



House of Delegates Report - Spring 2017

Our Society grows when chapters grow, so we are investing today for your success.

Our growth investments in programs, volunteer leadership, personnel and strategic planning over the past year have been unprecedented.

- We have added dedicated resources to **support the life of our chapters** through the **Healthy Chapter Initiative**.
- We've completed a sweeping effort to understand our past and present barbershop world, as lived by you, and told in your words, through the **Chapter "Gut Check" Survey, Member Survey, and Associates Survey**.
- We're synthesizing your needs and dreams into a **comprehensive Strategic Plan** — a decades-long view of a future world of singers preserving the joy of ringing chords together.
- We've reached more people with the sound of barbershop and the rewards of the barbershop experience: the joy of singing, the joy of friendship, the joy of joining together, and the joy of making a difference in people's lives.

And we're just getting started!

If you want to grow—as an individual, quartet, or chorus singer — then your Society is ready to help you.

You can augment your weekly chapter experience by becoming a better educated singer, more engaged with the life of the global barbershop movement, and have more fun in more settings!

- **Our Harmony University team** continues to deliver **more content online** (more than **50 new videos** released in the past year) and more class options at our **weeklong school at Belmont University** in Nashville.
- **Harmony University offerings at Midwinter and International Conventions** mean more ways for you to learn from worldwide-recognized experts — *free with your registration!*
- **Our music publications team** has dramatically increased the number of titles published, and introduced more voicings for the education market (SSAA) and the growing fans of mixed harmony (SATB).
- The **All-Chapter Chorus and the pilot Seniors Chorus Festival** at Midwinter were huge successes. Both are permeating into the District conventions, encouraging more singing time for our attendees and attracting those who might not normally attend a District convention because they aren't interested in competition, just the joy of singing with their barbershop brothers.

Our direct support for chapter success has expanded

- We have created a **dedicated full-time staff member** who services and fields calls and correspondence for ALL chapter and district leaders about best-practice, including what resources are available.
- Working through the **Leadership Operations Project Team**, we have deployed new BHS Leadership Curriculum Topics for chapters and districts.
- We have published and commissioned the "THINK" program that has already been introduced and impacted close to 100 chapters this past year.
- We've commissioned **15 Certified Leadership Facilitators** who have made an impact at 7 districts this Leadership Academy cycle and have already packed in more than 200 hours of engagement with chapters.

For many years I have sought ways to make a difference for chapters. At the district and society level, I have never seen a more impactful effort than what is being done through the Healthy Chapter Initiative and Leadership Facilitators. As a Facilitator, I am able to spark vision and forward thinking in chapters that have been stagnant. I have been able to bring real, practical solutions to chapters that have lost their way or lost hope. I have stoked the fires of passion, enthusiasm, and hope in chapter leaders that have been longing for inspiration. As a Leadership Facilitator I can think of no better way to make a difference in the success of chapters, in the barbershop lives of our members, and in the communities that these chapters touch.



Christian Hunter
BHS Leadership Facilitator

Being part of a program that is so intentional about helping chapters, regardless of their size or goals, is a powerful thing to witness. There are some incredible strides being made to make our chapters stronger, and by doing so, making the Society more influential and sustainable. The success of our chapters is the foundation of our hobby, and being part of a process to make them stronger has been incredibly rewarding.



Craig Johnson
BHS Leadership Facilitator

- We have published online many more baseline tools and resources that chapters need to do their valuable work -- training videos, updated manuals, tutorials, easier accessible document center, and more.

We are accomplishing this all while maintaining financial stability

- Even with flat/declining membership revenues, we will see **no Society dues increases for the fourth straight year.**
- Meanwhile, the Society has been able to **grow our programs and budget by nearly 21%.** How? One reason is we are seeing increased interest by non-members in our services and programs.
- **Our Midwinter Convention in San Antonio was a virtual sell-out,** reflecting the variety and strength of the show, contest and education offerings.
- **Las Vegas 2017** will continue to expand the range of entertainment, and with our least expensive **rooms starting at \$104** per night, it might be the **best-value convention** you'll ever attend.
- **Philanthropy within our membership continues to grow,** with donations through Harmony Foundation International fueling programs in outreach, chapter support, and continuing education through Harmony University. Your contributions have reached over 100,000 people, which is significant growth, considering that four years ago the Outreach department didn't even exist. Thank you!

A Better World. Singing.

You are building it. We are building it. We are making a difference in people's lives with every chord.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marty".

Marty Monson
CEO/Executive Director