

Heart of America Chapter – A048  
Barbershop Harmony Society  
Kansas City, Missouri  
Minutes for Board of Directors Meeting  
May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017

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

Meeting called to order at 6:08 PM by President Barry Sanders.

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

Board Members Arriving Late: Ted Simon (Marketing VP), 6:13.

Board Members Absent: Jerry Meier (Membership VP), Charles Ramirez (At Large).

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

The minutes for the previous meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 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:   \$ 1,105.00;   total expenses   \$ 2,241.94.  
Net deficit for month:   \$ 1,136.94;   budgeted:       \$ ( 860.00). (based on 2016 budget)  
Net deficit for year:     \$ 1,812.18;   budgeted:       \$ (6,240.00).

Significant income items:           Annual Show Ticket Revenue           \$ 940.00.  
Significant expense items:          Annual Show Expenses                 \$ 1,047.27.  
  Hall Rental, Director stipend (each mo)   1,000.00.

Unrestricted funds (members or social fund) available:   \$ 6,489.62.  
Restricted funds (operating fund) available:                \$( 4,462.48).  
Designated funds:                    Net on deposit:                         \$ 5,500.00.  
Total in checking account:           \$ 1,669.35;  
Total in Truman Foundation:         \$ 5,857.79;   Total:         \$ 7,527.14.

As of May 6<sup>th</sup>, income received in May:                         \$ 4,379.08;  
Expenses paid to date: \$2,183.81; Balance:                 \$ 9,722.41. (all funds)

Income includes \$980 additional ticket sales for the annual show, while expenses include \$576.01 related to the annual show. As of May 6<sup>th</sup>, total expenses of the show exceed total income by \$750.04.

Income also includes \$2,502 received from Harmony Foundation for member donations July-Dec 2016.

Expenses also include the yearly premium for liability insurance, \$1,607.80.

The report was placed on file for audit as presented.

**Marketing Report** (Ted Simon): Oral report. Summary:

Discussion centered on the plan for the program to be distributed at the annual show. Options considered were either to prepare a smaller, cheaper program with no paid ads, or to prepare a high quality program with paid ads, as has been done in past years. The consensus of the show committee was to go with the no-ads option, noting that the members might find it burdensome to be trying to sell ads at the same time they were trying to sell tickets to the show. In the end, the consensus was that the no-ads option would still require a 12 page program (which would contain articles from or descriptions about the performers) and that even a few paid ads would more than offset the added cost of a larger program (16 or 20 pages). No final decision was made, Ted will have more information about options and costs at a later date, but it is probable we will go with a program with paid ads.

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

Total members as of April 30<sup>th</sup>: 103, down 2 from March. Sean Abel and Ray Young are dropped.

The Installation Banquet for 2018 is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup>. Jerry continues to search for a location that can provide a buffet dinner for no more than \$30 per plate. Jerry will meet with representatives from St. Andrews Golf Club in Overland Park in the upcoming month.

Harmony Explosion! 2018 is scheduled for February 17<sup>th</sup> at Olathe East High School. Harmonium has agreed to be the featured quartet for the day. Jerry intends to be at the Kansas Choral Directors Convention in July and look for an opportunity to present the Harmony Explosion program to the others at that convention.

National Barbershop Quartet Day 2018 will be April 11<sup>th</sup> (80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society), a Wednesday. The event in 2017 was a huge success, as 12 guests attended, and at least 1 (Nate Harper) is prepared to join the chapter. President Barry Sanders spoke of plans for 2018. It is hoped there would be a gathering at the Meulenbach Hotel of all 4 chapters in the area that would allow each chapter to perform in a show that could attract an audience and media coverage. This is just an idea at this point, no planning has been done. A key factor is the willingness of the Meulenbach Hotel to make its facilities available for the evening for an affordable price.

**Music Team Report** (Bob Velazquez) Provided a written report. The music team will meet Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>.

