



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