

Heart of America Chapter – A048  
Barbershop Harmony Society  
Kansas City, Missouri  
Minutes for Board of Directors Meeting  
January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017

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

Meeting called to order at 6:05 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), Jerry Meier (Membership VP),  
Steve Keisker (Operations VP), Charles Ramirez (At Large), Bob Murphy (At Large),  
Mike Schumacher (Executive VP).

Board Members Absent: Bob Velazquez (Music VP), Ted Simon (Marketing VP), Tony O'Brien (Program VP).

One vacancy exists for at-large board members.

The minutes for the previous meeting on December 12<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 December.

Total income, month: \$ 2,284.16; total expenses \$ 3,870.46.  
Net (deficit) for month: \$ (1,586.30); budgeted: \$ 14,575.00. (End of year writeoff)  
Net (deficit) for year: \$ ( 8,316.00); budgeted: \$ 2,557.00.

Significant income items:	Tickets Revenue, Holiday Show	\$ 1,390.00.
	Installation Meals Paid	490.00.
	Marbles Fund, Final	207.00.
Significant expense items:	Expenses Connected to Holiday Show	\$ 1,467.91.
	Hall Rental, Director stipend (each month), dues	1,065.00.
	Marbles Fund Paid to Harmony Foundation	1,107.00.
	Awards at Installation Banquet	151.15.

A total of \$2,983.85 was moved from the Social Fund to the Operating Fund to cover the year end deficit.

Unrestricted funds (members or social fund) available: \$ 5,884.71.  
Restricted funds (operating fund) available: \$ .00.  
Designated funds: Net on deposit: \$ 500.00.  
Total in checking account: \$ 6,384.71;  
Total in Truman Foundation: \$ 2,954.61; Total: \$ 9,339.32.

As of January 12<sup>th</sup>, income received in January: \$ 7,441.60;  
Expenses paid to date: \$ 4,325.09; Balance: \$ 9,501.22.

These amounts include the Wade Dexter fund (\$5,000) and Heartbeats closeout (\$1,321.60).

The Holiday Show final settlement was a \$1,454.54 payout, the net cost of the awards banquet: \$128.21.

The 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 Year End: 104, down 1 from December. Michael Beck is dropped. No members added in 2016, 12 are dropped. Of these, 4 have died, 2 have transferred to Central Standard, and the other 6 did not renew for whatever reason. Sean Abel, Ted Simon and Don Young are identified as overdue. Sean Abel likely will drop his membership. Total members, year end 2015: 116. Year end 2014: 128. Year end 2013: 129.

The Annual Awards Banquet for 2017 was held on January 7<sup>th</sup> (Saturday), at Jack Stack's Barbecue, Martin City. Society President Don Fuson installed the officers. Awards: Barbershopper of the Year: Carter Combs. John Cross Award: Jim Porter. There were 44 meals paid (\$35 each), 7 complimentary meals. Three RSVP'd but did not show. There was a net financial loss to the chapter of \$458. Unless we can be assured of at least 60 in attendance in 2018, we will need to seek another venue. We can reserve a date with Jack Stack and back out before November if necessary.

Harmony Explosion! 2017 is scheduled for February 18<sup>th</sup> at Olathe East High School. We have received a \$1,500 grant from Harmony Foundation to support this event. BoomTown is confirmed as the BHS quartet representative. There is not yet a Sweet Adeline quartet confirmed, Dynamix is probable. The boys chorus will sing "Who Will Buy". The school has asked for a donation to help them purchase 6 Farley PocketTones Electronic Pitch Pipes and some music. Jerry has invited members to provide for these needs and has had a positive response from several.

**Music Team Report** (Bob Velazquez) Absent, provided a written report.

The music team met Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup>.

A summary of items in the report:

1. The annual show date is now fixed. We will do two shows on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, at the Bell Center in Olathe. We are still waiting for a quote of expenses from the Bell Center. Basic costs are \$85 per hour rehearsal time, \$135 per hour performance time, plus additional fees for technicians and their services.
2. The team has identified 15 songs for the June show. Five are new, four are songs we sung within the past 10 years but are not in our current repertoire, and the other six are current repertoire songs. Not all will be sung on the show, a final decision for the show songs will be made at a later time. The list was prioritized.
3. Negotiations are under way to line up a headliner quartet. The desire is to have an International medalist quartet. Suggested: Signature, After Hours, Newfangled Four, Forefront and Throwback.
4. The report included discussion about how the show would be staged, including possible costuming, stage props, backdrops, etc. The objective is to present a show with an Americana theme. Various ideas were presented, this will be a show that should be attractive and entertaining, not just a singing show.
5. Responsible people were also identified. Bob Velazquez would handle responsibilities of show chairman.
6. There was also discussion about having a more effective marketing plan, including publicity to sell tickets and program ads. The team recognizes that the same old way just does not work as well any longer.
7. The afterglow is planned for the Olive Garden in Olathe. (1.5 miles NE near 119<sup>th</sup> and Lackman Rd.) The Bell Center does not allow for alcoholic beverages. Olive Garden may provide a buffet.
8. Looking forward, Storm Front has been contacted for the 2017 Holiday Show, and it looks probable they will be the headliner on that show, which is set for Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.
9. Also looking forward, Bell Center is available for our 2018 Annual Show on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. It was moved and passed we should seek to lock that date down so we have more time to identify a headliner quartet for the show.

