

**Illinois District Association of Chapters
Board Meeting**
July 2011

Location: Doubletree Hotel, Bloomington IL

Roll Call

Name	Governance Role	Operations / Other Role	Present	Quorum Count
Mike Bagby	President		Y	+
Jeff Bowyer	Exec VP	Music & Perf	Y	+
Mike Isely	Secretary		Y	+
Dave Cowin	Treasurer	Imm. Past President	Y	+
Hugo Feugen	BMAL	Membership	Y	+
Will Thorndike	BMAL	Events	Y	+
Greg Caetano	BMAL	CSLT	Y	+
Wayne Wright	BMAL	C & J	Y	+
Richard Hansen		YIH	N	
Don Smit		Music & Perf	Y	
Tim Woodall		Director Dev	Y	
Daniel Garcia		Marketing & PR, webmaster	Y	
Bill Ward		Fund Raising	N	
Bob Squires		Historian	Y	
Tom Woodall		Quartet Promotion	Y	

Totals: 13 of 15 8 of 8

Called to order: 1:14 PM

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Administration

- Quorum
 - Eight Governance Members present (from a possible total of eight), quorum established.
- Minutes from previous (August 2010) Governance Board meeting
 - **Motion:**
 - ◆ **Subject: Approve Minutes from 14-Aug-2010**
 - ◆ **Originator: Wayne Wright**
 - ◆ **Seconded: Will Thorndike**
 - ◆ **Voice vote: PASSED.**
- Motions made since previous Board meeting, recorded here
 - **Motion:**
 - ◆ **When: 30-May-2011**
 - ◆ **Where: via e-mail poll**
 - ◆ **Subject: “I move that we give \$500 to After Hours to represent the Illinois District as our sole CollegeQuartet representative”**
 - ◆ **Originator: Wayne Wright**
 - ◆ **Seconded: Hugo Feugen**
 - ◆ **E-mail poll: PASSED (unanimous).**

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's Report [Attachment: “01-Report_Treasurer.pdf” {hardcopy in hand}].
 - We're running a net loss for the year, so far. Available funds not already in a reserve category is only about \$4K.
 - **Motion:**
 - ◆ **Subject: Receive Treasurer's Report**
 - ◆ **Originator: Greg Caetano**
 - ◆ **Seconded: Wayne Wright**
 - ◆ **Voice vote: PASSED.**

Old Business

- How to increase Convention Profit
 - Increase Attendance
 - ◆ Have outside activities available
 - Mike Bagby worked hard on this for previous conventions and there wasn't a lot of interest
 - Planning is underway for additional activities for the Fall 2011 convention
 - ◆ Attendees are going to have to drive to the convention venue anyway, and cars are more convenient here (parking is generally free). Attendees may be more “mobile” and more likely to participate in other activities.
 - ◆ The local chapter (SOI) is already working to get the word out to the general public about this upcoming convention. This is a change from what's happened in Peoria.
 - Marketing and PR
 - ◆ A second VP is being added to help out Daniel with marketing

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- In particular the web site will be more actively managed – making it a better conduit for communication to the public.
- ♦ Looking to designate an “information coordinator” to help direct, focus, and determine what gets put up on the web site and when.
- ♦ Greg Caetano points out that other districts tend to promote conventions 18 months in advance – a given preconvention meeting is already working on the next 2-3 conventions.
 - Involve the local convention bureaus to help promote the next convention at the previous convention.
- Hospitality Rooms
 - ♦ What are we doing to get the quartets into the hospitality rooms sooner?
 - Quartet evals overlay the hospitality rooms, which causes the quartets to understandably show up late.
 - However the timing of the events for Fall 2011, this won't be a problem. This will continue to be a problem in the Spring.
 - ♦ However any event that makes the hospitality rooms later may cause issues
 - Observation that decline in hospitality rooms coincided with the advent of the Show Of Champions
 - Such a show can be a fund raising source, but if the show is removed, would the benefit to the hospitality rooms (increased attendance, more overnight guests) overcome that loss?
- Fund Raising show
 - ♦ Others have seen “Show Of Champion” events work better on Friday night as opposed to Saturday night.
 - But that would push out the President's Reception
 - ♦ Too late for Fall 2011, but what about in Springfield?
 - This would take the place of the President's Reception, but now admission is charged, making it into a funding source for the District.
- Other vendors come to the convention
 - ♦ Idea is to bring in outside vendors to set up booths (e.g. risers, costumes, t-shirts, CDs, knick-knacks, etc).
 - ♦ Hotel may want to charge a fee for vendors – needs to be checked
 - ♦ Last Spring there was one opportunity like this but it was declined out of concern for competition of the Harmony Marketplace, expressed by Belleville. However Belleville has declined to run the Harmony Marketplace this time so...
 - Note that because the room for a possible Harmony Marketplace is not comp'ed, the room will probably cost more than any profit that the District might make.
 - So possibly there will be no Harmony Marketplace.
 - So bringing in other vendors might make even more sense.
 - ♦ Concern that with only 2 months before the convention, it's getting pretty late to do something like this for Fall 2011.
 - But how about in the Spring?
- Other ways to raise funds
- Raise registration fees?
 - ♦ Add another \$5 (to \$35), would add about \$2500

