



Illinois District Association of Chapters, SPEBSQSA Inc. Fall 2025 House of Delegates Meeting AGENDA

Location: Doubletree Hotel at 10 Brickyard Dr, Bloomington, IL 61701

Date/Time: Friday, September 26th 2025 at 1pm

CALL TO ORDER

BEN DIRKS

ROLL CALL & DECLARATION OF QUORUM

MIKE ISELY

READING OF THE DISTRICT MISSION & VISION STATEMENTS

TERRY LUDWIG

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.*

WELCOME

BEN DIRKS

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MIKE ISELY

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS HOD

MIKE ISELY

Prior meeting was on March 21st, 2025

**CONSENT CALENDAR REPORTS**

MIKE ISELY

1. President's Report – Ben Dirks
2. Membership – Doug Finkbiner
3. Music & Performance – Mark Servos / Nathan Gross
4. Marketing & PR – Glenn Mills
5. Contest & Judging – Terry Ludwig
6. Events – Jeff Bowyer
7. IDEA – Jim Waldorf
8. YIH – Evan Patrick
9. Chorus Director Development – Kevin O'Keefe
10. CSLT – John Q. Morris
11. Historical – Rich Hansen
12. Awards – Doug Ferrier

TREASURER'S REPORT

LEIF WILDMAN

MEMORIAL

RICH HANSEN

OLD BUSINESS

1. Four year plan – Terry Ludwig / Benjamin Dirks
2. Four year plan – Ben Dirks
3. Harmony College Midwest – Mark Servos / Nathan Gross
4. Fall Convention Update – Jeff Bowyer
5. Chapter President's Council – Mike Isely
6. District-wide survey – Ben Dirks
7. Chapter Liaisons – Ben Dirks
8. Website update – Glenn Mills

NEW BUSINESS

9. Approval of the 2025 District Budget – Leif Wildman
10. Presentation by BHS CEO Robert Rund
11. Presentation by HFI Representative Andrew Easterling
12. Fall 2025 HOD Date – Mike Isely

ADJOURNMENT

BEN DIRKS



HOD Attendance (P for Present, A for Absent, L for Late)

Chapter Delegates			
IF YOUR CHAPTER HAS THE WRONG DELEGATE HERE THEN YOU NEED TO FIX THIS BEFORE THE HOD MEETING TAKES PLACE. PLEASE CONTACT isely@pobox.com FOR QUESTIONS			
P/L/A	Chapter Name	No.	Delegate
	Arlington Heights	E002	* Calvin Cheng
	Aurora	E003	* Lester Grossman
	Belleville	E005	* William Rathmann
	Bloomington	E007	David Garrett
	Macomb	E008	Craig Rigg
	Northbrook	E009	Earl Holtz
	Danville	E013	* Bryan Schroeder
	Decatur	E014	James Barr
	Coles County	E017	Jerry Tkachuk
	Elgin	E018	* Keith Rosborough
	Rockford Metro	E019	* Richard Schultz
	Lake County	E021	* Timothy Ferguson
	Bureau County	E024	* John Swanson
	Chicagoland West Suburban	E030	* Anthony Emerson
	Peoria	E044	* Michael Cosner
	Chicago Metro	E045	* Bonnie Jones
	Rockford	E047	* Dan Adler
	Rock Island	E048	!
	Will-Cook	E050	* Neil DeVore
	Sterling Rock Falls	E052	Paul McCracken
	Waterloo	E054	* James Heise
	Springfield	E061	Patrik Claussen
	DuPage Valley	E066	* Kevin Connell
	Carbondale	E075	!
(total = 0 / 24)			

* Chapter did not specifically declare a delegate; substituting Chapter President

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



HOD Attendance (P for Present, A for Absent, L for Late)

Governance Board		
P/L/A	Name	Role
	Benjamin Dirks	President
	Glenn Mills	Executive VP
	Mike Isely	Secretary
	Leif Wildman	Treasurer
	Doug Finkbiner	At-Large (Membership)
	Jeff Bowyer	At-Large (Events)
	Terry Ludwig	At-Large (C & J)
	John Q. Morris	At-Large
N/A	(Terry Ludwig)	Imm. Past President
(total = 8)		

Operations		
P/L/A	Name	Role
	Glenn Mills	Marketing & PR
	Evan Patrick	Youth In Harmony
	Doug Finkbiner	Membership
	Mark Servos	Music & Performance
	Nathan Gross	
	Rich Hansen	Historian
	John Q Morris	CSLT
	Kevin O'Keefe	Chorus Director Development
	Doug Ferrier	Awards
(total = 9)		

Active Past Presidents (and not currently on Gov. Board)	
P/L/A	Name
	Mike Bagby
N/A	(Jeff Bowyer)
	Bob Cearnal
	Dave Cowin
	Rich Hansen
	Jeff Lathom
N/A	(Terry Ludwig)
	Earl Meseth
	Brett Mulford
	Bob Squires
	Will Thorndike
	Jim Waldorf
	Syl Wetle
(total = 11)	

Balance Sheet

IL District Association of Chapters, SPEBSQSA

As of August 31, 2025

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT		TOTAL
<hr/>		
Assets		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
1010 Checking Account		31,641.94
1015 US Bank Money Market		52,811.23
1020 Wells Fargo		
Total for Bank Accounts		\$84,453.17
<hr/>		
Accounts Receivable		
Other Current Assets		-\$932.00
Total for Current Assets		\$83,521.17
<hr/>		
Fixed Assets		
Other Assets		
Total for Assets		\$83,521.17
<hr/>		
Liabilities and Equity		\$83,521.17
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Profit and Loss

