

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

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

Executive Vice President Mike Schumacher presided over the meeting as President Barry Sanders was absent. Treasurer Jim Porter kept minutes and prepared this report as Secretary Charles Ramirez was absent.

Meeting called to order at 6:16 PM by Executive Vice President Mike Schumacher.

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

Board Members Absent: Barry Sanders (President), Charles Ramirez (Secretary),
Don Fuson (Marketing VP), Steve Keisker (Operations VP).

A Vacancy exists for Program Vice President.

The minutes for the previous meeting on February 12th, 2018 were prepared in printed form by Treasurer Jim Porter, who filled in for Secretary Charles Ramirez, who was absent. These were accepted as presented.

Treasurer Jim Porter provided his report for February.

Total income, month: \$ 2,628.08; total expenses \$ 4,536.42.
Net (deficit) for month: \$ (1,908.34); budgeted: \$ (880.00). (Shortfall: (\$1,028.34))
Total income, year TD: \$ 4,781.79; total expenses \$ 7,517.78.
Net (deficit) for month: \$ (2,735.99); budgeted: \$ (1,885.00). (Shortfall: (\$ 850.99))
The cancelled Valentines Night at the Station was budgeted to bring a \$1,600 gain to the chapter.

Significant income items:	Harmony Foundation grant (part)	\$ 505.00.
	Harmony Explo lunches paid	1,360.00.
	Membership dues received	614.94.
Significant expense items:	Liability and Property Insurance	\$ 1,609.00.
	Cost of Food, Harmony Explosion	973.91.
	Cost of Awards, Harmony Explosion	305.35. <- (Add \$499.45
	Other Expenses, Harmony Explosion	453.07. in March)
	Leadership Academy Registrations	300.00.
	Hall Rental, Director stipend (each mo)	880.00.

Unrestricted funds (members or social fund) available: \$ 7,984.54.
Restricted funds (operating fund) available: \$ (2,620.19). (plus \$874.68 in Truman fund)
Designated funds: Net on deposit: \$ 5,931.80.
Total in checking account: \$ 5,958.35;
Total in Truman Foundation: \$ 6,206.48; Total: \$12,164.83.

Treasurer's report, concluded.

To date in March, an additional \$18 was received for unused Valentines candy.

Expenses paid include \$225 for our USPS bulk mailing permit for 2018, \$499.45 added Harmony Explosion expenses, \$223.30 for 4 bar stools on the risers and \$100 for Facebook publicity for the 80th anniversary event, totaling \$1,047.75. The balance in the checking account as of March 11th is \$4,938.60.

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

Marketing Report (Don Fuson): Absent, but sent E-Mail ahead of meeting.

- A flyer was prepared for the June show and was attached to the E-Mail.
- A flyer was also prepared for the 80th Anniversary event. Discussion centered on changes of content.
- Plans to work with Mike Mathieu to reach out to Caroling Caravan venues to invite to the June show.
- Plans also to send publicity for the show to several other senior centers in Johnson county.
- Seeking to contact HOA members competing in quartets at spring prelims in Omaha, intent is to have publicity in neighborhood newspapers for quartets that qualify for the International competition in Orlando.

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

Total members as of Feb. 28th: 94, down 2 from January. Members dropped: Craig Wilcox, Joe Mathieu. Fred Homan has decided not to join. Ryan Bradley remains as a dropped member.

Harmony Explosion was a rousing success. There were 238 students (99 boys, 139 girls) that participated, from 16 schools, up 16% from 2017. The Olathe Trails chorus handled the serving of lunch and did a fabulous job. The top scoring quartets were invited to sing on the June 16th annual show.

The next Guest Night is scheduled for Tuesday April 17th. Guest nights are also planned for June 19th, July 17th (or July 24th), and one of Oct. 30th, Nov 6th or Nov. 13th.

The report also summarized changes from Nashville that take effect May 1st. The gist is that our dues are going to increase, but discounts are available if you pay in a timely fashion and you do it online using your credit card. An extra fee applies if you pay by check and there is no discount if you use the EZ Dues program, or if you pay late. The increase (before discounts) is 20% for most categories. CSD District dues and HOA chapter dues remain unchanged. Note that the chapter can pay dues for a member and get the discount if the member is unable to get the discount himself.

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

- Spring Coaching, April 7th: This will take place at the First Baptist Church of Blue Springs (located just south of I-70 at Little Blue Parkway, address 4500 Little Blue Parkway), and is scheduled 9 AM to 4 PM that day. Gene Spilker from St. Charles will be our coach and will work up a staging package for our annual show and district contest set. The event is a "coaching session", not a "retreat" (there are no plans to stay overnight). There was also consideration given to inviting Gene Spilker to coach at a Tuesday night meeting in September.
- Fall Retreat, either Sept. 7,8 or Sept. 14,15: Location likely Salvation Army's Three Trails Camp (we were there in 2016) or Retreat Center (Independence), also a place we have been to before. Seeking to enlist Kevin Keller to coach, he would be focusing on singing and interpretation prior to our district contest. As this is a retreat, members not planning to sing in the district competition would be invited to join us that weekend.

