

**the Illinois District**  
association of Chapters / Barbershop Harmony Society



*a state of close harmony*

Spring 2014 House of Delegates Meeting

27-Apr-2014 11:30AM

## **Illinois District Association of Chapters, SPEBSQSA Inc.**

### **House of Delegates**

Spring 2014

**Location:** Ohio/Illinois Room, River Center, Davenport IA

**Time:** 11:32AM

Opening Song “The Old Songs” – Terry Ludwig, Director

### Initial Topics

1. Roll Call / House of Delegates quorum – yes or no – Mike Isely
  - 28 members present, out of a potential total of 47.
  - Quorum minimum requirement of 30% ( = 14). With 28 present we have 60%, quorum established.
  - [See Appendix titled “Attendance” for detailed attendance record]
2. Approve Agenda – Jeff Bowyer
  - Request to add “Intepretation” topic to Old Business
  - Adjustments requested of Consent Calendar reports:
    - ♦ Remove IDEA committee report (for further discussion)
    - ♦ Remove CDD report (nothing previously submitted)
    - ♦ Remove C&J report (nothing previously submitted)
    - ♦ Remove Events report (nothing previously submitted)
  - **Motion: Approve Agenda, with requested changes as noted**
    - ♦ **Offered by: Jim Waldorf, Seconded: Mike Bagby**
    - ♦ **PASSED (unanimous voice vote)**



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→ The following reports are therefore accepted without further discussion:

- ♦ Membership Report - Hugo Feugen
  - [Attachment: “01a-Report\_Membership.pdf”]
- ♦ MKT - written report from Derek Gilbert
  - [Attachment: “02a-Report\_Marketing.pdf”]
- ♦ YIH - written report from Rich Hansen
  - [Attachment: “03a-Report\_YIH.pdf”]
- ♦ Music & Performance - written report from Don Smit & Tom Woodall
  - [Attachment: “04a-Report\_MusicAndPerformance.pdf”]
- ♦ Historical Report - written report from Bob Squires
  - [Attachment: “05a-Report\_HistoricalCommittee.pdf”]
- ♦ Awards Committee - written report from Mike Bagby
  - [Attachment: “06a-Report\_Awards.pdf”]

3. Minutes of previous HOD Meeting – Mike Isely

→ Adjustment: On page 4, change “context” to “contest”

→ **Motion: Approve Fall 2013 HOD Minutes**

- ♦ **Offered by: Don Smit, Seconded: Jim Waldorf**
- ♦ **PASSED (unanimous voice vote)**

4. Previous actions to be recorded – Mike Isely

→ 2014 Budget

- ♦ Was erroneously left out of the Fall 2013 HOD, vote was subsequently taken via e-mail / directly contacting the chapters in December 2013. Recorded here...
- ♦ [Attachment: “07a-Budget\_2014\_vote.pdf” (spreadsheet documenting full tally)]

→ **Motion: Approve 2014 Budget**



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- ♦ **Offered by: Dave Cowin, Seconded: Mike Isely**
- ♦ **Motion opened on 12/26/2013, responses gathered until 12/31/2013**
- ♦ **Full HOD membership is 47, required simple majority is therefore 24. Out of 30 responses received, 29 were in favor, 1 opposed.**
- ♦ **PASSED (via e-mail / online, 29 in favor, 1 opposed)**

5. Treasurer's Report – Jim Wagner

→ [Attachment: "08a-Report\_Treasurer.pdf"]

→ Credit card charges are getting more expensive, may wish to change how we account for these charges, i.e. specific charges be posted against corresponding events instead of coming out of the general budget.

→ Fall convention is technically a financial loss...

- ♦ ...but the hotel rebate has not been received either – were we to actually be paid that which was agreed to via the hotel contract, the convention would come out ahead.
- ♦ Jim will look into it – his office is within walking distance of the hotel, recommendation that he should talk to Gary Wilson at the DoubleTree.

→ **Motion: HOD to receive Treasurer's Report**

- ♦ **Offered by: Bob Cearnal, Seconded: Tom DeBord**
- ♦ **PASSED (unanimous voice vote)**

6. C&J – Dave Cowin

→ "variance" system is in place and being refined as we go along

7. Events – Will Thorndike

→ Fall 2014 convention...