IL District Association of Chapters, SPEBSQSA

January 1-August 31, 2025

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Income	
5100 Event Income	0
Har. Found/Fest. Chorus/Brigade	492.15
Hotel Rebates/Comp Room Credits	1,960.00
IDEA Grant	580.00
On Line Registrations	7,428.67
On Site Registrations	140.00
On Site Single Tickets	100.00
Total for 5100 Event Income	\$10,700.82
5210 District Dues	11,637.98
5310 Interest Income	298.74
5450 Advertising Revenue	120.00
5490 Miscellaneous Revenue	5,000.00
Total for Income	\$27,757.54
Cost of Goods Sold	
Gross Profit	\$27,757.54
Expenses	
7500 Contract Services Expenses	0
7570 Event Meals	4,094.22
Total for 7500 Contract Services Expenses	\$4,094.22
8100 Nonpersonnel expenses	0
8120 Awards, Plaques & Pins	31.50
8140 Postage & Shipping	29.20
8150 Music	112.00
8180 Historian	1,804.32
Total for 8100 Nonpersonnel expenses	\$1,977.02
8200 Facility & Equipment Exp	0
8210 Rent, parking, & other	2,200.12
Total for 8200 Facility & Equipment Exp	\$2,200.12
8300 Travel & Meetings Expenses	0
8310 Travel	3,660.61
8320 Board Meet. & Conventions	0
Comp Housing	3,220.00
Total for 8320 Board Meet. & Conventions	\$3,220.00
8330 Hospitality	1,157.89
Total for 8300 Travel & Meetings Expenses	\$8,038.50
8400 Education Programs	0
8440 HCMW	1,831.25
Total for 8400 Education Programs	\$1,831.25

Profit and Loss

IL District Association of Chapters, SPEBSQSA

January 1-August 31, 2025

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
8500 Other Expenses	0
8505 Gov Board	0
Treasurer	255.55
Total for 8505 Gov Board	\$255.55
8540 Bank Charges	70.00
8560 Outside Computer Services	852.95
Total for 8500 Other Expenses	\$1,178.50
Total for Expenses	\$19,319.61
Net Operating Income	\$8,437.93
Other Income	
Other Expenses	
Net Other Income	0
Net Income	\$8,437.93

Profit and Loss by Class

IL District Association of Chapters, SPEBSQSA

All Dates

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	HCMW	2025-BLOOMINGTON	TOTAL FOR HCMW	TOTAL
Income			0	
5100 Event Income			0	0
IDEA Grant		580.00	580.00	580.00
On Line Registrations		7,428.67	7,428.67	7,428.67
On Site Registrations		140.00	140.00	140.00
On Site Single Tickets		100.00	100.00	100.00
Total for 5100 Event Income	0	8,248.67	8,248.67	\$8,248.67
5490 Miscellaneous Revenue		5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Total for Income	0	13,248.67	13,248.67	\$13,248.67
Cost of Goods Sold				
Gross Profit	0	13,248.67	13,248.67	\$13,248.67
Expenses			0	
7500 Contract Services Expenses			0	0
7570 Event Meals		4,094.22	4,094.22	4,094.22
Total for 7500 Contract Services Expenses	0	4,094.22	4,094.22	\$4,094.22
8100 Nonpersonnel expenses			0	0
8150 Music		112.00	112.00	112.00
Total for 8100 Nonpersonnel expenses	0	112.00	112.00	\$112.00
8200 Facility & Equipment Exp			0	0
8210 Rent, parking, & other		1,000.12	1,000.12	1,000.12
Total for 8200 Facility & Equipment Exp	0	1,000.12	1,000.12	\$1,000.12
8300 Travel & Meetings Expenses			0	0
8310 Travel		2,885.37	2,885.37	2,885.37
8320 Board Meet. & Conventions			0	0
Comp Housing		3,220.00	3,220.00	3,220.00
Total for 8320 Board Meet. & Conventions	0	3,220.00	3,220.00	\$3,220.00
8330 Hospitality		940.64	940.64	940.64
Total for 8300 Travel & Meetings Expenses	0	7,046.01	7,046.01	\$7,046.01
8400 Education Programs			0	0
8440 HCMW		1,081.25	1,081.25	1,081.25
Total for 8400 Education Programs	0	1,081.25	1,081.25	\$1,081.25
Total for Expenses	0	13,333.60	13,333.60	\$13,333.60
Net Operating Income	0	-84.93	-84.93	-\$84.93
Other Income				
Other Expenses				
Net Other Income	0	0	0	0
Net Income	0	-84.93	-84.93	-\$84.93



President's Report – 2025 Fall HOD

It's an honor to be back with you after our last gathering in March. Since then, we celebrated an incredibly successful Harmony College Midwest, made all the more memorable by our home-district champs, After Hours. Their presence and support brought so much energy to the weekend—thank you again to them and to all of you who made the event such a success!

Now, we turn our attention to the 2025 Fall Convention and Competition. I cannot begin to tell you how excited I am to see our district family gathered together again. We have *more choruses participating than last year*—and many of them are hosting hospitality rooms on Saturday night. I encourage you to stop by, meet someone new, and sing a tag or two (or three!).

I'm also thrilled to share that we are bringing back the President's Reception on Friday night. It has been a number of years since we've had a dedicated social event to kick off the weekend, and I invite each of you to join us for fellowship, a libation or two, snacks, and of course... singing. After all, that's why we're here!

Another point I want to touch on: **We're hearing you.** Thank you to everyone who filled out our convention improvement survey. Your input has already started shaping the way we think about these weekends. We are working hard to create a convention experience that isn't just for competitors, but also engaging and rewarding for non-competitors. Your voices are helping us get there.

Finally, a word about chapter visits. While we haven't yet been able to make it to every chapter in person, we are committed to doing so before the year is over. Each chapter is the lifeblood of the Illinois District, and we want you to know that we see you, we value you, and we care deeply about the work you're doing in your communities.

I cannot wait to see where the rest of this year will take us. Thank you for all that you do for barbershop and for this district—it is truly a joy to serve alongside you.

In harmony,
Ben Dirks
Illinois District President



Membership Report

September 6, 2025

The current membership in the Illinois District stands at 522, which reflects a decrease of 30 since the March report.

