

the Illinois District
association of Chapters / Barbershop Harmony Society



a state of close harmony

Spring 2023 House of Delegates Meeting

16-Apr-2023 7:00PM

Illinois District Association of Chapters, SPEBSQSA Inc.

House of Delegates

Apr 2023

Mission Statement – *The Illinois District fosters a state of close harmony by bringing the joy and excitement of music to all people.*

Vision Statement – *To keep everyone singing throughout their lives.*

Location: Via Zoom

Time: 7:00 PM

Called to order: 7:04 PM

Call to Order

1. Roll Call / House of Delegates quorum – yes or no – Mike Isely
 - 18 members present, out of a potential total of 43.
 - Quorum minimum requirement of 30% (= 13). With 18 present we have 42%, quorum established.
 - [See Appendix titled “Attendance” for detailed attendance record]
2. Reading of Mission & Vision Statement – Jeff Lathom
 - (see above)
3. Welcome – Terry Ludwig
4. Approve Agenda – Terry Ludwig
 - **Motion: Approve Agenda**
 - ♦ **Offered by: Jim Waldorf, Seconded: Rich Hansen**
 - ♦ **PASSED (unanimous voice vote)**
5. Minutes of previous HOD Meeting (September 16th, 2022) – Mike Isely
 - **Motion:**
 - ♦ **Subject: Approve Fall 2022 HOD Minutes**
 - ♦ **Offered by: Jim Waldorf, Seconded: Jeff Bowyer**
 - ♦ **PASSED (unanimous voice vote)**



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16-Apr-2023 7:00PM

6. Approve Consent Calendar – Mike Isely

→ Accept the following reports, all else moved to New Business:

- ♦ Music and Performance Report [Attachment: “02a-Report_MusicAndPerf.pdf”]
- ♦ Chapter Support and Leadership Training Report [Attachment: “03a-Report_CSLT.pdf”]
- ♦ Events Report [Attachment: “04a-Report_Events.pdf”]
- ♦ Youth In Harmony Report [Attachment: “05a-Report_YIH.pdf”]
- ♦ Marketing Report [Attachment: “06a-Report_Marketing.pdf”]
- ♦ Chorus Director Development Report [Attachment: “07a-Report_CDD.pdf”]
- ♦ Contest & Judging Report [Attachment: “08a-Report_DRCJ.pdf”]
- ♦ Membership Report [Attachment: “09a-Report_Membership.pdf”]
- ♦ President’s Report [Attachment: “10a-Report_President.pdf”]
- ♦ IDEA Report [Attachment: “11a-Report_IDEA.pdf”]

→ **Motion:**

- ♦ **Subject: Accept Consent Calendar as is**
- ♦ **Offered by: Jeff Boywer, Seconded: Mike Isely**
- ♦ **PASSED**

OLD BUSINESS

7. Treasurer's Report – Leif Wildman

→ [Attachment: 01b-Report-Treasurer.pdf]

→ **Motion:**

- ♦ **Subject: Receive the Treasurer’s Report**
- ♦ **Offered by: Mike Isely, Jim Waldorf**
- ♦ **PASSED**

8. Approval of BMAL – Terry Ludwig

→ **Motion:**

- ♦ **Subject: Appoint John Q Morris to occupy open BMAL slot**
- ♦ **Offered by: Mike Isely, Pat Claussen**
- ♦ **PASSED**

9. Website – Joe Gurreri

→ We’re finally moving forward with the website rework

→ Glenn Mills is helping out

→ New site will be far easier to dynamically update (e.g. when roles change)

→ Send changes to marketing@illinoisdistrict.org



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16-Apr-2023 7:00PM

NEW BUSINESS

10. Risers – Terry Ludwig

- Gov Board has decided that the district is getting out of the riser business
 - ♦ Get rid of our current risers
 - ♦ Get rid of storage unit
 - ♦ Risers to be rented from Bloomington Chapter
- Plan in process to disburse usable existing risers (for a nominal cost) to interested chapters

11. IDEA Bylaws Change – Rich Hansen's

- **Motion:**
 - ♦ **Subject Approve IDEA bylaws change**
 - ♦ **Offered by: Mike Bagby, Jeff Bowyer**
 - ♦ **PASSED**

12. Convention Update – Terry Ludwig

- Venue change
 - ♦ Friday: Second Presbyterian Church
 - ♦ Saturday: BCPA
- Hotel
 - ♦ Doubletree of Bloomington
- There needs to be *singing* at our conventions, so on Sat after 9:15am:
 - ♦ Class on grant writing (singing?....)
 - ♦ Sing with a Champ
 - ♦ ILL District barber polecat program (like international but at a district level)
 - ♦ SMAG fest (*Saturday Morning Anything Goes*)
- Move chorus contest to Sat afternoon (as opposed to the evening) starting at 1pm
 - ♦ Leaves the whole morning for other activities
 - ♦ Quartet finals at 7pm
 - ♦ Immediately following quartet finals, presidents reception gets underway. Contest call-off happens at this reception, not at the venue. Eliminates dead time at the venue
 - ♦ Off to hospitality rooms without delay

13. Four year plan – Terry Ludwig

- Goals / objectives over the next four years
 - ♦ Create a chapter presidents' Council
 - Get together on a periodic basis among chapter presidents
 - An information sharing session, exchange ideas

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16-Apr-2023 7:00PM

- ♦ Make HCMW break even, by the end of the four years
- ♦ Foster relationship with Sweet Adeleines and Harmon Incorporated
- ♦ Increase offerings at the Fall convention
- ♦ Encourage regional social events
 - Doesn't have to be singing
- ♦ Increase frequency and quality of communication with the district
- ♦ Increase participation in activities at the district level
- ♦ Establish district grant team
- ♦ Get at least 2 candidate judges
- ♦ Get at least one new mixed chapter
- ♦ Associate every chapter with a district board member
- ♦ Shared convention with another district