A summary of items in the report:

1. Costuming for the annual show is being handled by John Braden with an assist from Marty Oldenhoeft.
2. Central Standard will allow us to advertise our show at their annual show on May 13<sup>th</sup>.  
In exchange, we will accept a free advertisement in our program for their next public show.
3. A walk-through of the Bell Center is planned to solidify technical details for the show.  
All board members are invited to join Vince Perry and the music team at the time this is done.
4. Discussion about a retreat in 2017 continue, as a significant number of chapter members are not sold on the need for a retreat. The music team is discussing ways to make the time more productive and more fun.
5. The music team has not yet chosen a pair of songs for our contest set in October. Some members have stated they want to know. Discussion will continue as to which songs to use and when to make them known.
6. Bob Velazquez has begun to video tape portions of our rehearsals and make them available for review by the members of the performing chorus. Discussion will center on evaluating the worth of these efforts.
7. There will also be discussion about future new music and music for the Holiday Show in December.

Continued on next page.

**Operations Report** (Steve Keisker) It was noted we can now access the church's wifi Internet link. However, in the past month, it has generally not been available. We continue to discuss the issue with people in the church. There was discussion about how to get members to share the responsibility for setting up and breaking down the risers. At present, this is being done by a few members, most do not get involved. No consensus was reached. In future meetings, variants may be tried, such as breaking down the risers at some point before the meeting is ended. It was also noted that the special chair provided for Bob Murphy is custom built for our risers, but does not fit well on other risers. This problem came up last fall in Cedar Rapids and likely also will come up at the annual show, where we intend to use risers provided by Bell Center. Discussion centered on options, most of which focused on designing another chair. It was noted that several in the chapter would welcome the opportunity to sit on a chair at chapter meetings while the chorus is rehearsing on the risers.

**Program:** While this position is vacant, Mike Schumacher and Jim Bagby have agreed to fill in. Mike Schumacher led the discussion, which noted that to date, the program at the chapter meetings has worked well and is well received. Mike announced that there is an opportunity to join with the St. Lukes Hospital Cardio Jam singers in a late June show.

**Old Business:**

1. President Barry Sanders recommended to the board that the chapter prepare to go to the CSD spring convention in Omaha in 2018 and compete for score, similar to this year when Central Standard and the South Central Kansas Smorgaschords chorus competed for score as they prepared for International. Both choruses benefitted by a free 90 minute coaching session in the afternoon by the contest judges, and we could likewise benefit from such a coaching session. The music team considered doing this in 2017, but the idea died for lack of interest by the membership.
2. Marlin Weidler has agreed to act as ticket chairman for the annual show, with an assist from John Erwine. To date, 250 tickets have been distributed to members to sell, 15 members have 10 or more each. Ticket sales to date are OK, but not great. There are 1000 tickets to be sold, and one week remains in the discount period, when tickets are available for \$20. Members must either sell or return tickets by Tuesday May 16<sup>th</sup>.
3. Carter Combs, Vince Perry, Don Fuson and Barry Sanders will meet to plan strategy to use social media to promote the chapter and the annual show.
4. The 2017 budget committee consists of President Barry Sanders, Treasurer Harvey Shapiro, Past President Carter Combs and Exec. Vice President Mike Schumacher. This work is still not complete.
5. The planned concert at St. Peter and All Saints Episcopal Church on June 24<sup>th</sup> is the same date the Olathe chapter is planning its visit to the T-Bones stadium to sing the National Anthem. There is a need to determine who is willing to commit to that show. The consensus was that we continue to plan for that show.
6. An added note: The Ambassadors of Harmony spring show is also scheduled for June 17<sup>th</sup>.

**New Business:**

1. There remains a need to have someone perform the annual audit for 2016. CSD Treasurer Larry Warrick (Des Moines) has offered to take that responsibility for any CSD chapter wanting that service. Heretofore, this has been done by a chapter member, one not on the Board of Directors.
2. President Barry Sanders plans to have a follow-up meeting to review the recently completed member surveys, a continuation from the meeting on April 24<sup>th</sup>. This is tentatively set for Monday May 22<sup>nd</sup> at the home of chapter treasurer Harvey Shapiro.