I had a chance to visit the Little Egypt Chorus last week in Carbondale. They have a membership of 12, but remain very active. They were preparing for a performance in a nearby town along with other acts this past Tuesday. Their main concern is attracting new members. President Pete Gimse and director Jim Alvey seem to be pleased with the chapter's health, with membership holding steady at 12 members.

On June 28th, I attended the Sounds of Harmony annual show on June 28th in Belleville. They put on a great show with Lin 182 serving as the guest quartet. I had a chance to visit with president Bill Rathman and he seemed to be pleased with the health of his chapter.

I attended Kaskaskia Trails show last November and it was well attended. They presented Pirates of the Kaskaskia River. The Waterloo chapter added New Fangled Four as their guest quartet. I have contacted President Jim Heise, and will update my report when I hear from him. I plan to attend a chapter meeting in the next week. They currently have 18 members.



Illinois District Chapter Census

March 20, 2025

Chapter	Number of Active Members	Status
Champaign Urbana	0	Charter Closed
Chicago Metro	14	Active
Chicago No. 1	0	Charter Closed
Chicago Western Suburban	42	Active
Coles County	33	Active
Collinsville	0	Charter Closed
Frank Thorn	14	Active
Danville	29	Active
Decatur	2	Active
Peoria	5	Active
Northbrook	55	Active
DuPage Valley	46	Active
Quincy	0	Charter Closed
Elgin	19	Active
Rock Island	1	Active
Rockford Metro	20	Active
Rockford	20	Active
Arlington Heights	26	Active
Aurora	11	Active
Sandoval	0	Charter Closed
Belleville	29	Active
Bloomington	92	Active
Kankakee	1	Voluntary Dissolution pending
Kishwaukee Valley	1	Voluntary Dissolution pending
Bureau County	7	Active
Lake County	2	Active
Springfield	26	Active
Carbondale	12	Active
Macomb	7	Active
Sterling Rock Falls	18	Active
Waterloo	18	Active
Will-Cook	16	Active
Total	522 Active Members	25 Active Charters



Illinois District Music & Performance Report Fall 2025

Harmony College Midwest (HCM) 2026 will take place on Saturday, March 21st 2026 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Bloomington, IL

Official announcement and ticket sales will begin on Friday, September 26th 2025 (first day of District Convention)

Featured Quartet will be 2025 International Silver Medalists, Gimme Four

Head Clinician will be Melody Hine (MUS Judge, arranger, director, HI Queen)

Additional clinician information to be released iteratively on social media (Facebook page)

Early Bird ticket discounts available!

Looking forward to HCM 2027

We have received feedback about interest in more personalized vocal coaching for individual attendees

Looking into establishing a "Vocal Pedagogy" track at HCM 2027 to offer individuals more one-on-one opportunities to work with coaches/clinicians aside from normal classroom settings.

Track size may be limited due to time slot availability

Looking into establishing a directors track for current or prospective chorus directors to work with established, veteran directing clinicians.

- Please send additional ideas or suggestions to mark.servos@gmail.com. We are EXTREMELY interested to hear your feedback and want to try to accommodate as many needs/wants as possible!

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Servos

Co-VP Music & Performance, ILL District



Fall 2025 IL District Marketing and EVP Report

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.

EVP chapter visits

Visited the Arlingtones in May, and attended a concert in July.

Visited the DuPage Brat Bash in June.

Will visit the Brotherhood of Harmony in mid-September.

Will visit Rock River Valley after the convention.

The visits are a great way to stay in touch with members around the state and let them know what's going on with the Illinois District and BHS.

District Presidents' Council

I attended the in-person meetings at the mid-winter convention in San Antonio and at the international convention in Denver. District EVPs join the district presidents to get up to speed on what is transpiring in other districts, share ideas, and also represent the districts' wishes to BHS leaders.

There was a leadership class at Harmony University this summer, but unfortunately I was unable to attend. BHS is considering offering the class again, perhaps as early as at the mid-winter convention.

A few highlights from recent DPC meetings:

- BHS is looking into expanding insurance coverage to perhaps include repeat guests who have yet to join. The coverage would be incorporated into the existing insurance offered via BHS. Chapters will soon be asked to submit attendance records, to help identify how many guests (and members) attend. So if chapters aren't already tracking attendance, now is the time to start.
- At the international convention in July, BHS unveiled a great new video that expressed our new "branding anthem," In the Pursuit of Harmony. This doesn't replace Everyone In Harmony, but is designed to help us focus on actions. With that in mind, BHS is working on a voluntary Chapter Health Assessment that will be available for chapters to assess their goals, how their actions align with those goals, and how they might best be "in pursuit of harmony." It sounds like a really worthwhile tool! Chapter leaders will input data into a survey, and the software will offer suggested action steps, based on effective actions that similar chapters have found success with in the past.



Website

Here are the key items done since the HOD meeting in spring 2025:

- Promoted the international convention, encouraged members to go, and recognized our district representatives, New Tradition chorus and Onset quartet.
- Updated the site with information to promote the fall convention.
- Published spring and summer issues of “From the Vault.” A big thank-you to Rich Hansen.
- Updated some information on the members-only portion of the QCA section (Quartet Champions Association).
- Updated the site with new data, downloaded from the BHS members-only database:
 - Chapter officers, chapter/chorus contact information, and chorus rehearsal sites.
 - District officer and operations team information.
 - Active quartets.

We will upload the latest data from BHS to our district website prior to the fall convention.

- Periodically updated the messages on the yellow banner, the news events, and the calendar events to keep things current and make it convenient for site visitors to quickly find the latest information.

Social Media

- Continued to post and add followers on Instagram and Facebook, highlighting all the district and chapter goings-on that I became aware of. Kudos to the DuPage, Arlington Heights, Bloomington, and Chicago Metro chapters for making the district Facebook page a co-host for some events. This makes it easier for me to promote the events on behalf of the district; all chapters are encouraged to make the district an event co-host.