14. Fall 2023 HOD Date – Mike Isely

→ Sep 22nd 2023 at 1pm

→ This is the Friday of the Fall Convention weekend

Adjourned: 7:48 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Isely – Secretary



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16-Apr-2023 7:00PM

Appendix: Attendance

(taken computationally from delegate sign-in spreadsheet)

Chapter Delegates			
P/L/A	Chapter Name	No.	Delegate
P	Arlington Heights, IL	E002	* David Theile
A	Aurora, IL	E003	* Thomas Erwin
P	Belleville, IL	E005	* William Rathmann
P	Bloomington, IL	E007	David Garrett
P	Macomb, IL	E008	* Craig Rigg
P	Northbrook, IL	E009	Dave Dreyer
A	Danville, IL	E013	* Bryan Schroeder
A	Decatur, IL	E014	James Barr
P	Coles County, IL	E017	Ronald Hawkins
P	Elgin, IL	E018	* William Miller
P	Rockford Metro, IL	E019	* Brandon Bolley
P	Lake County, IL	E021	* Brian Cromer
A	Bureau County, IL	E024	!
P	Chicagoland West Suburban, IL	E030	* James Brown
A	Peoria, IL	E044	* Michael Cosner
A	Chicago Metro, IL	E045	* Harold Harness
A	Rockford, IL	E047	* Charles Woodworth
A	Rock Island, IL	E048	!
A	Will-Cook, IL	E050	Neil DeVore
P	Sterling Rock Falls, IL	E052	* Paul McCracken
A	Waterloo, IL	E054	!
P	Springfield, IL	E061	Patrik Claussen
P	DuPage Valley, IL	E066	* Bruce Rhoades
A	Kishwaukee Valley, IL	E067	!
P	Carbondale, IL	E075	* David Bremer

14 / 25

* Chapter did not declare a separate delegate; substituted Chapter President

! No information provided by this chapter (missing declared chapter officers), thus no delegate



Spring 2023 House of Delegates Meeting

16-Apr-2023 7:00PM

Governance Board		
Present	Name	Role
P	Terry Ludwig	President
P	Benjamin Dirks	Executive VP
P	Mike Isely	Secretary
P	Leif Wildman	Treasurer
P	Doug Finkbiner	BMAL (Membership)
P	Jeff Bowyer	BMAL (Events)
N/A	(Jeff Lathom)	BMAL (C & J)
P*	John Q Morris	BMAL
P	Jeff Lathom	Imm. Past President

7 out of 7

*John Q Morris added by motion during the meeting, not part of initial quorum

Active Past Presidents (not on Gov. Board)	
Present	Name
P	Mike Bagby
N/A	Jeff Bowyer
A	Bob Cearnal
A	Dave Cowin
P	Rich Hansen
N/A	Jeff Lathom
A	Earl Meseth
A	Brett Mulford
A	Bob Squires
A	Joe Sullivan
P	Will Thorndike
P	Jim Waldorf
A	Syl Wetle

4 out of 11

7+4+14 = 18 present

7+11+25 = 43 total possible

10:07 AM

04/07/23

Cash Basis

IL District Association of Chapters, SPEBSQSA

Profit & Loss

January through March 2023

	Jan - Mar 23
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
5100 Event Income	
On Line Registrations	6,979.28
Total 5100 Event Income	6,979.28
5210 District Dues	3,803.16
5310 Interest Income	0.84
Total Income	10,783.28
Gross Profit	10,783.28
Expense	
7500 Contract Services Expenses	
7540 Judging Expense	440.00
7570 Event Meals	3,707.29
7580 Other Contract Expenses	1,500.00
Total 7500 Contract Services Expenses	5,647.29
8100 Nonpersonnel expenses	
8110 Supplies	79.00
8140 Postage & Shipping	12.00
Total 8100 Nonpersonnel expenses	91.00
8200 Facility & Equipment Exp	
8230 Storage Rental Charges	375.00
8260 Equipment Rental	706.80
Total 8200 Facility & Equipment Exp	1,081.80
8300 Travel & Meetings Expenses	
8310 Travel	2,289.95
8320 Board Meet. & Conventions	
Comp Housing	2,318.40
Total 8320 Board Meet. & Conventions	2,318.40
8330 Hospitality	651.55
Total 8300 Travel & Meetings Expenses	5,259.90
8400 Education Programs	
8480 YIH Program	1,000.00
Total 8400 Education Programs	1,000.00
8500 Other Expenses	
8505 Gov Board	
President	348.20
Total 8505 Gov Board	348.20
8560 Outside Computer Services	198.00
Total 8500 Other Expenses	546.20
8600 Business Expenses	
8610 - Corporation Filing Fees	4.00
Total 8600 Business Expenses	4.00
Total Expense	13,630.19
Net Ordinary Income	-2,846.91
Net Income	-2,846.91