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- ♦ That would offset 83 “lost” registrations due to the raise. Are we really going to lose that much?
- ♦ Considering other districts, our \$30 fee is really at the bottom end.
- ♦ Considering all the other changes taking place in Bloomington, this is the point when it could be raised.
- ♦ But still leave the individual ticket price at \$20.
- ♦ **Motion:**
 - **Subject: Raise All Events registration by \$5, to \$35 (early registration)**
 - **Originator: Wayne Wright**
 - **Seconded: Greg Caetano**
 - **Result: Yes=7, No=1, PASSED.**
- Bring back the woodshed room?
 - ♦ There is a \$109 cost to the district for this (for the room, a “non-sleeping” room)
 - ♦ This has been controversial in the past, due to previous conduct within the room
 - ♦ Proposed set of rules for the woodshed room
 - [Attachment: See Appendix A]
 - ♦ ASHOW would likely be a participant, they should also have their own code of conduct that applies here.
 - ♦ How many people are really interested in this? Ten guys? More?
 - Greg Caetano is getting positive feedback from the Chapter Presidents, and Mike Bagby has been getting requests as well.
 - ♦ Proposed to have this on Saturday only, and not during the contest.
 - ♦ This can't happen unless there is a person to take responsibility for it.
 - Right now there isn't such a person.
 - ♦ How about just a woodshedding demo (or “Old Songs” Room) for the Fall, something more formal for the Spring
 - ♦ Suggest using the HOD room Friday after the HOD is done.
 - Time frame: 4pm – 6pm Friday, and again after the contest until 11pm
 - Room would not cost anything anyway.
 - Jim Kraatz (sp?) might be willing to do this.
 - **[NOTE: This name may be a typo; failed to locate in ebiz]**
- Mass-Sing
 - ♦ We've seen this done at International, other districts have done this.
 - ♦ We've never done this – why not?
 - ♦ Let's do this in a place where the hobby can be shown off to the public.
 - Suggest outside in the parking lot or in a common area
 - ♦ Suggest 3:30pm on Saturday
 - ♦ Everyone likes this idea – let's do it.
- Other expenses
 - ♦ Recommend give Daniel and Corrine Garcia a complementary all events, as a reward for all the work they have done and continue to do.
 - **Motion:**
 - **Subject: Recommend giving Daniel and Corrine Garcia a complementary all events, as a reward for all the work they have done and continue to do.**
 - **Originator: Wayne Wright**

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- **Seconded: Will Thorndike**
- **Voice vote: PASSED.**
- ♦ Suggest making a payment to host chapters
 - Is it really needed for host chapters?
 - It is not needed for Bloomington – SOI is going “above and beyond” already
 - It probably won't be needed for Springfield
 - Suggest waiting until convention is over, and if it does well then a gift can be given to the host chapter
- Music & Performance
 - Parts and Partners gathering
 - ♦ 20-Aug, Bloomington / Normal
 - ♦ A picnic
 - ♦ Also includes golf
 - ♦ Events for the ladies as well
 - ♦ Men would take over a theater for a part of the time – this is a singing event.
 - ♦ Mike Bagby expects the Board to support and participate in this event
 - IDAH 2012
 - ♦ Target: first week of March 2012
 - ♦ Looked at various churches in the Champaign area – all turned down
 - ♦ Still looking for a venue in the Champaign area; if a solution cannot be found within about a month, then IDAH for 2012 will be canceled.
 - ♦ The Spring district convention is earlier in 2012, and IDAH may be too close to it. Would it make more sense to do IDAH in January?
 - ♦ We don't want to end up the way we did in 2011 – with begging and pleading for attendance just before the event. If that's going to happen again 2012 then perhaps it isn't worth doing.
 - ♦ If anyone has an idea for a venue, contact Don Smit
- YIH
 - Festival choruses have really been successful
 - Rich Hansen will look at how to get a festival youth chorus started
- Finance
 - Phil Rolfs has offered up 40 hours of work – which then triggers a \$500 grant from his employer.
 - Mike Bagby very much wants to take up Phil on his offer.
 - Phil is looking at fund raising ideas for the district.
- CSLT
 - Report [Attachment: “02-Report_CSLT.pdf”]
 - Chapter Visitation
 - ♦ Results so far [Attachment: “03-Chapter_Visits.pdf”]
 - ♦ 75% by August 31, 100% by December 31. Reports need to be filed on line, Chapter Presidents Task Force, Chapter Appreciate Program - Community Service, Sing for Life, Unpaid performances, Increase # of chapters reporting by 5% by year end.
 - ♦ There are still 15 chapters to be visited, nearly half.
 - ♦ BHS is running a similar program but they are asking different questions, so we need to go back to previously visited chapters to close up those loose ends.

