

Heart of America Chapter – A048
Barbershop Harmony Society
Kansas City, Missouri
Minutes for Board of Directors Meeting
February 12th, 2018

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

Meeting called to order at 6:12 PM by President Barry Sanders.

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

Board Member by Telephone: Don Fuson (Marketing VP).

Board Members Absent: Charles Ramirez (Secretary), Harvey Shapiro (At Large).

A Vacancy exists for Program Vice President.

Before the meeting began, President Barry Sanders noted that Secretary Charles Ramirez has requested a leave of absence from his duties due to a double vision problem that came up in the past week and remains unresolved.

Jim Porter has agreed to act as Secretary in his absence, and he prepared the minutes for this meeting.

The minutes for the previous meeting on January 8th, 2018 were prepared in printed form by Secretary Charles Ramirez.

These were accepted as presented.

Treasurer Jim Porter provided his report for January, also for calendar year 2017.

Total income, month:	\$ 2,153.71;	total expenses	\$ 2,981.36.
Net (deficit) for month:	\$ (827.65);	budgeted:	\$ (1,005.00). (Ahead: \$ 177.35)
Net surplus for 2017:	\$ 5,531.50;	budgeted:	\$ 3,791.00. (Ahead: \$1,740.50)

It was noted that 3 income items in 2017 for a total of \$8,321.60 were one-time items.
Without these items, the year 2017 would have shown a deficit of \$2,790.10.

Significant income items:	Harmony Foundation grant (part)	\$ 995.00.
	Awards Banquet meals paid	1,020.00.
Significant expense items:	Awards Banquet meals cost	\$ 923.48.
	Total Cost of Awards Given	309.45.
	Harmonotes, Winter Quarter	300.00.
	Music Acquisition Costs	285.00.
	Hall Rental, Director stipend (each mo)	1,000.00.

Unrestricted funds (members or social fund) available:	\$ 7,339.60.
Restricted funds (operating fund) available:	\$ (2.91). (plus \$874.68 in Truman fund)
Designated funds:	Net on deposit: \$ 5,831.80.
Total in checking account:	\$ 7,836.69;
Total in Truman Foundation:	\$ 6,206.48; Total: \$14,043.17.

Treasurer's report, concluded.

To date in February, an additional \$505 was received to complete the Harmony Foundation grant.

An additional \$18.14 was credited to the account from Amazon Smile.

Expenses paid include \$300 for 5 registrations at HEP school Feb. 3rd, and \$1,609 for liability and property insurance in 2018. Also, Chorus Manager Vince Perry purchased supplies totaling \$78.69.

The balance in the checking account as of Feb 11th is \$6,372.14.

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

Marketing Report (Don Fuson): By telephone. A written summary was provided by E-Mail. From that summary:

- Valentines: Though the Rendezvous at the Station was cancelled, Ted Simon created a flyer that could be used for the future. Also recommend for future consideration that quartets be given more time for development and that bios and photos be prepared for publicity purposes.
- 80th Anniversary event: Much planning to do, should provide Facebook invitations ASAP. Part of planning is to explore possibilities for press releases and television coverage.
- Spring Convention (Apr. 20-22 in Omaha) gather information about HOA quartets available for local newspapers.
- Annual Show (June 16th) Post on Facebook as soon as practical information about the show, contact each place visited by the Caroling Caravan and provide information. Urgent need to identify show title and chairman.
- International Convention: Highlight representatives of HOA at the convention on Facebook.
- Ongoing: Profile individual members from time to time on Facebook.

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

Total members as of Jan. 31st: 96, up 2 from December. Added new members Tom Hadley, Adam Singleton.

Other prospect: Fred Homan. Ryan Bradley was shown as dropped in January, but it was noted that he renewed his membership and was seeking to be a singer in a new registered quartet with John Braden and Nate Harper.

Harmony Explosion is ready to go and will happen Saturday Feb. 17th. A total of 55 quartets (223 individuals) have signed up to participate, up from 42 last year. A \$1,500 grant to support this event has been received. Jerry is completing final preparations, including duty assignments to chapter members and other volunteer workers.

The Installation Banquet for 2018 was held January 13th. There were 55 attendees, 51 meals paid at \$20 each, more than enough to cover the meal cost of \$923.48. All four of the possible awards were given this year.

The next Guest Night is scheduled for Tuesday February 27th. Youth quartets from Harmony Explosion will be invited to attend and sing for the chapter that evening. There was concern that the ongoing situation with the church we meet in would force postponement of this night, especially if the weather is cold that day.

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Music Team Report (John Braden): Provided a written report. The music team met Sunday, Feb. 11th.