10:13 AM

IL District Association of Chapters, SPEBSQSA

04/07/23

Profit & Loss by Class

Cash Basis

February 1, 2022 through April 7, 2023

	Fall Convention	Harmony College Midwest
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
5100 Event Income		
On Line Registrations	8,279.02	6,979.28
On Site Registrations	2,295.88	0.00
Total 5100 Event Income	10,574.90	6,979.28
Total Income	10,574.90	6,979.28
Gross Profit	10,574.90	6,979.28
Expense		
7500 Contract Services Expenses		
7540 Judging Expense	4,928.98	0.00
7550 Temp Help - Contract	1,743.00	0.00
7570 Event Meals	0.00	3,707.29
7580 Other Contract Expenses	500.00	1,500.00
Total 7500 Contract Services Expenses	7,171.98	5,207.29
8100 Nonpersonnel expenses		
8120 Awards, Plaques & Pins	941.54	0.00
8170 Printing & Copying	863.48	0.00
Total 8100 Nonpersonnel expenses	1,805.02	0.00
8200 Facility & Equipment Exp		
8210 Rent, parking, & other	2,900.00	0.00
8260 Equipment Rental	775.00	706.80
Total 8200 Facility & Equipment Exp	3,675.00	706.80
8300 Travel & Meetings Expenses		
8310 Travel	0.00	2,555.09
8320 Board Meet. & Conventions		
Comp Housing	2,601.11	2,318.40
Total 8320 Board Meet. & Conventions	2,601.11	2,318.40
8330 Hospitality	2,369.28	651.55
Total 8300 Travel & Meetings Expenses	4,970.39	5,525.04
8400 Education Programs		
8450 Recordings of Contestants	1,400.00	0.00
8480 YIH Program		
Contest Prizes	500.00	0.00
Total 8480 YIH Program	500.00	0.00
Total 8400 Education Programs	1,900.00	0.00
8500 Other Expenses		
8570 Advertising & Publicity	0.00	75.00
Total 8500 Other Expenses	0.00	75.00
Total Expense	19,522.39	11,514.13
Net Ordinary Income	-8,947.49	-4,534.85
Net Income	-8,947.49	-4,534.85

10:13 AM

IL District Association of Chapters, SPEBSQSA

04/07/23

Profit & Loss by Class

Cash Basis

February 1, 2022 through April 7, 2023

	TOTAL
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
5100 Event Income	
On Line Registrations	15,258.30
On Site Registrations	2,295.88
Total 5100 Event Income	17,554.18
Total Income	17,554.18
Gross Profit	17,554.18
Expense	
7500 Contract Services Expenses	
7540 Judging Expense	4,928.98
7550 Temp Help - Contract	1,743.00
7570 Event Meals	3,707.29
7580 Other Contract Expenses	2,000.00
Total 7500 Contract Services Expenses	12,379.27
8100 Nonpersonnel expenses	
8120 Awards, Plaques & Pins	941.54
8170 Printing & Copying	863.48
Total 8100 Nonpersonnel expenses	1,805.02
8200 Facility & Equipment Exp	
8210 Rent, parking, & other	2,900.00
8260 Equipment Rental	1,481.80
Total 8200 Facility & Equipment Exp	4,381.80
8300 Travel & Meetings Expenses	
8310 Travel	2,555.09
8320 Board Meet. & Conventions Comp Housing	4,919.51
Total 8320 Board Meet. & Conventions	4,919.51
8330 Hospitality	3,020.83
Total 8300 Travel & Meetings Expenses	10,495.43
8400 Education Programs	
8450 Recordings of Contestants	1,400.00
8480 YIH Program Contest Prizes	500.00
Total 8480 YIH Program	500.00
Total 8400 Education Programs	1,900.00
8500 Other Expenses	
8570 Advertising & Publicity	75.00
Total 8500 Other Expenses	75.00
Total Expense	31,036.52
Net Ordinary Income	-13,482.34
Net Income	-13,482.34

10:13 AM

IL District Association of Chapters, SPEBSQSA

04/07/23

Profit & Loss by Class

Cash Basis

February 1, 2022 through April 7, 2023

Filters applied on this Report:

Account: All income/expense accounts

Class: Multiple classes...

Date: Custom

10:14 AM

04/07/23

Cash Basis

IL District Association of Chapters, SPEBSQSA

Balance Sheet

As of March 31, 2023

	Mar 31, 23
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1010 Checking Account	64,086.51
Total Checking/Savings	64,086.51
Other Current Assets	
1310 Convention Funding Advance	-500.00
1320 Pre-Purchased Awards	54.00
Total Other Current Assets	-446.00
Total Current Assets	63,640.51
TOTAL ASSETS	63,640.51
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
3000 Unrestricted Funds	
3010 Operating Fund	57,035.11
Total 3000 Unrestricted Funds	57,035.11
3100 Temp. Restricted Funds	
3120 Harmony College Midwest	-688.70
Total 3100 Temp. Restricted Funds	-688.70
3200 Permanent Restricted Funds	
3210 Grants & Contributions	
IDAH	
Scholarships	233.00
IDAH - Other	720.83
Total IDAH	953.83
Undesignated	7,132.25
YIH	2,900.62
Total 3210 Grants & Contributions	10,986.70
Senior Chorus	319.05
Total 3200 Permanent Restricted Funds	11,305.75
Unrestricted Net Assets	-1,164.74
Net Income	-2,846.91
Total Equity	63,640.51
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	63,640.51



From: Tim Beutel
To: Terry Ludwig
Subject: HCM Report

We had a great year at Harmony College Midwest. It was our largest attended HCM. We had around 90 individuals attending classes, 10 quartets coaching, totaling nearly 130 attendees during the day. Another 30 or so people came for the evening show, totaling 160 people at the show.

As with everything these days, inflation has caused plane tickets, hotel rooms, convention centers, etc. to rise in cost. So our expenses were also a little higher this year.

Total expenses went from around \$10,000 the previous two years to \$11,500 this year.

However, with the help of scholarships from IDEA, we made around \$8500 back in registrations, so the investment was around \$3000 for HCM. The previous couple years were closer to \$4000 if I recall correctly.

Dan and I plan to look at what we can do to get even closer to break even for the event, while not sacrificing the quality of the event. Obviously, that is a difficult balance, but we are doing our best.