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- State of ILL Annual Reports
 - ♦ There is one chapter (E-012 Chicago No 1) that is not compliant with Society rules for Chapters in Good Standing
- Membership
 - Report [Attachment: “04-Report_Membership.pdf”]
- CDD (Tim Woodall)
 - Report [Attachment: “05-Report_CDD.pdf”] {Awaiting information from Tim Woodall}
 - CDWI planned for this October or later
 - Outstanding in Front
 - ♦ Designed for creating a support group for frontline directors
 - ♦ Aimed at music team members and potential directors
 - Chapters need to not be totally dependent upon one person
 - ♦ What if the director leaves?
 - ♦ The “Outstanding in Front” program is intended to help with this sort of issue.
- C&J Report
 - Panel assignments [Attachment: “06-Panel_Fall_2011.pdf”]
 - Report [Attachment: “07-Report_C_And_J.pdf”]
 - Issues with increased costs
 - ♦ District seems to have no control over this – judges are not assigned by us.
 - ♦ Wayne is speaking up to the judging community about this
 - Moving to 1 district contest / year?
 - ♦ No real progress here
- Marketing Report
 - Report [Attachment: “08-Report_Marketing.pdf”]
- Awards Report
 - Report [Attachment: “09-Report_Awards.pdf”]
- Events – Future Venues
 - Fall 2011
 - ♦ (Not really future at this point, but these points came up...)
 - ♦ Hotel reservation policy for the Doubletree (Bloomington)
 - Block release date is 3 weeks prior to the event
 - Therefore Friday 2-Sep is the cut-off for the Fall 2011 convention hotel registration.
 - Recommend setting the early-bird reservation cut-off to be 1-Sep – after 1-Sep then the price goes up
 - ♦ Mike Bagby wishes to avoid “guilting” members into staying at the headquarters hotel.
 - Spring 2012
 - ♦ Hotel: Pere Marquette (contract in hand)
 - ♦ Venue: Five Points
 - \$200 theater
 - \$250 banquet room
 - They require a \$1000 down payment – Will is OK with fronting this himself.
 - Contract not signed yet
 - ♦ Any objections with moving forward this? No objections.
 - ♦ The district will put up the \$1000
 - **Motion:**

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- **Subject: Commit to contract with Five Points for Spring 2012**
- **Originator: Wayne Wright**
- **Seconded: Jeff Bowyer**
- **Voice vote: PASSED.**
- Spring 2013
 - ♦ No contracts set for this at all
 - ♦ Peoria possibilities
 - Five Points is offering a deal similar to Spring 2012 (but no contract offered yet)
 - Embassy Suites is a possibility – Peoria
 - Sheraton Four Points is offering a room rate of \$89, with upgrades and comp'd rooms.
 - Offer is very generous
 - This was formerly the Holiday Inn – they owed us multiple years of rebates.
 - Will will inquire about the owed rebates, unlikely that we'll get it.
 - Will Thorndike is looking for direction / advice on this – no contracts to sign yet
- Fall 2013
 - ♦ Springfield venue / hotel, same as Fall 2012 setup
 - ♦ Would Bloomington be available in Fall 2013
 - With Bloomington, there's a \$3000 grant not available in Springfield
- Fall 2014
 - ♦ Talking to Bloomington about this

New Business

- Category School
 - At least 3 people going from the Illinois District
 - Does the District reimburse for this?
 - ♦ For Candidate School, no
 - ♦ For Category School?
 - No standing policy, but if a request is made to the DVP of C&J, it will be considered on a case-by-case basis
- Forum in November
 - District has historically not paid for the Executive VP to attend the Forum.
 - For future trips, the district should really pay for this
 - Mike Bagby has arranged to be a Liaison for Society Operations, which means the Society will pay for his attendance to the Forum, freeing up funds for the Executive VP.
 - District Presidents are much more involved now in the direction of the Society, so this move makes sense.
 - For 2011, it is a “mini-forum”.
 - People suggested / expected for the 2011 forum would be:
 - ♦ President
 - ♦ Executive Vice President
 - ♦ Membership
 - ♦ YIH
 - Rich Hansen feels he does not need to attend again since he was there in 2010
 - ♦ CSLT