— Glenn Mills, EVP + District Marketing



To: Ben Dirks, President
House of Delegates

From: Terry Ludwig, VP Contest and Judging

Greetings!

To say that my first contest as C&J has had a learning curve would be an understatement! I want to thank Jeff Lathom for helping me navigate thie intricacies of the job. There is more to it that I ever knew or even imagined.

As of the writing of this report we have 9 choruses and 16 quartets registered. Of those 16 quartets, 1 is a High School group and 2 are from Out of District. I do know of a couple more quartets that need to register. Hoping that number will be closer to 20 by the time it is all said and done.

We have decided to make a couple changes to the chorus contest this year. The first is that we are going to offer 2 different riser configurations. Those being 7 risers or 11 risers. Some of the smaller choruses felt as if they were too far removed from the audience when they are on 11 risers and I agree.

The second change is in the Plateau Award System. We felt that the system did not represent the District as it is currently composed. Many times we had 1 or no choruses in a given plateau. With these changes it should give choruses some competition within the plateaus and not just a participation trophy. The new plateaus are as follows:

4 A- Choruses that have averaged 74 or above over their last 2 contests within 5 years

3 A- Choruses that have averaged 65-73 over their last 2 contests within 5 years

2A- Choruses that have averaged 55-64 over their last 2 contests within 5 years



1A- Choruses that have averaged 54 or below over their last 2 contests within 5 years OR
Choruses that have not competed twice within the last 5 years.

We are also offering Choruses and Quartets the chance to get on stage before the contest. Choruses on Saturday morning from 8-10 in 15 min appointments. A letter will go out to all the choruses and the time slots will be available on a first come, first served basis. On Friday night the stage will be open from 3:30-4:30 for Quartets. This will be on a walk in basis. The mics will be shut off promptly at 4:30 so I suggest all quartets who want some time on the stage get there early and not wait until the very end.

The draw will take place on September 12th and will be broadcast live on our Facebook page. Hope some of you will tune in and join the fun!

Respectfully Submitted

Terry Ludwig

Events Report

September 5, 2025

Jeff Bowyer VP-Events

Future dates and locations

Fall 2025 Illinois District Convention

Sept. 26 - 27 2025

Headquarters Hotel: DoubleTree Hotel Bloomington: Contract signed. Room block of 120 rooms per night.

Contest locations:

Friday: BCPA: will be the location for the Quartet semi-finals Friday evening.

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

Harmony College Midwest 2026

March 20-21, 2026

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

Fall 2026 Illinois District Convention

Sept. 25-26, 2026

Headquarters Hotel: DoubleTree Hotel Bloomington: Contract signed. Room block of 120 rooms per night.

Contest locations: Brian Laech has these dates penciled in on their calendar.

Friday: BCPA: will be the location for the Quartet semi-finals Friday evening.

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

Future Convention Dates:

2027: 9/24 - 9/26

2028: 9/22 - 9/24



IDEA Report

The IDEA fund's value as of 8/29/25 was \$217,137.93 as compared to \$197,118.92 at 12/31/24 and \$169,065.52 at 12/31/23. Market gains for this year have been \$20,997.73. Other activities this year include grants disbursed of \$2405 (for YIH and other chapter activities) and donations received of \$1426.28. Many thanks to the district members who have recently joined the IDEA Direct program with their quarterly donations.

Earl Holtz

IDEA Trustee and Treasurer



YIH REPORT: Q4 2025

The ILL District has four active Youth In Harmony Festivals that all take place annually in the Fall. Those four festivals are hosted by the following choruses.

Central IL YIH Festival: Sound of Illinois - (10/30/2025)

Coles County YIH Festival: Coles County - (10/20/2025)

Fox Lake YIH Festival: New Tradition - (10/18/2025)

Springfield YIH Festival: Land of Lincoln - (11/04/2025)

These festivals play a major role in exposing the next generation to the joys of barbershop. Each year hundreds of high school students from all over IL attend these four festivals and spend a day learning the fundamentals of the craft. Led by chapter music leaders or by highly qualified and talented staff brought in by the chapters themselves. Our District takes pride in each festival and has support ready should a chapter need any financial assistance. Should any chapter not currently running/operating its own festival like to discuss how to get one started, please contact Evan Patrick directly.

CONTACT INFORMATION BELOW

Any chapter that wishes to request any financial aid for their festival should have a full budget available to share with Evan via email.

Evan Patrick: ILL District VP of YIH Operations

Cell Phone – 309-660-1865

Email – evanpatrick13@gmail.com



Illinois District Chorus Director Development Report

Fall 2025

I have been talking to the VPs of Music and Performance to evaluate the interest and logistics of adding a director track to Harmony College Midwest. There seems to be interest, but there are some hurdles to overcome, including finding talented, veteran directors interested in being staff for the event.

In addition, I have been speaking with a few chorus directors in the district about interest in setting up a coaching program with a focus on chorus directors. The idea would be to focus on improving the chorus by focusing on the director's knowledge and skills in the areas of gesture, rehearsal technique, approach to music, etc. This could lead to higher-level directing and, in turn, improved chorus performance.

Both of these projects are ongoing.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin O'Keefe

VP Chorus Director Development, IL District



DISTRICT HISTORIAN REPORT – FALL 2025

Since the last report, donations of materials have been made to the archives. They include the following:

**Misc. SAI items (photos, show programs, DVDs, badges, pins) by Bob & Vicky Davidson
(Estaleen Earthal Collection)**

Hurricane Honey's postcards, LPs & Pitchpipe magazine by Anonymous

Quartet Medals Die Description card by Anonymous

Misc. early Society brochures, documents by Anonymous

SPEBSQSA bumper logo by Anonymous

Sweet Adelines 50 yr. anniversary booklet by Anonymous

**Four Renegades materials (LPs, photos, scrapbook, medals, pins, recordings) by the
Renegades Family (Jim Foley Collection)**

**Federal Reserve Notes quartet audio recording from '75 Show by Mike Mueller (Eldred
Mueller Collection)**

**Misc. Bloomington Chapter & Ideals quartet historical materials by Jim Stahly (Stahly
Collection)**

I have organized the Aurora Chapter materials that were given to me last fall. I plan on obtaining both the Decatur and Coles County Chapters' historical materials in the near future.