- Spring Coaching, April 7th: Plan is to an all-day session with Gene Spilker as coach to work up a stage presence package for the annual show. No meeting place has yet been identified, the music team is anticipating we will not be meeting at St. Mark's Church at that time. Coach Spilker has requested we have a set riser formation at that time, this will be taken care of by the end of February.
- 80th Anniversary Show: (June) The team urges the board to name a show chairman as soon as possible. Barry Sanders has accepted responsibility for this. The show chairman and marketing VP can then work on the publicity aspect of the show preparation. The team agreed to a show title: "Cradle of Harmony". The team is asking to be given responsibility for the artistic aspect of the show. A final song list was determined, dropping "Fit as a Fiddle" and adding "Wink and a Smile" to the list. Still working on the quartet lineup, several possible quartets are being considered, including youth quartets from Harmony Explosion. An emcee is yet to be chosen. The team is seeking to obtain needed uniform parts by asking inactive members to return their uniforms to the chapter. There is also a desire to seek an alternative for the afterglow, one where alcohol could be served. The music team minutes concluded with a preliminary plan for the show.

Operations Report: (Steve Keisker)

- Steve has contacted St. Mark's Church about their request to double our weekly rental. As yet, nothing has been put down in writing. Our agreement with the church throughout the past several years has been a verbal agreement. Steve does not think the church wants us to leave, but it is the sense of the board that we will not accept their request to pay the higher rental charge. Three of our meetings to date in 2018 have been on cold evenings where the temperature in the room was too cold for comfort. See below for more on this matter.
- The Sweet Adelines chapter has requested use of one inverted section of our risers for their competition in St. Louis in October. (It would be one week after our district competition in St. Charles.) The board agreed to the request and is looking to have the section remain in St. Louis for the week after our competition for their use.

Old Business:

- Seven chapter members (5 board members) were in St. Joseph on February 3rd for the annual Leadership Academy / HEP school. Two (Mike Schumacher and Don Fuson) were at the Friday evening discussion about Chapter Identity and how a chapter may discover their identity. Don summarized the discussion by telephone. Part of the process is to seek input from the members about what they see their chapter as being. Our efforts last year to poll the members are in line with the goals of this discussion for our chapter.
- The Valentines Rendezvous at the Station failed to produce the hoped for interest, and President Barry Sanders cancelled the event on Feb. 5th to avoid any cost to the chapter. It was noted that Pierpont's Restaurant has a similar offer on Valentine's Day evening that has proven to be popular and is sold out. Discussion centered on what we could learn from the experience, looking forward to a more successful effort in 2019.
- John Erwine has been working with the claim adjustors of Philadelphia Insurance Company, which provides our property insurance, to handle the claim for the loss of our sound equipment. Thom Tisdall's CPA was able to provide documentation of the original cost of the equipment, which was a critical need. It seems probable the chapter will receive between \$4,000 and \$5,000 to settle this claim. It was noted that suitable equipment to replace that which was stolen could be obtained for that amount.
- The next court date for Jerry Garrard is Feb. 14th. It is unlikely this will be the end of the matter. Jerry is in deep financial need, as the final outcome remains unknown.

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Old Business: (Cont.)

- All local chapters have been invited to participate in the 80th Anniversary event at the Muelenbach Hotel on Wed. April 11th. At this point, all have agreed to come and contribute songs to the event except Vocal Standard. (Leavenworth plans to come, but not to sing.) It is hoped Vocal Standard will agree at a later time to join in. It is planned to have a reunion of Rural Route Four, and there has been good contact with the Kansas City Mayor's office, which has indicated that the mayor plans to be there and prepare a proclamation to honor the day. Given that, the prospect of having local media coverage is good. The hotel has a minimum charge of \$3,000. The plan is to cover this by asking individuals to buy wristbands at \$20 each. The chapter has already paid a deposit of \$1,000 to the hotel to hold the date. Harmonium and Boom Town will appear as quartets, but invitations to champion quartets from St. Charles were not accepted. Marty Monson will come from Nashville. The event will begin at 5 PM with a mass sing in Barney Allis Plaza, then all would move into the hotel.
- The committee to seek a new venue for our regular meetings has identified several possible locations. There remain on their list others that have not yet been contacted. The committee will seek to contact them in the next two weeks. It was the sense of the committee that the chapter should make the change. A motion to that effect was made and approved by a unanimous voice vote. There was concern about how to handle the transition, as St. Mark's Church could possibly lock us out of their building. President Barry Sanders requested that the February rent payment not be made prior to the meeting. At the meeting, it was agreed that the usual payment be made by Treasurer Jim Porter with the usual cover letter, not giving them any hint a change was in the works. Jim Porter placed a check for \$480 in the mail the day after the meeting.

New Business:

- It is planned to have a Budget Committee meeting in March and settle on the budget for 2018. Treasurer Jim Porter prepared a preliminary budget in January, which is referenced in his report for this meeting. That preliminary budget will be the starting point for the discussion. President Barry Sanders will set a meeting.
- Barry Sanders, Mike Schumacher and Jim Porter all received an E-Mail from Nashville announcing the new process for completing the chapter audit. They will work to have this matter taken care of in March.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 12th, 2018.

James R. Porter, Acting Secretary