Thanks!
Tim



Here is my report. Thank you

Successful Leadership Summit working with Mike Lietke from LOL on Jan 7

Below are videos from the event which I posted on Facebook; however the post was removed.

The President's course did not record. The other four did.

- Secretary's Class: <https://youtu.be/9kEzmgk-uzk>
- Treasurer's Class: <https://youtu.be/OmyRibOIgxQ>
- Barbershop Belt: <https://youtu.be/GZRZZZyARhs>
- Grant Writing: <https://youtu.be/U1jESt-fl40>

Was able to download the xls file with the March 2023 District Report from BHS site.

Attached is a list of current presidents.

I am in the process of creating an email to send out to the chapter presidents to get updated /corrected contact and officer list. I will then work with Joe G and get the Illinois District website chapter contact / info page up to date.

On the efforts to promote developing and novice quartets my chapter has scheduled a quartet contest on June 3, 2023



Events report

March 26, 2023

Jeff Bowyer VP-Events

Future dates and locations

Fall 2023 District Convention

Sept. 22 - 23 2023

DoubleTree Hotel: will serve as the Headquarters Hotel

2nd Presbyterian Church: 404 N Prairie Bloomington will be the location for the Quartet semi-finals Friday evening. Times TBA

BCPA: will be the location for the Quartet Finals and Chorus Finals on Saturday. Times TBA

Harmony College Midwest

Feb 16 - 18 2024

DoubleTree Hotel: All classes will be held in the DoubleTree Hotel Convention area. Contracts are signed.

Fall 2024 District Convention

Sept. 27 - 28 2024

DoubleTree Hotel: Probable Headquarters Hotel

Contest location: A new location is being considered.

Fall 2025 District Convention

Sept. 26 - 27 2025

Location TBD

YIH Report - 2023 1st Quarter

I have been in contact with coordinators from Coles County, Northbrook, and Springfield. I never did hear from Sterling Rock Falls regarding why they were unable to have a festival in 2022 and no one has reached out in regards to needing assistance for having one this coming fall. Below is my first email of the year that was sent to the coordinators.

Hello Fellow Coordinators!

I hope you are doing well so far this year. First thing I want to congratulate you all on having successful festivals in 2022. I was able to attend both Northbrook and Coles County and I got a good report from our current District President about Springfield's. Unfortunately it looks like the Sterling Rock Falls chapter was unable to get things off the ground so hopefully they will be able to make things happen this fall.

Just a couple of things from me that I want to touch base on. The District is still doing well financially which is always good to hear so please know there is money available for you at the district level. As of now the available amount per festival is still \$1,000. We also have a new district treasurer! So checks should be sent a lot sooner than they previously were. All I need from you to get this funding is a projected budget.

The last thing I wanted to bring up was plans for the future. I am in the VERY EARLY stages of planning/putting together a District wide Harmony Explosion Camp. This would be a full weekend event in the summer months in which high school students from all over the state could register and attend a weekend festival. I don't have any details to provide at this time but will keep you all updated. My plan is to reach out every few months just to touch base.

Thank you for all you do!

In Harmony
Evan Patrick
ILL District VP of YIH Operations

Terry mentioned West Towns is interested in starting up a festival of their own and provided them with my contact information. I have yet to hear from anyone but it is still early in the year.

I have been in contact with some folks from other districts (Cardinal, Mid-Atlantic, and Sunshine) who help plan or have participated in District wide Harmony Explosion Camps. While my main priority is still making sure our individual festivals are able to make full recoveries from the pandemic, I will be doing more information gathering to see how realistic an ILL District YIH Camp would be.

**2023-03-25 Marketing Report****Illinois District of the Barbershop Harmony Society**

Submitted by

Joe Gurreri, VP Marketing and Publicity

Website Rewrite Project

SITUATION - the project status is still undefined from our vendor. I have requested a project plan and status meeting from our vendor and webmaster on several occasions - and now opened a ticket on Trello to record the request that way.

ACTION TOWARD RESOLUTION - This project has become incredibly difficult for a single volunteer to chase an unresponsive vendor, so I've formed a Marketing Committee - Website Rewrite Committee and requested support from Terry and Ben to identify a chairperson, to work with me to take on the role of Project Manager so we move this project along and hold our vendor accountable to timelines and commitments. Together we can get this project sized, timed, set approval checkpoints, and executed.

Website tactical issues

SITUATION - The "social media link" at the bottom of the page has been unreliable and periodically stops feeding Facebook posts. I post a ticket for a resynchronization several times a year. It's currently not synchronized and a fresh ticket has been submitted. This recurring problem is supposed to be fixed with the website rewrite.

ACTION TOWARD RESOLUTION - All the data that sits inside the website is not self-serve edit capable - this is part of the website rewrite and database project. Waiting for the project completion has led to very stale information on the detail pages of the website. In 2021 I audited all the pages with available 2020 data about chapters and quartets, and with board and committee members on awards and history. We did not do this recently because of the anticipated new website that will include a table structure to upload with a file from BHS Member Center to feed the database with one upload file to feed the table. Depending on the project plan timeline, we may need to do a series of tedious temporary edits to get the page up to date while waiting for the project to complete. This is to be determined.