- ♦ ...will be in Bloomington
- ♦ Venue: BCPA
- ♦ Headquarters hotel: Marriott



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- ♦ host chapter assumed to be Bloomington? “assumption” is probably too strong of a term though there are people from that chapter that are currently helping out.
- ♦ Note that Fall 2014 convention is on the 3rd weekend – set by International – but Joe Sullivan pointed out that this conflicts with a another longstanding barbershop event apparently not known by the district (no details). But the district had nothing to do with setting convention dates - this is not up to us as these dates are assigned to us by International, years in advance.
- Spring 2014 convention (the one we're at right now)
  - ♦ This, as we know, is a joint event with CSD and CSD is handling most of the logistics
  - ♦ Venue is on a flat floor venue
  - ♦ Seating is assigned, based on registration order (something new for us)
- Fall 2015 convention
  - ♦ Looking in Bloomington but nothing set yet
- Spring 2015 convention
  - ♦ nothing yet
- Jeff would like to get a convention committee set up to stage these conventions rather than heavily loading Will Thorndike every time. This is how CSD operates and perhaps we could take a lesson from that?
- 8. IDEA – Bob Cearnal
  - [Attachment: “09a-Report-IDEA.pdf”]
  - IDEA procedures manual: HOD needs to approve new IDEA trustees
    - ♦ Joe Sullivan was previously announced as retiring, however he has come back, and the HOD needs to approve this.
    - ♦ **Motion: Accept Joe Sullivan on IDEA committee, through 2018**
      - **Offered by: Bob Cearnal, Seconded: Bob Squires**



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- **PASSED (unanimous voice vote)**

→ IDEA Treasury

- ♦ According to Earl Holtz's IDEA report (referenced earlier), there is a sizable account balance, approximately \$77K. Investments have done very well.
- ♦ YIH VP is asking for support to help bring Ringmasters to the district (\$8K)
- ♦ However IDEA can't actually make that much available
  - General good practices says that no more than 2%-3% of a fund like this should be drawn upon for usage
- ♦ However IDEA *is* looking for other requests...
  - Requests can be very broad – from the district, from chapters
    - Example: A chapter might request funds to help defray costs for holding a long range planning session
    - Example: Funding attendance to Harmony University
    - Community outreach is great too
- ♦ There has been a dropoff in contributions
  - IDEA has brought a display board to this convention, showing history of the fund, how contributions have been done, donors, stories of help given.

## OLD BUSINESS

9. District Policy & Procedures Manual Update – Will Thorndike

→ Composed of Secretary, Imm Past President, and Events

- ♦ Concept is that Past President has the most recent overall knowledge of recent changes, Secretary is effectively the record keeper.
- ♦ Events VP right now has the most complete records
- ♦ Committee will be meeting in June to begin this process



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10. CSLT Position / chapter Counselors update – Jeff Bowyer

→ Mike Savard of the Northbrook Chapter has been appointed to fill the role of VP of CSLT for the district.

- ♦ He is a member of the Northbrook chapter
- ♦ He has already been working with Derek Gilbert for the past year to help get the district into various social media avenues

→ Issue with IDM program

- ♦ Joe Sullivan spoke up to remind everyone about the IDM program that had been proposed by Syl Wetle, and accepted, back in the Fall 2012 HOD
  - See the Minutes from the Fall 2012 HOD, topic #15 “Illinois District Mentors”
  - The program has an emphasis on personal contact, by Illinois District Mentors
  - Should be filled by previous district officers (not current officers)
- ♦ Back in September 2012, a big aspect of the discussion was not whether or not the program is a good idea but rather who is going to make it happen. That task was given to Syl.
- ♦ It's been a year and a half – what has happened?
  - Joe Sullivan states there is a list of past officers that are volunteering to step up
  - Who are they? Joe provided this list:
    - Bob Squires
    - Wayne Wright
    - Bob Cearnal
    - Will Thorndike [note: he's still a current officer...]
    - Joe Sullivan
    - Earl Meseth
- ♦ Note: This was the “interpretation” topic that had been added to the agenda.



