not yet been released. It was agreed that this edition should be prepared and released at the end of the year.
- It was noted that in a drawing after the 2016 Holiday Show, Bob Velazquez won free dues for 2017. Bob said that was never paid to him. The board agreed to have the chapter pay his dues in 2018. The chapter has paid both prizes won in the drawing after the 2017 Holiday Show.

The next evening (December 12th) at the chapter meeting, the 2018 Board of Directors was approved. The list:

President:	Barry Sanders (Continuing)	Member 238661
Secretary:	Charles Ramirez (ex-at large)	Member 192379
Treasurer:	Jim Porter (ex-secretary)	Member 213655
Executive VP:	Mike Schumacher (Continuing)	Member 219118
Marketing VP:	Don Fuson (new to board)	Member 275877
Membership VP:	Jerry Meier (Continuing)	Member 237412
Music, Perf. VP:	John Braden (new to board)	Member 211112
Operations VP:	Steve Keisker (Continuing)	Member 521261
Program VP:	<None>	
At Large:	Bob Murphy (Continuing)	Member 311659
At Large:	Harvey Shapiro (ex-treasurer)	Member 278082
At Large:	Jim Davis (new to board)	Member 151205
Immed. Past Pres:	Carter Combs (Continuing)	Member 200031
Retiring from the board:	Ted Simon, Bob Velazquez.	Member 295495 (Bob)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 8th, 2018.

James R. Porter, Secretary