I posted the spring and summer issues of "From the Vault" in May and July, respectively.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Hansen

Illinois District Historian (2019-present) & Past District President (2015-2016)



2025 Illinois District House of Delegates Meeting – Sept. 26, 2025

Awards Committee Update (submitted by Doug Ferrier)

Members: **Doug Ferrier** (District Awards Chairman), **Steve Davis** (ABE), **Rich Hansen** (High School/Next Gen), and **Terry Ludwig** (Contest & Judging), **Ben Dirks** (President).

Activities

Medals, Pins, Trophies for 2025

Medals for all registered categories have been ordered (and received) by Doug Ferrier w/ ribbons assigned by category: Blue (Quartet Champion), Red White Blue (Mixed, and High School), Light Blue (Seniors), Green (Novice), Purple (Next Generation).

Quartet Pins (1st, 2nd, 3rd) have been ordered (and received) by the Contest & Judging VP (Terry Ludwig, who gave them to Doug Ferrier)

Trophies for all categories have been engraved with previous year winner (or engraved by those who have the trophy: ABE – Jeff Bowyer, Seniors – Doug Smith, Mixed – Mitch Greenberg, Next Generation – Lindsay from sFourzando).

New Activities:

- We are **exploring** the idea of **reinstating chorus award pins (plateau winners, 1st/2nd/3rd place winners)**. These pins would not be year specific, but would be available to any first-time recipient within the Illinois District. Pins would be distributed to the President (or chorus director) after the contest, to be awarded at a later date in a special way of the chapter's choosing.
- Also **exploring** the option of retiring the current Seniors Trophy and **commissioning a new Seniors trophy** that will 1) Be lighter and less bulky for people to take with them 2) Make room for Winning Year – Quartet Name. Previous quartet winner names and year would be transferred to the new trophy.
- **Award for Barbershopping Excellence (A.B.E.)**

Our final clock (from a bulk supply) was given to our 2023 recipient. After a solicitation of several previous recipients in 2024, we determined that we will continue giving a clock to the recipients of the ABE to recognize their significant, sustained commitment to Barbershopping in the Illinois District. We will continue to purchase award clocks on an ad hoc basis (2024, 2025); however, will continue to look into another bulk order for future awards should it help us keep costs down.

Trophies not yet created (looking for sponsors)

Adult Women's Quartet Champion Trophy – Category created in May 2022. No entrants in the current Fall Convention. Creation of trophy will occur at a later date.

Adult Women's Chorus Quartet Champion Trophy – Category created in May 2022. No entrants in the current Fall Convention. Creation of trophy will occur at a later date.



Appendix

Award Resources:

District Quartet Champ Lapel Pins - [Lapel Pins - Barbershop Harmony Society](#)

Champion Medals - [Fusion Custom Medal - Gem Awards](#) Discount Code: GEMSAV10

Trophies/Plaques/Engraving - [B & B Awards and Recognition \(b-bawards.com\)](#)

ABE Clocks (one more clock available for 2023) - <https://www.dinntrophy.com/>

<u>Quartet Contest</u>	<u>Award(s)</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>District Cost (prior to 2021)</u>	<u>Est. District Cost (now)</u>
Overall Champion (QCA – since 1943)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QCA Trophy (Buzz Haeger) 1st place pin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pins are purchased and awarded by district. No plaques given by district Special note: QCA owns this trophy Quartets are responsible caring for and engraving trophy during winning year. 	Pins - \$80 (\$20 each)	Pins - \$80 (\$20 each)
2nd Place Overall (since 1943)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2nd place pin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pins are purchased and awarded by district. 	Pins - \$80 (\$20 each)	Pins - \$80 (\$20 each)
3rd Place Overall (since 1943)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3rd place pin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pins are purchased and awarded by district. 	Pins - \$80 (\$20 each)	Pins - \$80 (\$20 each)
Men's Champion (new in 2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel Trophy (new) 4 Champion medals (new) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel trophy created for fall 2022 Convention Medals created for 2022 	N/A	Trophy \$330 (one-time cost) Annual Trophy Engraving \$7 Medals - \$30 (\$7.50 each)
Women's Champion (new in 2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel Trophy (needed) 4 Champion medals (new) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medals created (no year listed) Creation of trophy is on hold due to no contest entrants in 2022) 	N/A	Medals \$30 (\$7.50 each)
Mixed Champion (since 2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel Trophy 4 Champion medals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medals replace plaques in 2022 	Trophy Engraving \$7 Plaques \$73.20 (\$18.30 each)	Trophy Engraving \$7 Medals \$30 (\$7.50 each)
Senior's Champion "George Peters" award (since 1987)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel Trophy 4 Champion medals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medals replace plaques in 2022 	Trophy Engraving \$7 Plaques \$73.20 (\$18.30 each)	Trophy Engraving \$7 Medals \$30 (\$7.50 each)



