

the Illinois District
association of Chapters / Barbershop Harmony Society



a state of close harmony

Spring 2026 House of Delegates Meeting

20-Mar-2026 7:00PM

Illinois District Association of Chapters, SPEBSQSA Inc. House of Delegates

Mar 20th 2026

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: Brickyard 5, Doubletree Hotel, Bloomington IL

Time: 7:00 PM

Called to order: 7:01 PM

Call to Order

1. Roll Call / House of Delegates quorum – yes or no – Mike Isely
 - 17 members present, out of a potential total of 8+11+24=43.
 - Quorum minimum requirement of 30% (= 13). With 17 present we have 40%, quorum established
 - [See Appendix titled “Attendance” for detailed attendance record]
2. Reading of Mission & Vision Statement – Brett Mulford
 - (see above)
3. Welcome – Ben Dirks
4. Approve Agenda – Mike Isely
 - **Motion: Approve Agenda**
 - ♦ **Offered by: Jeff Bowyer, Kevin O’Keefe**
 - ♦ **PASSED**
5. Minutes of previous HOD Meeting (Sep 26th, 2025) – Mike Isely
 - **Motion:**
 - ♦ **Subject: Approve Fall 2025 HOD Minutes**
 - ♦ **Offered by: Tim Ferguson, Mark Servos**
 - ♦ **PASSED**



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20-Mar-2026 7:00PM

6. Resignation of Terry Ludwig

→ Resignation letter

- ♦ [Attachment: "01-resignation.pdf"]

→ Online motion to appoint Brett Mulford as Immediate Past President to fulfill remaining term

- ♦ [Attachment: "02-vote-mulford.pdf"]

→ Online motion to appoint Ben Dirks as Contest & Judging VP to fulfill remaining term

- ♦ [Attachment: "03-vote-dirks.pdf"]

7. Approve Consent Calendar – Mike Isely

→ **Motion: Approve Consent Calendar**

- ♦ **Offered by: Bill Rathman, John Q Morris**

- ♦ **PASSED**

→ Accept the following reports

- ♦ President's Report

- [Attachment: "04-rpt-pres.pdf"]

- ♦ EVP & Marketing Report

- [Attachment: "05-rpt-evp-mktg.pdf"]

- ♦ Chapter President's Council Report

- [Attachment: "06-rpt-cpc.pdf"]

- ♦ Music & Performance Report

- [Attachment: "07-rpt-mus.pdf"]

- ♦ Events Report

- [Attachment: "08-rpt-events.pdf"]

- ♦ Youth In Harmony

- [Attachment: "09-rpt-yih.pdf"]

- ♦ Chorus Director Development Report

- [Attachment: "10-rpt-cdd.pdf"]

- ♦ Chapter Support, Leadership, and Training Report

- [Attachment: "11-rpt-cslt.pdf"]

- ♦ Historian Report

- [Attachment: "12-rpt-historian.pdf"]

- ♦ Contest and Judging

- [Attachment: "13a-rpt-cj.pdf"] [Attachment: "13b-schedule-tentative.pdf"]

- ♦ IDEA

- [Attachment: "14-rpt-idea.pdf"]



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20-Mar-2026 7:00PM

TREASURER'S REPORT

8. Treasurer's Report – Leif Wildman
 - \$79K currently in bank assets
 - Fall 2025 convention: \$21K revenue, \$28K expenses
 - ♦ But we planned for this, as this is a district function
 - [Attachment: “15-rpt-treasurer.pdf”]
 - **Motion:**
 - ♦ **Subject: Receive the Treasurer's Report**
 - ♦ **Offered by: Kevin O'Keefe, Mark Servos**
 - ♦ **PASSED**

OLD BUSINESS

9. Harmony College Midwest – Mark Servos / Nathan Gross
 - We made it! We're here!
 - Looking into “The Big Leap” program for next year
 - Looking into 1:1 vocal coaching for next year
10. Fall Convention Update – Jeff Bowyer
 - Report stands
 - Changes to the Fall Convention (Ben Dirks)
 - ♦ Registration:
 - Registration has a hard 2 week deadline – no on-site registrations
 - Single-event passes will still be available through the convention
 - CJ-20 for quartets will not be processed until the full quartet has been registered
 - Chorus members who are NOT registered prior to the 2 week deadline will not be allowed to be on stage with the rest of the chorus
 - ♦ Schedule:
 - Biggest adjustment – chorus contest starts at 10am
 - Rationale – This frees up more time for actual convention activities / programs. Make this actually a convention as opposed to a pair of contests with some other stuff going on.
 - Call-off will be held back at the BCPA again, instead of the hotel.
11. District-wide survey – Ben Dirks
 - Recent survey: What are your talents? Everybody has a gift, a skill. We want to know about it so we can share those skills across chapters.