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- Greg Caetano thinks this would not be worth it for him
- ♦ Music & Performance
 - Given all of the above, then the District may only have to cover 3 officers
- Illinois District Data & Communication
 - Recommendation to set up a web survey after the Fall 2011 convention
 - ♦ This is especially important given all the changes with this convention
- Report from Kansas City
 - District Presidents more involved with Society Board - Placed Larry Lewis (LOL) on Search Committee
 - Search Committee formed by July 31, New CEO on board by December 31st, Interim CEO Larry Deters
 - Other nominations sought for search committee
 - Fill in line of sight spreadsheet
 - ♦ Suggestions for material to be added to the spreadsheet:
 - Host chapter – does a stipend make sense?
 - How successful is a flat-floor convention / contest?
 - CSLT has not been successful here, what do others do in this area?
 - Paul Wietlisbach - 3 team visits to Illinois District, Chapter Visitation, CDD, IDAH, YIH Festivals, Town Halls
 - All OT VPs need to be on National Monthly/Quarterly Conference Calls
 - More District Board involvement. Attend chapter shows, visit chapters, let them know we care
 - Write articles for Attacks and Releases
 - Attendance in Kansas City down, Attendance in Las Vegas (midwinter) was up
 - ♦ Society was hoping in KC to make \$300K, numbers look to be closer to \$200K
 - COMCAST ON DEMAND now has a barbershop channel
 - ♦ John Miller takes the credit for this
 - Gospel Music Channel - “America Sings” - Watch and Vote
 - ♦ Similar to “America's Got Talent”
 - Harmony Foundation - Ambassadors of Song (\$10/month) up from 250 last year to 1,250 this year
 - New Society Board members - Joe Cerutti and Gary Plaag - both from MAD (Alexandria Harmonizers)

Adjourned: 4:26 PM

Respectfully submitted by Mike Isely

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Appendix A: Thoughts on Woodshed Room

From: Dave Cowin [<mailto:dcowin@comcast.net>]

Sent: Monday, June 27, 2011 9:55 AM

To: Mike Bagby; Mike Bagby

Cc: Don Smit; Jeff Bowyer; Tom Woodall

Subject: Woodshed Room & Chairman of the "Woodshed Committee"

Mike, I talked to Jim Kraatz of the Coles County Chapter about his volunteering to perhaps be the Woodshed Room Committee Chair. I talked about the history of the Woodshed Room and our concerns, as the sponsoring District, for establishing and maintaining fairly strict rules of how the room must be run. Here are some of the points and concerns we discussed (I thought of two more and included them below. They are marked with **). Jim is planning to talk about our conversation with Jeff and Tom at their next Coles County Chapter Meeting:

- a. We would like to establish an event that encourages all of our members, regardless of age, to attend and have fun
- b. We must establish rules that protect our youth
- c. We must establish rules that protect the District from liability

The Woodshed Room would:

1. not be open during our contests
2. be located in either the non-bedroom of a suite or a public room
 - a. if in a public room, generally house rules say that all food and beverages must be purchased through the hotel
 - b. if in a suite, generally house rules allow food and beverages to be brought in by the renter of the room
3. not be used as a sleeping room
4. could sell soft drinks, water and possibly snacks from within the Woodshed room
5. could NOT be the location for selling alcoholic beverages
 - a. If located in the non-sleeping room of a suite, it might be possible to offer alcoholic beverages sold from another room, but only if sales are directly supervised by a responsible adult
 - b. If located in a public room and there was enough activity in other near-by rooms, the hotel might consider setting up a cash bar in the area, but probably not within the room itself

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6. The District would pay for the non-bed-room of a suite for Friday and Saturday or arrange for the use of a comp meeting room for Friday and Saturday
7. **ASOW should be contacted for possible inclusion in this activity
8. The Woodshed Committee should operate under the supervision of the VP's of Music and Performance (my suggestion)
9. The Woodshed Committee should consist of a Chairman and as many others as needed
10. All barbershoppers attending the Woodshed Room must have either a single admission ticket to a contest or a registration (free or paid).
11. **Non-barbershoppers might "drop in" and the committee should be prepared with info about the BHS and membership opportunities.

What I am listing above is very close to what we, as a Board, discussed in our meetings early in my Presidency and prior to the resignation of the then Chairman of the Woodshed Committee and the disbanding of the committee. All should be reviewed and an official list of rules and regs for running a revived Woodshed Room must be discussed during a BOD meeting and made part of our official minutes and then added to our Policy Manual maintained by Will Thorndike. I don't think we need the approval of the HOD since this is an appointed position and a Convention event similar to the SMAG Fest and 30 minutes of Bb Singing. However, if we do revive the Woodshed Room, we should announce it at the HOD so the HOD members can take the news back to their chapters. We should also announce it on our Web-site, in the Convention Program and in Attacks and Releases.

Dave Cowin, Treasurer and IPP