Social Media

- Due to the inflexibility of our website design, Facebook has served as our primary vehicle for current information distribution for passive information. At the same time, Mail Chimp is used (and also managed by our webmaster vendor) for proactive email distributions. Turnaround time for urgent Mail Chimp requests has ranged from 2 to 5 days.
- I've added Doug as an administrator to the Facebook page during the Fall Convention and he's been a tremendous support adding his great photos and narratives. Ben has also been adding updated information and photos for events where I'm not present to do so.
- Tim has also done so for the HCM pages we co manage.
- For chapters and choruses - I continue to create and monitor and coach how to set Facebook EVENTS and how to use that free tool to the widest capability for chapters. Recent support includes Metro, West



Towns and New Tradition who have reached out. In the past, I've written and distributed pictorial tutorials with step by step instructions for use at the chapter and I coach District members who run their chapter pages. A recent example is how New Tradition Chorus page has an EVENT for their spring show on their own Facebook page with all information and ticket link, POSTed about it and it's also now showing on the District page. Now it also shows as a POST on the District timeline. These POSTs and EVENTS t shows on Follower's newsfeeds and pops up as suggested activities to consider by the Facebook algorithm - more frequently when folks LIKE and COMMENT and SHARE the posts and EVENTS. I can't stress enough how important it is for the board to LIKE, COMMENT, and SHARE these posts to show support, but as importantly, to help me boost the algorithm.

Upcoming Event Publicity

- Supported HCM and 3 chapters named above in publicizing the events on social media and the website.
- Website calendar events have open tickets to update and add the events for
 - Metro quartet contest
 - West Towns concert
 - New Tradition concert
- Website calendar already posted for next 2 conventions with preliminary information.
-



Greetings all,

Here is the Chorus Director Development report 3.18.23

At Harmony College Midwest, I asked that board members visiting chapters ask directors what topics would compel them to attend a Director workshop (directing techniques? Warm-up ideas? Score analysis? Time management? Etc) . I also asked if they could find out which month(s) would be the most convenient time for directors to attend a workshop.

Kevin Keller suggested asking directors to complete this sentence: "I just attended the BEST directors' workshop and we learned _____."

Since, then I've been wondering if we should also ask if there is a specific clinician with whom directors would like to work?

In addition to asking at chapter visits, do the board members think a google form/survey sent to the directors would get us more responses in a shorter amount of time?

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Marcotte



Illinois District Association of Chapters
District Board Meeting

Fall Convention panel was great to work with and we have settled the issue with reimbursements.

2023 Fall Convention panel hasn't been released yet.

The following dates have been confirmed with Steve Armstrong for our 2024-25 conventions:

2024 – 9/27-28

2025 – 9/26/27

Jeff Lathom,
Illinois District DRCJ



Membership Report
Submitted on March 24, 2023
By Doug Finkbiner, VP of Membership Development

At the request of President Terry, I contacted specific chapters that can be considered at risk. Here is a brief description about what I learned from my inquiries.

Illini Statesmen, Champaign-Urbana: I spoke to the only active member - Ron Davis - a few weeks ago, and he told me the society had contacted him to change his membership to Frank Thorne. The website now shows that the chapter has been voluntarily deactivated.

Prairieland Chorus, Macomb, IL: I spoke to Craig Rigg, who said the chorus was “hanging in there” The chapter currently has eight active members. Craig said he would welcome any information that could help the chapter build its membership. Terry has visited the chapter, so you may want to refer to his report on the chapter.

Kish-Wau-Keys Chorus, Kishwaukee Valley, IL: I spoke to Ed Cheek, who is the only member of Kishwaukee Valley. When I spoke to him, he told me his chapter had not started rehearsing since shutting down for the pandemic. He said he would try to get in touch with his board and find out if they want to resume meeting. I tried to follow up, but have yet to hear from Ed.

Rock Island has only one member listed and he has not returned my multiple phone calls and an email. Ed Cheek gave me another possible contact, but that was a dead end.

I spoke to Jim Fourmont, the Aurora Chapter’s Treasurer. They are currently meeting regularly and have 10 registered members.

I spoke to Gary Waltrip, a member of Coles County who attends meetings of the Decatur chapter. He said about six men attend Monday night rehearsals.

I visited both the Waterloo and Carbondale Chapters at the request of Terry, so you may want to refer to those reports.



Chapter Visit Topics

Please get a count of the number of people at the meeting

- Please give an estimate of the average age

- Terry made a promise that someone from the board would visit every chapter and you are here to fulfill that promise.

- The board is here to work for YOU. We want to help so please ask and if we don't have the answer, we will get it.

- The focus of Terry's presidency is to bring back the singing/fun at the conventions. It has been missing!

- encourage any chapter that has not competed recently to come. There is always an option to sing "for evaluation" where the score is not published but you still get evaluation.

- remind them that there is a bigger barbershop world out there and we want them to be a part of it! There are hundreds of people in the district who want to sing with them and get to know them!

After that just let the conversation flow naturally. They will tell you what is important to them. Answer their questions to the best of your ability and be honest.

The whole point of this is not to talk AT them but talk WITH them. They want to feel like they are being heard and someone is paying attention.

After the visit make sure you send a recap to the entire board so we can see what you talked about and if any of us have any action items to address. I will include ALL of these recaps in my report to the HOD in the spring and in the fall.



Illinois District Chapter Census

March 24, 2023

Chapter	Number of Active Members	Status
Champaign Urbana	0	Voluntary Dissolution of Charter
Chicago Metro	15	Active
Chicago No. 1	0	Charter Closed
Chicago Western Suburban	54	Active
Coles County	33	Active
Collinsville	0	Charter Closed
Frank Thorn	16	Active
Danville	33	Active
Decatur	3	Active
Peoria	7	Active
Northbrook	62	Active
DuPage Valley	36	Active
Quincy	0	Charter Closed
Elgin	19	Active
Rock Island	1	Active
Rockford Metro	19	Active
Rockford	18	Active
Arlington Heights	24	Active
Aurora	10	Active
Sandoval	0	Charter Closed
Belleville	21	Active
Bloomington	75	Active
Kankakee	1	Voluntary Dissolution pending
Kishwaukee Valley	1	Active
Bureau County	11	Active
Lake County	23	Active
Springfield	29	Active
Carbondale	10	Active
Macomb	8	Active
Sterling Rock Falls	19	Active
Waterloo	18	Active
Will-Cook	19	Active
Total	566 Active Members	26 Active Charters

To: Illinois Board of Directors
Illinois House of Delegates

From: Terry Ludwig, President

The first few months of my term have been an absolute whirlwind. So much going on in the District and I am honored to be serving all of you! I have told every chapter that I have visited the same thing- We work for you! Let me bring you up to date on some of the things happening in Illinois.