<u>Quartet Contest</u>	<u>Award(s)</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>District Cost (prior to 2021)</u>	<u>Est. District Cost (now)</u>
Novice Champion "Glenn Howard" award (since 1982)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Medals only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medals replace plaques in 2022 Note: No Display or Travel trophy for this award. 	Plaques \$73.20 (\$18.30 each)	Medals \$30 (\$7.50 each)
Next Gen Champion Former Collegiate Contest (since 1994)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Display Trophy 4 Medals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medals replace plaques in 2022 Note: This trophy is large/fragile and does not travel. Mostly because it was difficult to relocate after the winning year. It can be requested for special occasions. 	Trophy Engraving \$7 Plaques \$73.20 (\$18.30 each)	Trophy Engraving \$7 Medals \$30 (\$7.50 each)
High School Men's Champion "The Buzz" (since 1997)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel Trophy 4 Medals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medals replace plaques in 2022 	Trophy Engraving \$7 Plaques \$73.20 (\$18.30 each)	Trophy Engraving \$7 Medals \$30 (\$7.50 each)
High School Women's Champion (Since 2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel Trophy 4 Medals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medals created (no year listed) Note: Trophy created and engraved in April 2022 	Trophy Engraving \$7 Plaques \$73.20 (\$18.30 each)	Trophy Engraving \$7 Medals \$30 (\$7.50 each)
High School Mixed Champion (Since 2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel Trophy 4 Medals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medals replace plaques in 2022 Note: Trophy created and engraved in April 2022 	Trophy Engraving \$7 Plaques \$73.20 (\$18.30 each)	Trophy Engraving \$7 Medals \$30 (\$7.50 each)

<u>Chorus Contest</u>
Overall Champion
Men's Champion (new) – <i>Trophy Needed</i>
Women's Champion (new) – <i>Trophy Needed</i>
Mixed Champion (since 2019) – Repurposed – former <i>Frank Thorne Trophy</i>
Small Chorus Champion (since 1979)
Plateau 1A
Plateau 2 A
Plateau 3 A
Plateau 4 A
Plateau 5 A
Most Entertaining Chorus Award (discontinued 2022)
Most Entertaining Chorus Award (discontinued 2022)
Non-Contest Awards
Award for Barbershopping Excellence (ABE)

Harmony College Midwest 2026



Scan Me!



Visit Our Facebook
Page for the Latest
Updates!

AND

Head Clinician:
Melody Hine



Scan Me!



For Tickets Visit
Our Eventbrite
Page!

Date:

Saturday March 21st, 2026

Location:

DoubleTree by Hilton

10 Brickyard Dr, Bloomington, IL 61701

Sing & Learn!

Educational Classes

HCM Chorus

Quartet Coaching

& More!



Design by Kara Nyhan



Company name: IL District Association of Chapters, SPEBSQSA

Budget name: Budget_FY26_P&L

Budget type: Profit and loss

Period: FY 2026 (Jan 2026 - Dec 2026)

Consolidated

Accounts	Budget totals
Income	
5100 Event Income	
Comp Registrations	\$2000.00
DVD Sales	
Har. Found/Fest. Chorus/Brigade	
Hotel Rebates/Comp Room Credits	
IDEA Grant	\$0.00
Mail Registrations	\$1000.00
Misc - Vendors & Program Ads	\$1000.00
On Line Registrations	\$20000.00
On Site Registrations	\$500.00
On Site Single Tickets	\$2000.00
Rehearsal Rm Rent & Stage Fees	
Ticket/Registration Refunds	
Tourism/C&VB Grant	
Total 5100 Event Income	\$26500.00
5210 District Dues	\$18000.00
5310 Interest Income	\$1600.00
5450 Advertising Revenue	\$1000.00
5470 Charters & Assmt.	
5490 Miscellaneous Revenue	
5491 Merchandise	
IL District Pins	
Misc. Merchandise	
Total 5491 Merchandise	\$0.00
Total 5490 Miscellaneous Revenue	\$0.00
5800 Special Events Revenue	
5810 Non-gift revenue	
CDWI	
CSLT	
HCMW	
Quartet Promotion Com. Events	
YIH Festivals & Contests	
Total 5810 Non-gift revenue	\$0.00
5820 Gift Revenue	\$500.00
Total 5800 Special Events Revenue	\$500.00
5999 Unclassified Income	
Billable Expense Income	
Markup	
Sales of Product Income	
Services	
Unapplied Cash Payment Income	
Uncategorized Income	
Total Income	\$47600.00
Cost of Goods Sold	
Cost of Goods Sold	
Total Cost of Goods Sold	
Expense	
Reconciliation Discrepancies	
7020 Donations to Other Orgs	
Harmony Foundation	

Accounts	Budget totals
IDEA	\$1000.00
Total 7020 Donations to Other Orgs	\$1000.00
7200 Payroll Expenses	
7500 Contract Services Expenses	
7540 Judging Expense	\$6000.00
7550 Temp Help - Contract	\$2000.00
7510 Chapter Convention Stipend	\$500.00
7560 Ticket Processing Fees	\$800.00
7570 Event Meals	\$4000.00
7580 Other Contract Expenses	\$2000.00
Total 7500 Contract Services Expenses	\$15300.00
8100 Nonpersonnel expenses	
8110 Supplies	\$150.00
8120 Awards, Plaques & Pins	\$950.00
8140 Postage & Shipping	\$50.00
8170 Printing & Copying	\$1400.00
8180 Historian	\$300.00
8190 Publishing	\$1300.00
8130 Int'l Chorus/Quartet Buttn	
8150 Music	\$160.00
Total 8100 Nonpersonnel expenses	\$4310.00
8200 Facility & Equipment Exp	
8210 Rent, parking, & other	\$5000.00
8260 Equipment Rental	\$700.00
8220 Equipment Purchase & Maint	\$148.36
8230 Storage Rental Charges	\$1200.00
Total 8200 Facility & Equipment Exp	\$7048.36
8300 Travel & Meetings Expenses	
8310 Travel	\$7000.00
Chapter Counselor	
Total 8310 Travel	\$7000.00
8320 Board Meet. & Conventions	\$0.00
BOD Meetings	
Comp Housing	\$0.00
EVP Meetings	
HOD Meetings	
President Meetings	\$1000.00
VP C&J Meetings	
Total 8320 Board Meet. & Conventions	\$1000.00
8330 Hospitality	\$1000.00
Total 8300 Travel & Meetings Expenses	\$9000.00
8400 Education Programs	
8410 C&J Cat/Cand Schools	
8420 CDWI	\$2000.00
8430 CSLT	\$1500.00
8440 HCMW	
8450 Recordings of Contestants	\$1500.00
8460 Standing Ovation Program	
8470 Top Gun School	
8480 YIH Program	\$5000.00
Contest Prizes	\$500.00
Total 8480 YIH Program	\$5500.00
8490 BHS Leadership Forum	
Total 8400 Education Programs	\$10500.00
8500 Other Expenses	
8520 Insurance	