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20-Mar-2026 7:00PM

- 12. Website update – Glenn Mills
 - Nothing new
- 13. Membership – Doug Finkbiner
 - 501 district members, another reduction
 - Waterloo chapter is very active
 - Carbondale is down to 11 members

NEW BUSINESS

- 14. BHS Ambassador – Joe Gurreri
 - Introduction of Joe
 - Is a new “BHS Ambassador”, a complete volunteer role
 - Here to be listeners, learn what can also be shared with others
 - Will take questions and find answers
 - “Connect Nashville to the field”
- 15. Bagley Rule – Ben Dirks
 - [Attachment: “16-proposal-rules-change.pdf”]
 - Note: This does not completely “solve” the issue because there are other forces at work that can push up the number of quartets that advance to Saturday. For example, out-of-district quartets that we allow to compete.
 - Guessing that had this proposal been in effect last Fall, then the 16 quartets that advanced on Saturday would have been reduced to 13. (Not 11 = 10 competitors + 1 mic tester)
 - This helps to get quartets to the hospitality rooms sooner.
 - **Motion:**
 - ♦ **Subject: Remove the Bagley Rule from the bylaws, and accept the proposal**
 - ♦ **Offered by: Kevin O’Keefe, Doug Finkbiner**
 - ♦ **PASSED (1 nay)**
- 16. Fall 2026 HOD Date – Mike Isely
 - 25-Sep-2026, Noon (not 1pm)

Adjourned: 7:52 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Isely – Secretary



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20-Mar-2026 7:00PM

Appendix: Attendance

(taken computationally from delegate sign-in spreadsheet)

Chapter Delegates			
P/L/A	Chapter Name	No.	Delegate
P	Arlington Heights	E002	* Melanie Concklin
A	Aurora	E003	* Lester Grossman
P	Belleville	E005	* William Rathmann
A	Bloomington	E007	David Garrett
A	Macomb	E008	Craig Rigg
P	Northbrook	E009	Nichelle Pajeau
A	Danville	E013	!
A	Decatur	E014	!
A	Coles County	E017	+* Leif Wildman
P	Elgin	E018	John Schultz
P	Rockford Metro	E019	* Richard Schultz
P	Lake County	E021	* Timothy Ferguson
A	Bureau County	E024	* John Swanson
P	Chicagoland West Suburban	E030	Mark Servos
A	Peoria	E044	* Michael Cosner
A	Chicago Metro	E045	* Bonnie Jones
A	Rockford	E047	* Dan Adler
A	Rock Island	E048	!
A	Will-Cook	E050	* Neil DeVore
P	Sterling Rock Falls	E052	Kevin O'Keefe
A	Waterloo	E054	* Michael Moulds
A	Springfield	E061	Patrik Claussen
P	DuPage Valley	E066	Jim Anderson
A	Carbondale	E075	!

(total = 9 / 24)

* Chapter did not specifically declare a delegate; substituting Chapter President
+ Delegate appears in multiple places or is a District Governance Board officer or a Past President; thus will still only have ONE vote!

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



Spring 2026 House of Delegates Meeting

20-Mar-2026 7:00PM

Governance Board		
Present	Name	Role
P	Benjamin Dirks	President
P	Glenn Mills	Executive VP
P	Mike Isely	Secretary
P	Leif Wildman	Treasurer
P	Doug Finkbiner	At-Large (Membership)
P	Jeff Bowyer	At-Large (Events)
N/A	(Benjamin Dirks)	At-Large (C & J)
P	John Q. Morris	At-Large
P	Brett Mulford	Imm Past President

8 out of 8

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

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

0 out of 11

8+0+9 = 17 present

8+11+24 = 43 total possible