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## NEW BUSINESS

### 11. BHS Society Report – Alan Lamson

- Overall presentation about what the society is doing going forward
  - ♦ Contained in their 27 page report, on the society web site
    - [Attachment: “10a-Society-Letter.pdf”]
- The full discussion is not repeated here, since is largely mirrors what is already in the Society-published report

### 12. Harmony Foundation – Dave Calland

- Directed a song – “Shine On Me”
- Donor's choice payouts from the Harmony Foundation, announced here:

Illinois District	\$498.40
Elgin	\$50.00
Rockford	\$79.50
Kankakee	\$110.00
Sterling rock falls	\$129.00
Aurora	\$198.00
Lake County	\$237.00
Bloomington	\$542.00
Chicagoland West Suburban	\$802.50
Northbrook	\$804.00
Coles County	\$1562.00

- Foundation is having a great year
  - ♦ Matching people with projects, giving



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→ What's happened:

- ♦ In 2008, foundation had 1215 donors – raised just under \$800K
- ♦ Currently: 4200+ donors – raised \$2600K
- ♦ If this trend continues, then in about four years the gift that the foundation makes to the society will surpass the sum of all society dues

→ Going forward

- ♦ Seeking large corporation grants – but to make that work, at least about 30% of members need to be donating- then corporate sponsors take notice.
- ♦ Looking to raise at least \$10K at this convention (e.g. 10 new President's Counsel members)

13. Spring Convention / Contest Discussion

→ At the Fall 2013 HOD meeting, Jeff made a statement to the HOD that the Society is changing the rules such that districts can move all of the contests to a single event per year, thus lifting the need for having two conventions per year. The general feedback from the HOD at the time was that this was worthy of an exploration. Thus this discussion follows...

→ Last major contest cycle change was in 2006.

→ In 2010 the district leadership conducted a personal visitation of all the chapters. It took nearly a year to complete. Questions were asked of the chapters, including opinions on the district's convention format. The district asked the chapters what it is that they want. There was a lot of feedback relating to dissatisfaction for the current contest cycle. This was the seed that resulted in the contest format change that began in 2013.

→ [Attachment: “11a-Convention\_Format.pdf”]

- ♦ Key point: Move all remaining International-related contests, currently held in the Spring, to the Fall.
- ♦ This eliminates the absolute need for the Spring convention and removes a large financial drain on the district.





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- We are all looking for other ideas. Please speak up and state your thoughts – this meeting is the forum to discuss it.
- Convention attendance continues to drop, especially in the Spring. This is unsustainable.
  - ♦ The attempt to renew interest via a small chorus contest in the Spring has not drawn a practical number of choruses [even now there are only 3 ILL district choruses here this weekend].
- There would still be something going on in the Spring – but it would be more like IDAH, an event that is experiencing more success.
- Is this going to make the Fall weekend more hectic? Yes, it is possible. But that would be a great problem to have.
  - ♦ Suggestion was given to make the Fall convention a 4 day event
- How does this affect IDAH? Nothing would be taken away from IDAH. IDAH would effectively be a part of the entire event. The evening performance at IDAH could be expanded. IDAH may very well expand. But nobody is asking Terry & Tim to take on the entire thing – their focus would still be IDAH.
- Note that IDAH for 2015 is already set – if we put this plan into action for 2015, there's a lot of work to do in a short amount of time...
- Don Smit:
  - ♦ The Lake County chapter feels that input from all individual chapters is needed, more than what is present at this HOD.
  - ♦ Lake County recommends putting together a team to personally poll all of the chapters – within the scope of 30 days – and ask questions of the chapters about what it is they do want.
  - ♦ The current proposal does not give the quartets two chances to compete on an annual basis.
  - ♦ High school and college quartets are just assembling in the Fall...



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- ♦ Plateau scoring not understood by the audience and a large portion of the district members; this change would only exacerbate that situation.
- ♦ Syl Wetle has created a questionnaire that should be used to poll all the chapters.
- Regarding high school / collegiate contests
  - ♦ Those could still be in the Spring
  - ♦ But if the collegiate contest happens in the Spring, then that constrains the judging setup due to International rules.
  - ♦ A large part of the financial savings attained by eliminating the formal Spring convention and expanding IDAH would be to avoid those very constraints.
- Regarding quartet competition
  - ♦ The opportunity to compete more than once is still there
  - ♦ It's worth noting that 4 ILL quartets are not here this weekend – they are competing out of district
- Opinion that there needs to be a decision on this. Lake County chapter in particular has discussed this at length.
- If there is any concern about lower attendance at this HOD (due to being in the Spring and at an usual location)...
  - ♦ We have 14 chapters represented here today.
  - ♦ Compare that with the Fall 2013 HOD, where there were 16 chapters represented – not much of a difference.
  - ♦ Chapters which don't show up in the Spring are obviously already implicitly giving their opinion, voting with their feet.
  - ♦ Note that even chapters who are not present are still paying dues and thus implicitly supporting the district
    - But by not/never showing up at a convention, they are expressing that they don't care what happens.