Accounts	Budget totals
8530 ASCAP/BMI Fees	
8550 Credit Card Fees	
8560 Outside Computer Services	\$1188.00
8570 Advertising & Publicity	\$0.00
8590 Miscellaneous	\$0.00
8505 Gov Board	
Exec VP	
Imm. Past President	
President	\$350.00
Secretary	
Treasurer	\$200.00
Total 8505 Gov Board	\$550.00
8510 VPs & Committees	
Chapter Councilors	
Committee Chairs	
VP C&J	
VP CDWI	
VP CSLT	
VP Events	
VP Financial Dev	
VP Membership	
VP Mkt & PR	\$100.00
VP Music & Perf	
VP YIH	
Total 8510 VPs & Committees	\$100.00
8540 Bank Charges	
Total 8500 Other Expenses	\$1838.00
8600 Business Expenses	
8650 Taxes - sales tax paid	
8610 - Corporation Filing Fees	\$10.00
Total 8600 Business Expenses	\$10.00
8999 Unclassified	
7030 Support	
C&J Candidate Support	
Chorus Support	\$2000.00
Quartet Support	\$1000.00
Total 7030 Support	\$3000.00
Purchases	
Unapplied Cash Bill Payment Expense	
Uncategorized Expense	
Uncategorized Expense-1	
Total Expense	\$52006.36
Other Income	
4010 Endow Fund Contributions	
4020 College Quartet Contrib.	
5211 Past Presidents AC Dues	
Total Other Income	\$0.00
Other Expense	
Reconciliation Discrepancies-1	
Total Other Expense	
Total Net Income	\$-4406.36

the Illinois District
association of Chapters / Barbershop Harmony Society



a state of close harmony

Spring 2025 House of Delegates Meeting

21-Mar-2025 7:00PM

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

Mar 21st 2025

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: 7:05 PM

Call to Order

1. Roll Call / House of Delegates quorum – yes or no – Mike Isely
 - 19 members present, out of a potential total of 44.
 - Quorum minimum requirement of 30% (= 13). With 19 present we have 43%, quorum established
 - [See Appendix titled “Attendance” for detailed attendance record]
2. Reading of Mission & Vision Statement – Terry Ludwig
 - (see above)
3. Welcome – Ben Dirks
4. Approve Agenda – Mike Isely
 - **Motion: Approve Agenda**
 - ♦ **Offered by: Pat Claussen;, Jeff Bowyer**
 - ♦ **PASSED**
5. Minutes of previous HOD Meeting (Sep 27th, 2024) – Mike Isely
 - **Motion:**
 - ♦ **Subject: Approve Fall 2024 HOD Minutes**
 - ♦ **Offered by: Jeff Bowyer, Timothy Ferguson**
 - ♦ **PASSED**



Spring 2025 House of Delegates Meeting

21-Mar-2025 7:00PM

6. Approve Consent Calendar – Mike Isely
 - Note: No CDD report submitted
 - **Motion: Approve Consent Calendar**
 - ♦ **Offered by: Doug Finkbiner, Terry Ludwig.**
 - ♦ **PASSED**
 - Accept the following reports, CSLT else moved to Old Business:
 - ♦ President's Report [Attachment: "02a-rpt-president.pdf"]
 - ♦ Membership Report [Attachment: "03a-rpt-membership.pdf"]
 - ♦ Marketing Report [Attachment: "04a-rpt-marketing.pdf"]
 - ♦ Contest & Judging Report [Attachment: "05a-rpt-drcj.pdf"]
 - ♦ Events Report [Attachment: "06a-rpt-events.pdf"]
 - ♦ IDEA Report [Attachment: "07a-rpt-idea.pdf"]
 - ♦ Chapter Support and Leadership Training Report [Attachment: "08a-rpt-cslt.pdf"]
 - ♦ Historian's Report [Attachment: "09a-rpt-historian.pdf"]

TREASURER'S REPORT

7. Treasurer's Report – Leif Wildman
 - \$80126.49 cash balance
 - [Attachment: "01a-rpt-treasurer.pdf"]
 - **Motion:**
 - ♦ **Subject: Receive the Treasurer's Report**
 - ♦ **Offered by: Jim Morgan, David Garret**
 - ♦ **PASSED**

OLD BUSINESS

8. Harmony College Midwest – Mark Servos / Nathan Gross
 - [Attachment: "10a-rpt-hcmw.pdf"]
 - "Well we're here!"
 - Event starts tomorrow morning
 - Working on quartet and clinician for 2026, to get further ahead
 - Numbers-wise, pretty similar to last year
 - 90 registrations (46 individuals plus 11 quartets)