Music Team Report (John Braden): Continued.

- **District Contest, Oct. 12-14:** St. Charles Convention Center, same venue as last year. One song is definite, "Tie Me To Your Apron Strings Again". Considering either "I'm On My Way" or "Gee, But It's Great to be in Kansas City" as the other contest song.
- **Barbershop Harmony Day, April 11:** Muehenbach Hotel lobby. President Barry Sanders is organizing the event. It would begin at 5 PM with a mass sing on Barney Allis Plaza, then move to the hotel lobby for presentations by participating quartets and choruses, both men and women. The cost would be covered by collecting \$20 from each participant, which would get him/her a wristband that provides full access to all events and refreshments. The music team will decide later which songs HOA will sing in its part of the program. Publicity is lagging. Few in the area outside of the HOA performing chorus are even aware that this event is coming. The Kansas City council will pass a resolution proclaiming the day as Barbershop Harmony Day. The music team will identify a quartet to sing "Gee But It's Great to be in Kansas City" for KC Mayor Sly James when he signs the proclamation.
- **Performance Opportunity:** At the Plaza branch of the Kansas City Public Library, at a date to be determined in May. The chorus would be able to present a 30 to 45 minute presentation to an audience of 300 or so. It would be an excellent opportunity to publicize our June show.
- **Seniors Chorus:** Central States District issued an invitation to compete as a seniors chorus at the spring contest in Omaha. This came with short notice (the convention is in April) and the music team turned down the invitation. Should anyone attempt to organize a seniors chorus (each singer must be 55 or older) in the area, individual HOA members would be free to join with the group if they so desire.
- **80th Anniversary Show:** (June 16th, Bell Center, Olathe) Greg Busch has accepted the responsibility of Show Chairman for this event. He will coordinate the non-artistic aspects of the show preparation process. The theater will handle all ticket sales, Rich Huyck will take care of printing the tickets. Jim Bagby and Keith Schweer are taking responsibility for the script for the show. They are seeking one well versed in the history of the chapter to serve as emcee (he would not be a singer in the chorus). At present, the time span for the show is shorter than desired, they are considering ideas for extending the time. One possibility is a tribute to the Merry Mugs quartet. Dan Henry's daughter Kathy Bowser could be a part of that tribute. Another is to invite any and all prior HOA members to join the performing chorus to sing "That Old Quartet of Mine". To this end, anyone contemplating doing that would be asked to come to two Tuesday meetings during which most of the time would be given to working on that song. There was also discussion about the show uniform, the thought was to add some color, but any decision on this matter will be made later. The final list of 10 songs that HOA will sing on the show was also set down at this meeting.
- **Looking ahead: Holiday Show 2018:** Bob Velazquez has contacted Michele Hunget of KCSA about this show, to say we need to have new songs on the show. Bob proposes HOA add 3 new songs and is seeking to "raise the bar" for qualification to sing on the show.
- **Looking ahead: Annual Show 2019:** It was noted that the scheduled date is the day before Fathers Day. Bob Velazquez has contacted Bell Center to see if an earlier date is available for that show.

Operations Report: (Steve Keisker) Absent.

- It has been noted that St. Mark's Church is struggling, and that there is a significant possibility the church could close with little or no notice, leaving us locked out of our meeting space. There is therefore a greater urgency to identify another meeting place. See Old Business, following. In the meantime, the board has authorized Treasurer Jim Porter to send a check for March rental of our meeting place as per the original agreement.

Continued on next page.

Old Business:

- John Erwine reported that there is not yet an agreement on the amount of the claim for the stolen sound system with the insurance company. It is hoped this matter will be settled in March.
- Nothing new with Jerry Garrard's legal situation.
- No action yet to take care of the 2018 budget. Treasurer Jim Porter continues his reports using the budget he prepared in January.
- Also no action to complete the 2017 audit.
- Committee to identify a new meeting location (John Braden): Four possibilities are on the list at present:
 1. Northminster Presbyterian Church, 1441 NE Englewood Road, Kansas City North
 2. Center High School, 8715 Holmes Road, Kansas City 64131
 3. First Baptist Church of Blue Springs, 4500 Little Blue Parkway, Independence
 4. Notre Dame de Sion High School, 10461 Wornall Road, Kansas City 64114.

The committee also considered several other locations. All agreed it was a matter of urgency to make a final decision. Bob Murphy stated his church (St. Peter and All Saints Episcopal Church) would allow us to meet on short notice, all Bob needs to do is clear it with his church leadership and we could go there immediately without charge. We would, however, have no storage space and would need to keep the risers in the trailer.

New Business: None.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 9th, 2018.

James R. Porter, Acting Secretary