**Music Team Report**, continued.

10. There was further discussion about changing the schedule for our regular rehearsals to provide time for sectional rehearsals and other “fun” activities. This began in the January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, where each section was invited to identify a section leader and to review the singing plan for the new songs. In general, the learning media was the determining factor in places where the media tracks were different from the printed music. Further discussion centered on how to best make use of the sectional time to learn the new music properly.
11. The music team (and the board) was reminded that they should lead by example at our meetings.

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

1. The January 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting was held in a room with a temperature in the low 50s. Thankfully, the room was comfortably warm for the January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Hopefully this issue is resolved.
2. On December 26<sup>th</sup>, the chorus trailer (while parked in the church parking lot) was broken into. This fact was reported by people at the church. The only missing item was a trailer hitch, which was replaced at a cost of \$72. A benefactor has come forward willing to make a donation to cover that cost, but this has not yet been received.
3. The Sweet Adelines chapter has requested use of our risers for a coaching event Sunday Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>, from 1 PM to 6 PM. This would take place in our meeting room, no need to move risers. This plan was agreed to by the board.

**Events Summary:**

**Holiday Show 2016:** The final report showed the chapter will clear about \$2,200. A final settlement to KCSA was sent out by the treasurer before the meeting (see page 1). This is down from last year, when our profit was about \$4,000.

**Caroling Caravan 2016:** Our effort raised just over \$20,000 for the Salvation Army, which is a good result, given we did one fewer concert, and one of the concerts was in a new venue that did not publicize the event very well. Also to be considered was the fact that the day featured very challenging weather conditions with ice and snow.

**Singing Valentines 2017:** President Barry Sanders presented a proposal for a Date Night event, which would replace our usual plan for Valentine’s Day. As presented, it would be a banquet at Pierponts in Union Station, priced at \$150 per couple, and featuring quartets that would go through the area during the banquet to serenade individual couples. The venue is such that we could initially stage a smaller party, but if the idea catches on, it could become a large party and expand into the Grand Hall at Union Station. It is also a possible opportunity for the chorus to prepare a presentation. While this is an idea with great potential, it is not possible to do this in 2017. Therefore, it was agreed there would be no Valentines activity in 2017 and that we should plan to have a Date Night for Valentine’s Day in 2018.

**Leadership Training, HEP School 2017:** This annual event will be in St. Joseph February 2<sup>nd</sup> (Fri.) and 3<sup>rd</sup> (Sat.). All on the Board are encouraged to attend, and it is an event anyone in the chapter can profit from. Each Board member is asked to make a reservation for and pay for that reservation with Central States District, after which the chapter will reimburse the board member for the cost of a reservation. Hotel costs for an overnight stay are the responsibility of the member.

**Spring Prelims Convention:** Wichita, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>. There are no plans for the chorus to participate in the competition.

**Old Business:** The Heartbeats held their last meeting Tuesday Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>. They have turned over the balance of their funds, \$1,321.60, to the chapter. This money was intended for use to provide scholarships to Harmony University, but the Heartbeats stated that there would be no restrictions on how the money would be used. The Board has agreed to receive the money as an undesignated donation to the chapter and add it to our Operating Fund.

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**Old Business:** Continued

Paul Dexter, son of Wade Dexter (who passed Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>) was present at the awards banquet to discuss his intentions for the \$5,000 grant from Wade Dexter's estate, which was received by the chapter shortly thereafter. This money is to be used to provide scholarships to Harmony University. Heretofore, these scholarships were designated as Orval Wilson scholarships and provided by the Heartbeats. Hereafter, these scholarships would be in honor of Wade Dexter. There was discussion of how and where to hold these funds, and it was suggested that the Truman Fund be increased to have \$5,000 in it and that hereafter that fund be designated for this purpose, with the investment gains and losses going to the Wade Dexter fund. This was tabled to the February meeting, when Kent Miller would be invited to speak about the structure of the Truman Fund and the feasibility of this proposal.

The chapter dues will increase from \$35 per year to \$40 per year, effective March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

**New Business:**

The Annual Resolutions were presented for approval by Secretary Jim Porter. These resolutions included the names of individuals authorized to receive money on behalf of the chapter. It was agreed that the resolutions should mention the committee chairmen without mention of names so that the text would become generic and carry forward year to year. Jim Porter then made the necessary changes so the board could approve them the next evening at the chapter meeting.

It was noted that St. Thomas More Church has decided to terminate their agreement with us as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. This means we must find a new place for our monthly board meetings. Bob Murphy held out the possibility his church would make a space available to us. Bob was successful and announced on January 18<sup>th</sup> that his church, St Peter and All Saints Episcopal Church at 100 East Red Bridge Road, Kansas City, MO, would provide a free space for our board meetings. The change is therefore effective immediately and our board meeting will be at that location in February.

President Barry Sanders distributed an E-Mail from former President Dale Neuman, where Dale cautions the board that they could not permit the deficit spending to continue. He advised that the chapter faced the prospect of corporate bankruptcy unless they stopped the bleeding. He noted that most member activities such as the installation banquet and conventions should at least be cost neutral with the members covering all of the costs. The chapter has been in this position before. This was a cautionary note to alert the board that drastic changes would be necessary.

Executive Vice President Mike Schumacher responded to say he was targeting the 69 men who have renewed their dues but remain inactive to become involved again. The goal is to make our meetings fun again and attractive to these men and to new members. Given the innovations presented at the meeting, we are off to a good beginning for 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

James R. Porter, Secretary