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- We have the ability to be nimble about this – just because we decide something now doesn't mean we'll be stuck with it for 10 years. If after a year or two it becomes obvious that a wrong decision had been made, it can certainly be revisited.
- Our good quartets are currently going elsewhere for contests...
  - ♦ Very important implication: If the quartet prelim contest goes to the Fall, then any quartet competing out of district somewhere in the Spring needs to get approval *30 days before the ILL Fall contest* – 6+ months earlier, a significant impact.
  - ♦ Yes, a quartet can replace 1 member between the prelim and the international contest (slight mitigation).
- Note that there is still a requirement for 2 HOD meetings / year
  - ♦ The Spring HOD would be held at IDAH
- The following is the core issue of the proposal, and is what the HOD needs to either agree to, not agree to, or replace with an alternative:
  - ♦ Move to one contest in the fall which selects district quartet/chorus champions as well as international representatives. Hold a spring “festival” event (perhaps in conjunction with IDAH) in which quartets/choruses can receive coaching, perform non-contest repertoire, etc.
- **Motion: Accept proposal as given in the HOD packet, labeled as option 2**
  - ♦ **Offered by: Bruce Condill, Seconded: Brian Berg**
  - ♦ **Motion passed, 19 in favor, 5 against (via roll call vote, see appendix titled “Convention Format Motion” for roll call details)**

14. Memorial to deceased members – Bob Squires

→ [See Appendix for Memorial Service]

Closing Song “Keep The Whole World Singing” – Bob Cearnal, Director

Adjourned: 2:12PM

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Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Isely – Secretary



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**Appendix: Attendance**

Chapter Delegates			
Present	Name	ID	Chapter Name
A	Michael Johnston	E-002	Arlington Heights
P	Lester Grossman	E-003	Aurora
P	Lawrence Dohogne	E-005	Belleville
P	Tom De Bord	E-007	Bloomington
A		E-008	Macomb
P	Brian Berg	E-009	Northbrook
P	Hugo Feugen	E-010	Champaign Urbana
A		E-012	Chicago No 1
A	Robert McIntire	E-013	Danville
A	James Barr	E-014	Decatur
A		E-016	Collinsville
P	Bruce Condill	E-017	Coles County
P	Douglas Mather	E-018	Elgin
A	Douglas Phillips	E-019	Rockford Metro
P	Donald Smit	E-021	Lake County
A	Marvin Strom	E-024	Bureau County
A		E-029	Quincy
P	Jay Bentz	E-030	Chicagoland West Suburban
A	Harold Harness	E-044	Peoria
P	Frank Schneider	E-045	Chicago Metro
A	Dan Adler	E-047	Rockford
A	Brian Buckrop	E-048	Rock Island
P	Earl Meseth	E-050	Will-Cook
P	Kevin O'Keefe	E-052	Sterling Rock Falls
A	James Heise	E-054	Waterloo
P	Patrick Claussen	E-061	Springfield
P	James Fourmont	E-066	DuPage Valley
P	G Howard Peterson	E-067	Kishwaukee Valley
A		E-073	Sandoval
A		E-075	Carbondale
A	Richard Howell	E-077	Kankakee

15 out of 31

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Governance Board		
Present	Name	Role
P	Jeff Bowyer	President
P	Richard Hansen	Executive VP
P	Mike Isely	Secretary
P	Jim Wagner	Treasurer
P	Jim Waldorf	BMAL
P	Hugo Feugen	BMAL (Membership)
P	Will Thorndike	BMAL (Events)
P	Dave Cowin	BMAL (Contest & Judging)
P	Mike Bagby	Imm. Past President

9 out of 9

Active Past Presidents (not on Gov. Board)	
Present	Name
P	Bob Cearnal
P	Earl Meseth
A	Wally Ryan
P	Bob Squires
P	Joe Sullivan
A	Jim Vliet
A	Syl Wetle

4 out of 7

$9+4+15 = 28$  present

$9+7+31 = 47$  total possible



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**Appendix: Convention Format Motion**