CHAPTER VISITS

At the writing of this report we have visited 7 chapters (Peoria, West Towns, Bloomington, Macomb, Danville, Waterloo and Carbondale) and contacted 2 others (Champaign/Urbana and Rock Island) for a total of 9. I found the visits to be very informative and it was great to meet new people and renew old friendships. I have attached all of the reports from each of those visits to the end of this report. By the end of the year the Board will have visited every chapter and hopefully let all of you know that we care and want you to be a part of this great district.

The 2 chapters that we contacted and did not visit is because they either have no current members or they have 1 member that we cannot reach. My fear is that we will have to eliminate those chapters from our rolls.

CONVENTION

I have had meetings and discussion with a small committee that we put together to look at our fall convention. We are looking at ways to get more singing in during the weekend and have come up with a few ideas that we are going to try/bring back this fall. The goal is to get more people singing during the weekend and participating in this great hobby.

First of all, we are going to switch the Chorus Contest and the Quartet Finals. The Chorus Contest will take place at 1pm on Saturday and the Quartet Finals will take place at 7pm. To go along with that, immediately after the Quartet Finals we will ask every to adjourn to the Doubletree Hotel ballroom where we will bring the President's/QCA reception. It is there that we will announce the results of the quartet contest!

On Saturday morning we are going to offer some singing and learning opportunities. Sing With A Champ is making a return and it will be hosted by the QCA. Come sing with some of your past champs and have a great time!

Also on Saturday morning we are going to start the Illinois District Barber Polecat Program which will also be run by the QCA. If you decide to participate you will get a pin that we are having designed that will identify you as a participant. You can come in by yourself, with a friend, with a quartet...your choice. We will have QCA members there to fill out whatever part is needed. You sing a polecat of your choice and it gets marked off. When you get all 12 marked off on a part then you will get a COMPLETION pin. You do not have to do all the songs at this convention. We will run this room for a number of conventions so you can do a couple each year if you wish! We will be using the ORIGINAL Polecat book.

If you are looking for something completely different on Saturday morning we are bringing back the SMAG Contest! Saturday Morning Anything Goes! Come with whatever ensemble you want (duets, trio, quartet...more) and sing anything you want. Our esteemed judging panel will pick a winner and you will be awarded the coveted SMAG medal!

For the education part of the convention we are going to offer 1 class. The subject is Grant Writing and Promoting a Culture of Philanthropy in your chapter. I hope someone from every chapter will attend this great and informative class.

I think that just about does it for now. The Board is working hard and hopefully over the next few months we will have even more to reveal. It is an exciting time to be an Illinois District Barbershopper!

Respectfully Submitted,
Terry Ludwig
President

Visit to the Peoria chapter:

Attendance: 10

Chapter Type: Male

Average age: between 75 and 80

here are the topics we discussed

- Bottom up governance. We talked about how BHS over the last 10-15 years has really become a "top down" organization and that my goal was to change that at the District level. We serve YOU and not the other way around. The District Board is here to help..

- Their major concern was membership. We discussed the fact that the Peoria area is more than big enough to support a viable chapter. They need to find what makes them special and market the heck out of that. I also had a discussion after rehearsal about this subject with the director. He is a talented young man who is plugged into the music community in Peoria and surrounding areas. He said he would invite friends to come but he knows they may come one time and then not come back. I gave him an idea to approach some of his friends and tell them that he "wanted to build something with this chapter" and that "he needed their help". Maybe by giving them some ownership in the project he might be able to get some of them to commit long term. I also suggested they reach out to Jeff McMorris from the Danville chapter about his presentation and to reach out to Doug Finkbiner to ask for some help and ideas. Doug, would you please reach out to the Peoria Chapter President. His name is Mike Cosner and his email is coz3217@yahoo.com. Please let me know when you have accomplished this task.

-I challenged the chapter to come to contest! I told them they did not have to actually compete if they did not feel comfortable, but that they could sing for evaluation and their scores would not be published. The director was ALL FOR THIS! They may not have 12 guys but I think if they sing for eval it doesn't really matter (please weigh in on this Mr Lathom). So it sounds like we may have a chapter that hasn't been to contest in a number of years come this year!

- we discussed contest. One of the comments was from a long time member. He said that when he was going to the convention regularly he would feel comfortable pulling some guys aside and singing a tag or polecat. He said in recent years he has felt alienated. The tags and songs being sung are not ones that he could ever sing. There seems to be a lack of singing opportunities for the average singer. Whether this is an accurate observation or not it is, at the very least, an observation that deserves to be looked at. What can we do to provide singing opportunities for the average singer?

-Another question was "why should I even be a member of BHS?" My answer was- because you get me showing up to your meeting and wanting to help! This question has been around for a long time. What benefit does a member get for his/her money? I would like to make this a topic of discussion at our next Board Meeting.

- a good discussion about EIH. They asked me about EIH and what was happening across the District. They currently are a Male chapter and I told them that was absolutely their decision to make. I also told them that some small chapters are finding success by inviting Women to join. That may be a topic they visit as a board in upcoming meetings.