Spring 2025 House of Delegates Meeting

21-Mar-2025 7:00PM

- Question about timing for this event in the future – Feb or Mar?
 - ♦ March is better weather-wise
 - ♦ February avoids spring break conflicts, other qualifying contests
- 9. Chapter President's Council – Mike Isely
 - [Attachment: "11a-rpt-cpc.pdf"]
 - We meet over zoom every 2 months
 - ♦ Next meeting is May 11th
 - ♦ Ask Bill Rathmann <bltjc1@sbcglobal.net> for the details (or check the google group...)
 - Google group exists as well
 - ♦ bhs-illinois-chapter-presidents-council@googlegroups.com
 - ♦ All current chapter presidents have been invited to join
 - ♦ See Mike Isely <isely@isely.net> or <isely@pobox.com> if you aren't there and wish to join.
 - Basic overview of CPC's activities summarized
 - Interchapter event coming up:
 - ♦ **When:** Saturday 12-April-2025, 1pm-4pm
 - ♦ **Where:** DuPage County Fairgrounds, Bldg #2, 2015 Manchester Road, N County Farm Rd, Wheaton, IL 60187 (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/hUeqgp8oUvyYCcaP9>)
 - ♦ **What:** Afternoon of fun, camaraderie, singing, tags – get to know barbershoppers outside of your own chapter!
 - ♦ This is on the district event calendar
 - ♦ All chapters invited – Free event!
 - ♦ Bring your own refreshments & food (NO ALCOHOL)
 - ♦ We invite all choruses to come show off their stuff!
- 10. Four year plan – Ben Dirks
 - Making strides on a lot of things – including the CPC
 - HCMW close to breaking even
 - More social events – like the interchapter event the CPC is setting up
 - Glenn and Ben are working on creating a larger following on our social media platforms
 - Should post this plan on the website, with status updates
- 11. Website update – Glenn Mills
 - Website has been cleaned up further
 - Active development going on
 - Send email to marketing@illinoisdistrict.org for additional feedback



Spring 2025 House of Delegates Meeting

21-Mar-2025 7:00PM

- Make the district a co-host on facebook when posting an event – this will generate an email which Glenn will use to help market the event.
- Question: Would it be useful for a CPC-style group of marketing leaders from each chapter to work with Glenn? Quite possibly. Talk to Glenn to follow up. John Q Morris has offered to help coordinate this.

12. CDD Report – Ben Dirks

- Nothing really to report here
- There is a short “director track” at HCMW however
- Looking for a new CDD VP

NEW BUSINESS

13. IDEA Trustee nomination – Jeff Bowyer

- Earl Meseth is stepping aside for the remainder of his term
 - ♦ He had been reappointed last Fall for a 5 year term
 - ♦ Trustees would like to appoint Terry Ludwig to complete his term
- **Motion:**
 - ♦ **Subject: Appoint Terry Ludwig as IDEA trustee to serve out remaining term from Earl Meseth’s resignation**
 - ♦ **Offered by: Jim Morgan, Timothy Ferguson**
 - ♦ **PASSED**

14. Fall Convention – Jeff Bowyer

- Nothing to add that isn’t already in the report
- Contracts signed for Fall 2025 and Fall 2026 for the hotel, BCPA similarly penciled in
- Friday night quartet contest will be at the BCPA not the church, starting this Fall 2025
- Chorus contest this Fall will offer 2 different riser configurations (7 vs 11 risers)
- Chorus competition being considered for the morning instead of the evening
 - ♦ Feedback here that this may be a negative for choruses that come from out of town
 - ♦ But there are numerous pros / cons brought up here. This needs further discussion.

15. District-wide survey – Ben Dirks

- “If you don’t know you can’t grow”
- Surveys coming up to “take the temperature”, likely focused primarily on chapter leadership.
- First survey will come out before the Fall convention.

16. Chapter Liaisons – Ben Dirks

- Board members are assigned to each chapter as a liaison.
- List will be posted on the web site.

the Illinois District
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a state of close harmony

Spring 2025 House of Delegates Meeting

21-Mar-2025 7:00PM

17. Dues Discussion – Ben Dirks

- It's been a long time since the dues situation was examined.
- Probably time to look at this again.
- Time for a discussion.
- Idea about raising dues and making the convention registration free.
- A more substantial discussion should be expected in the Fall HOD.

18. Fall 2025 HOD Date – Mike Isely

- Fri Sep 26, 2025 1pm

Adjourned: 8:12 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Isely – Secretary



Spring 2025 House of Delegates Meeting

21-Mar-2025 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	* Calvin Cheng
A	Aurora, IL	E003	* Lester Grossman
P	Belleville, IL	E005	Jim Morgan
P	Bloomington, IL	E007	David Garrett
A	Macomb, IL	E008	Craig Rigg
P	Northbrook, IL	E009	Nichelle Pajeau
A	Danville, IL	E013	* Bryan Schroeder
A	Decatur, IL	E014	James Barr
A	Coles County, IL	E017	+* Leif Wildman
A	Elgin, IL	E018	* Keith Rosborough
P	Rockford Metro, IL	E019	* Richard Schultz
P	Lake County, IL	E021	* Timothy Ferguson
A	Bureau County, IL	E024	* John Swanson
P	Chicagoland West Suburban, IL	E030	Trenton Ferro
A	Peoria, IL	E044	* Michael Cosner
A	Chicago Metro, IL	E045	* Bonnie Jones
A	Rockford, IL	E047	* Dan Adler
A	Rock Island, IL	E048	!
A	Will-Cook, IL	E050	* Neil DeVore
P	Sterling Rock Falls, IL	E052	Paul McCracken
A	Waterloo, IL	E054	* James Heise
P	Springfield, IL	E061	Patrik Claussen
P	DuPage Valley, IL	E066	* Kevin Connell
A	Kishwaukee Valley, IL	E067	!
A	Carbondale, IL	E075	!

(total = 10 / 25)

* 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 2025 House of Delegates Meeting

21-Mar-2025 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)
P	Terry Ludwig	At-Large (C & J)
P	John Q. Morris	At-Large
N/A	(Terry Ludwig)	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
	Mike Bagby
N/A	(Jeff Bowyer)
	Bob Cearnal
	Dave Cowin
P	Rich Hansen
	Jeff Lathom
N/A	(Terry Ludwig)
	Earl Meseth
	Brett Mulford
	Bob Squires
	Will Thorndike
	Jim Waldorf
	Syl Wetle

1 out of 11

8+1+10 = 19 present

8+11+25 = 44 total possible