Vote	Chapter Delegates		
	Name	ID	Chapter Name
A	Michael Johnston	E-002	Arlington Heights
YES	Lester Grossman	E-003	Aurora
YES	Lawrence Dohogne	E-005	Belleville
YES	Tom De Bord	E-007	Bloomington
A		E-008	Macomb
YES	Brian Berg	E-009	Northbrook
YES	Hugo Feugen	E-010	Champaign Urbana
A		E-012	Chicago No 1
A	Robert McIntire	E-013	Danville
A	James Barr	E-014	Decatur
A		E-016	Collinsville
YES	Bruce Condill	E-017	Coles County
YES	Douglas Mather	E-018	Elgin
A	Douglas Phillips	E-019	Rockford Metro
NO	Donald Smit	E-021	Lake County
A	Marvin Strom	E-024	Bureau County
A		E-029	Quincy
YES	Jay Bentz	E-030	Chicagoland West Suburban
A	Harold Harness	E-044	Peoria
YES	Frank Schneider	E-045	Chicago Metro
A	Dan Adler	E-047	Rockford
A	Brian Buckrop	E-048	Rock Island
YES	Earl Meseth	E-050	Will-Cook
YES	Kevin O'Keefe	E-052	Sterling Rock Falls
A	James Heise	E-054	Waterloo
NO	Patrick Claussen	E-061	Springfield
MIA	James Fourmont	E-066	DuPage Valley
NO	G Howard Peterson	E-067	Kishwaukee Valley
A		E-073	Sandoval
A		E-075	Carbondale
A	Richard Howell	E-077	Kankakee

11 YES, 3 NO



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Governance Board		
Vote	Name	Role
**	Jeff Bowyer	President
YES	Richard Hansen	Executive VP
YES	Mike Isely	Secretary
YES	Jim Wagner	Treasurer
YES	Jim Waldorf	BMAL
N/A	Hugo Feugen	BMAL (Membership)
YES	Will Thorndike	BMAL (Events)
YES	Dave Cowin	BMAL (Contest & Judging)
YES	Mike Bagby	Imm. Past President

7 YES, 0 NO

Active Past Presidents	
Vote	Name
YES	Bob Cearnal
N/A	Earl Meseth
A	Wally Ryan
NO	Bob Squires
NO	Joe Sullivan
A	Jim Vliet
A	Syl Wetle

1 YES, 2 NO

11+1+7 = 19 **YES**, 3 + 2 + 0 = 5 **NO**, → **MOTION PASSED**

Note that even though the attendance total was 28, only 24 votes were tallied. This was due to 1 member who had previously signed in but was not present for the vote, 2 members representing multiple roles (only one vote allowed per member regardless of how many roles that person represents), and the president only votes to break a tie (which was not the case here). Each of these cases is noted in the tables above and defined in the legend below. During the roll call, chapter delegates were polled first, then the past presidents, and then finally the governance board.

Legend:

- YES = vote in favor of motion
- NO = vote opposed to motion
- \*\* = votes only to break a tie
- MIA = signed in, but not present during roll call vote
- A = Absent from meeting
- N/A = vote already counted as a Chapter Delegate





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**Appendix: Chapter Eternal**

[Conducted by Bob Squires]

**Memorial Service For Deceased Members**

May I ask a moment of silence, please:

*Heavenly Father we have gathered here today in your presence  
to commemorate those of our brothers who have passed on  
during this past year.*

*Please join me in a moment of silence.*

*We ask that you accept these men into your heavenly choir that  
their voices may continue to praise and glorify you.*

*We honor their dedication to their chapter, the Illinois District  
and to their hobby of Barbershop singing.*

*Amen.*

<b><u>Chapter Eternal 2014</u></b>	
<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Chapter</u></b>
Tony Czarnowski	Will-Cook
Glen Auble	Elgin
Paul Gebhart	Springfield
Phillip Burke	Carbondale
Ken Madsen	Elgin
Joseph Ayares	Frank Thorne
Dick Larson	Coles County
Willey Smith	Peoria
Howard Hoffman	Chicagoland West Suburban
Jesse Soper	Chicago Metro
Don Summers	Peoria
Jack Langie	Peoria
Don Reid	Arlington Heights/Lake County
James Tidwell	Coles County
Bruce Conover	Rock Island

*(Bruce Conover was the lead of the 1953 International champion, Vikings)*