- They are working on the Polecats as a chorus. The director asked if the BHS Barber Polecat Program was still a thing. I told him I was unsure. I then came up with the thought that maybe we could do a District Barber Polecat program. Could we use this program to help solve the singing opportunities for average singers question???

- I closed by letting them know I am only an email away. I/we are here to help.

I can tell you that this visit was one of the most rewarding barbershop experiences I have ever had. These guys were happy to have someone who cared show up. It made me even more resolved to make sure all the chapters get to see us this year!

Ben Dirks and I visited the West Towns Chorus on 2/6

30 Singers in attendance

Average age was around 55

Nice influx of new/younger members

Had the opportunity to address the chapter and here is a summary of the topics discussed:

- 1) They are curious (as was Peoria) to hear what the other chapters have to say. This tells me we will need to publish all of these summaries once we have completed the visits.
- 2) Talked about the need for more singing opportunities at the convention. I expressed my opinion that we need to make this a priority.
- 3) We talked about EIH and how some chapters, especially smaller ones, were having success by becoming mixed.
- 4) An idea was floated by a member to have some "regional" chapter get together. I thought it was a great idea and told him that that should probably be done on a local level by the district would be glad to offer any support we can.
- 5) I told them that we are here to help. We are here to work for them and not the other way around. We only can help when we know they need something so please ask!
- 6) This was the day the announcement came out about the sale of Harmony Hall. There were a few questions and we answered them the best we could.
- 7) we talked about membership. I emphasized that the best way to grow is to define what makes you different from all the other singing organizations in your area. Clearly define what is special about you and market the heck out of that. There are hundreds of places for people to sing...why you?
- 8) Talked about membership numbers across BHS
- 9) There was a question about COTS. We let them know that there was one in January and that plans are underway for 2024. John- you may want to touch base with the WTC president and make sure they get the dates and a personal invitation when dates are set for next year.

We also met with the board and here are some topics that were discussed.

- 1) They want to start a YIH festival. I told them that Evan Patrick is the one to talk to. We discussed cost and ways to pay for it such as grants. We may want to put together a database of available grants through the state that chapters could apply for.
- 2) They were curious about starting relationships with schools. I told them that it is a process and requires patience and determination. Music Educators are very protective of their programs. You have to gain their trust and let them know you are there to HELP and not poach the kids. Maybe the best

place to start is with some struggling programs. Offer your HELP.

3) one of the biggest struggles of the chapter is finding venues for annual and Christmas shows. Jeff Bowyer- is there any advice or guidance you could offer them in negotiating for these venues?

4) interested in some kind of grant writing workshop. Maybe this is something we could do during the convention weekend??? Like Friday after the HOD???

5) How do you get more people to help? We ask for volunteers and people don't raise their hands. My suggestion is to ask personally! if we ask people in a group to "volunteer" chances are they will sit on their hands. I believe you will have much better luck going up to someone one on one and asking for a very specific task.

That pretty much sums it up. Had a great time!

A lot of you have asked for an "outline" of what to cover during a chapter visit. Here are a few bullet points to cover and then let them ask questions. You never know what might be important to them!

- Please get a count of the number of people at the meeting
- Please give an estimate of the average age

- Terry made a promise that someone from the board would visit every chapter and you are here to fulfill that promise.

- The board is here to work for YOU. We want to help so please ask and if we don't have the answer we will get it.

- The main focus of Terry's presidency is to bring back the singing/fun at the conventions. It has been missing!

- encourage any chapter that has not competed recently to come. There is always an option to sing "for evaluation" where the score is not published but you still get evaluation.

- remind them that there is a bigger barbershop world out there and we want them to be a part of it! There are hundreds of people in the district who want to sing with them and get to know them!

after that just let the conversation flow naturally. They will tell you what is important to them. Answer their questions to the best of your ability and be honest.

The whole point of this is not to talk AT them, but talk WITH them. They want to feel like they are being heard and someone is paying attention.

after the visit make sure you send a recap to the entire board so we can see what you talked about and if any of us have any action items to address. I will include ALL of these recaps in my report to the HOD in the spring and in the fall.

Danville Chapter

Visit 36 singers and 1 director in attendance
average age around 55

Jeff Bowyer and I met with the board prior to the rehearsal. Had a very productive meeting.

Topics; – Told them how impressed I am with the chapter. They are very involved in the community and the membership is stable and growing. This is a chapter that should be celebrated by the District and held up as an example of what is possible.

- Discussed why they have not been to contest. There was a very frank conversation about the fact that they have felt forgotten and unappreciated. I hope that our presence there shows them that they ARE valued. They are not opposed to the idea of contest and will discuss it as a chapter. Even if they do not come to compete or sing for eval I think we will see a number of them in attendance.
- – Asked them to please have someone come to the HOD
- – Here some concerns about membership renewal with BHS and that they can't seem to get answers. I took some notes and will be sending an email to BHS to see if I can help.
-
- During the chapter meeting:
 - – taught them a tag
 - – told them how much I really appreciate what they have been doing as a chapter
 - – emphasized that we work for them
 - – told them to contact me if they need anything This is a VERY healthy chapter. They are doing so many great things and many chapters could learn from them. I really look forward to fostering a better relationship between this chapter and the district.

Macomb Chapter

Visit 9 singers and 1 Director in attendance

Average age about 60

- The District is here to work for you.
- – Discussed the upcoming fall convention and talked about the changes There is a bigger world to Barbershop than just your chapter
- – More singing opportunities – QCA involvement – Grant Writing class – talked about the senior chorus – What would you like to see in director classes-they are supposed to get back to me on this
- – How can we help? After rehearsal I talked with the board about membership. This, obviously, is their major concern. We talked about the program in Pioneer District where they are paying college students to come sing with the chorus for a semester. They seemed interested in the concept. We also discussed coming to Fall Contest and singing for eval only. Told them that maybe they could contact another chapter and put the choruses together. My overall impression was that for 9 singers they really sang pretty well! They would benefit from more members but the quality is high for a small chapter. Many long time barbershoppers and a couple new ones.