3. Ted Simon offered a proposal in April that would have us to retain 10% of the money given to the Salvation Army each December to help strengthen the financial position of the chorus. This matter was tabled until the next meeting. However, it was not discussed at the May meeting and may be considered to be a dead issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

James R. Porter, Secretary

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Minutes for Special Board of Directors Meeting  
May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Location: Kitchen area of St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church, 700 E. 110<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City MO.

Meeting called to order at 9:45 PM by President Barry Sanders.

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

Board Members Absent: Bob Velazquez (Music VP).

Membership chairman Jerry Meier stated he had in hand the paid membership application for Nate Harper. He made a motion to approve the membership application, which was passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Jerry Meier also moved that the as yet incomplete application for prospective member Max Dix be approved. The board also approved that motion with a unanimous voice vote.

President Barry Sanders asked the board to be present for the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting to review the recently completed member surveys. This meeting will convene at 6:30 PM, Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, at the home of treasurer Harvey Shapiro. His address is 1117 SW Pacific Drive, Lee's Summit MO 64081. It is about 1 mile south from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street exit off of US Highway 50. Harvey will provide more detailed directions to those who need them.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Heart of America Chapter – A048  
Barbershop Harmony Society  
Kansas City, Missouri  
Minutes for Board of Directors Meeting  
May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

Location: Home of Treasurer Harvey Shapiro, 1117 SW Pacific Drive, Lee's Summit MO 64081.

Meeting called to order at 7:15 PM by President Barry Sanders.

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

Board Members Absent: Carter Combs (Imm. Past President), Ted Simon (Marketing VP),  
Mike Schumacher (Executive VP).

The stated purpose for this meeting was to continue from April 24<sup>th</sup> to review the survey responses:

1. Survey of inactive members (about 35 responses)
2. Survey of active HOA members (about 25 responses).

The objective was to reach a consensus for what the members were saying in these surveys. However, the meeting became an open discussion on a variety of issues identified in the surveys. At 8:45 PM, Barry Sanders sought to wrap things up by having the members to agree on some conclusions. Five were identified, as follows:

1. There were many responses from members that they joined the chapter in order to learn to sing better. The music team needs to understand this intention and focus on it.
2. Many responses stated there ought to be more public performances. Four to six per year would be best.
3. We have had two inter-chapter meetings (July 2016 and April 2017). Both were seen as highly successful. We ought to plan for more of this sort of meeting and reach out to the other chapters, including Central Standard.
4. Growing of the membership must have priority. Retention of members and orientation for new members was also identified as a necessary focus. We have a challenge to do this with new member Nate Harper.
5. We need fresh ideas for improving our presence in the community and being involved.

Secretary Jim Porter was given the charge to do a compilation of the survey responses.  
See the following four pages for the results of his work.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Minutes for Special Board of Directors Meeting  
May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Location: Kitchen area of St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church, 700 E. 110<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City MO.

Meeting called to order at 9:45 PM by President Barry Sanders.

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

Board Members Absent: Carter Combs (Imm. Past President), Bob Murphy (At Large).

Membership chairman Jerry Meier presented his proposal for the afterglow of the annual show. Text of his E-Mail to the Board sent May 25<sup>th</sup> is reproduced here:

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I am setting up for 160 people. (It was noted that 100 paying adults would cover the cost of the food, etc.)

I plan to sell wrist bands for \$7 each for adults / \$5 for students 24 and under. (Free for kids 8 and under.)  
Please advise if you think that is a fair price. (This was the substance of the motion presented at the meeting.)  
Here's what everyone will get:

Soft drinks, bottled water, coffee  
Pizza, cold deli wraps, small appetizers  
Chips, snacks, etc.  
(to be served "buffet style" in the Gilmore Room)

Chapter Quartets and Show Quartets: Stand By; Priorities; Armchair Chorderbacks; Harmonium; Throwback  
(ONLY members of these quartets will receive complimentary wristbands.)

Wristband will be required by everyone to enter/stay/enjoy the Afterglow, which will be held in the Grand Lobby of the Bell Center -- it's a wide open area. Wristbands will be easy to identify Afterglow attendees, and should be a nice way to keep everyone honest, since there is no good way to have everyone enter through one doorway.

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The motion to accept this plan as presented was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.