Report on a Visit to Kaskaskia Trail Chorus in Waterloo, IL

March 2, 2023

By Doug Finkbiner

The Kaskaskia Trails Chorus is a small group that has found success in actively taking part in the local arts scene. They are apparently well-known for singing the national anthem at local events and for

supporting charitable and arts organizations. Observations are bulleted below.

- The chorus had 18 members present Thursday evening (only two tenors were missing), which is normal attendance.
 - The group came back strong after the pandemic with membership staying about the same.
 - The group performs many sing outs, including during church services.
 - They perform an annual fall show in November, which serves as their major fundraiser. They also operate a food stand at the county fair and other events.
 - When I asked them what the district board can do for them, they wanted to know if we can help them draw younger members (they have no members under 50).
 - They were discussing taking part in a school offered by the Area Council.
 - Periodically, they bring in a clinician to work with the chorus and provide opportunities for teachers and students from area school music programs to take part.
 - The Kaskaskia Trail Chorus often invites high school ensembles to sing on their annual shows.
 - The chapter is very active in its community and seems satisfied with its current level of participation. They don't appear to be interested in competing at the district level, even though there may be interest in <collaboration= in district activities in the future.
- Observations: Waterloo is a very active chapter with a love of singing barbershop harmony and actively participating in community events. Both of these factors lead me to a conclude that this is a healthy chapter and an important part of our district. I look forward to visiting them again and encouraging them to become more active in district functions

Report on a visit to Little Egypt Chorus in Carbondale, IL

March 7, 2023

By Doug Finkbiner

I visited the Carbondale Chapter on Tuesday evening at their rehearsal site in the Carbondale High

School Music Room. About a dozen members were present with a fairly equal distribution of voice parts.

Further information is bulleted below:

- The Little Egypt Chorus sings in the extended Carbondale area and were preparing a sing-out at

an Irish festival in Murphysboro, IL.

- They reviewed their repertoire and sang through a new song in their preparation.

- The chorus will have their annual show, which serves as their primary fundraiser, in October.

They are currently looking for a new, larger venue.

- Per usual, I asked what the district can do for them, and they answered that they feel as though

the Society's offerings at Harmony University is <over the heads= of their members. They said

the Society is <passing them by.= I have requested a list of suggestions about what topics will

interest smaller chapters.

- The chorus sings out about six times a year.

- Spitfire, a quartet affiliated with the Ambassadors of Harmony were their guest quartet last

October.

- Since returning after the pandemic, the chorus has had steady attendance. The chapter

president, David Bremer, said they only lost one or two guys since the beginning of the lockdown.

- They have reached out to local colleges, but there doesn't seemed to be much interest in

collaboration.

- On last year's show, a local high school a Capella group appeared on the Little Egypt show.

- President Bremer said they would like to bring in a clinician and invite local school choirs to take

part. I told him the district may be able to help with that.

- Some members of the chorus have participated in district events in the past, and I told them I

will keep them updated on future district activities.



Members of the ILL District,

The fund's value at 3/31/23 was \$151,811.70. We distributed \$8,350 in response to grant requests in the last 15 months - \$5350 in 2022 and \$3000 last quarter. Trustees recently approved a grant for \$500 in support of Chicago Metro's Quartet Contest in June, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Cearnal
IDEA Executive Director



The following (in red) is the language we passed recently amending language about who may submit requests for funding by the IDEA fund and when recusal is appropriate. Although it has been approved by Trustees, it has not been presented to the Illinois District Executive Board.

DISTRIBUTIONS

As stated earlier, it is intended that distributions from the Fund will be made to help and assist the Illinois District, its governing board, members' chapters and individuals by funding and/or advancing payments for the following endeavors, including but not limited to, Special Programs, Musical or Administrative Programs, Benevolent and Philanthropic Endeavors.

Funding Requests

Any member of the Illinois District in good standing may request funds for projects. The request must be made in writing by use of the "Request For Funding" form included as an addendum to this document or by downloading it from the IDEA website and sending it to the Executive Director.

An IDEA Trustee, as a member of the Illinois District, may solicit funding for projects in the method described above and retain a voice when Trustees discuss the project. However, because of the unique position a Trustee holds in the discussion process no Trustee may vote on any motion for approval of a grant in which he would have a direct, personal, financial benefit, either as a coach, director or any other involvement.

Distribution decisions will be made only by recommendation of the Trustees and approved by the Illinois District Executive Board. The Trustees must consider all relevant factors before recommending that a distribution be made. Considerations for funding will include, but will not be limited to, the amount of available cash in the Fund, the type of request, the severity of need and alternative means to satisfy the request.

The following are examples of some potential endeavors that the Fund Trustees may receive as requests for distribution and therefore consider worthwhile as candidates for a Fund distribution:

Special Programs – Funding a new chapter; funding International competitors' expenses to the International contest; funding the efforts of a special committee.

Education – Funding for IDAH; expenses for specific music or administrative programs for the Illinois District or a specific chapter; fund guest speakers at conventions, contests or chapter special events.

Benevolent – Funding a money-raising program for special purpose, such as financial need, disaster recovery for a family or chapter.

Philanthropic – Providing funds for a national, regional or local charity.

The above are ONLY EXAMPLES and are not the only ideas that will be considered.

Earl M
IDEA Secretary