

Illinois District Association of Chapters Board Meeting

March 2014

Location: Mt. Zion High School, Mt. Zion IL**Roll Call**

| Name | Governance Role | Operations / Other Role | Present | Quorum Count |
|----------------|--------------------|---------------------------|---------|--------------|
| Jeff Bowyer | President | | Y | + |
| Richard Hansen | Exec VP | YIH | Y | + |
| Mike Isely | Secretary | webmaster | Y | + |
| Jim Wagner | Treasurer | | Y | + |
| Hugo Feugen | BMAL | Membership | Y | + |
| Will Thorndike | BMAL | Events | Y | + |
| Dave Cowin | BMAL | C & J | Y | + |
| Jim Waldorf | BMAL | | Y | + |
| Mike Bagby | Imm Past President | | Y | + |
| Tim Woodall | | Director Dev | | |
| Derek Gilbert | | Marketing & PR, webmaster | Y | |
| Terry Ludwig | | Music & Perf | | |
| Tim Pashon | | Music & Perf | | |

Totals: 10 of 13 9 of 9

Called to order: 10:19 AM

Administration

- Opening songs
 - Rich Hansen, directing: “My Wild Irish Rose”
- Quorum
 - Nine Governance Members present (from a possible total of nine), quorum established.
- Minutes from previous (August 2013) Governance Board meeting
 - **Motion:**
 - ◆ **Subject: Approve Minutes from 11-Aug-2013**
 - ◆ **Originator: Mike Bagby**
 - ◆ **Seconded: Jim Waldorf**
 - ◆ **Voice vote: PASSED.**

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's Report (Jim Wagner)
 - Report is in new format now – using Quickbooks
 - [Attachment: “01-Report_Treasurer.pdf”]
 - IDAH was profitable – first time in a long time.
 - **Motion:**
 - ◆ **Subject: Receive Treasurer's Report**
 - ◆ **Originator: Jim Waldorf**
 - ◆ **Seconded: Dave Cowin**
 - ◆ **Voice vote: PASSED.**

Old Business

- Prior motions made since last Board meeting
 - **Motion:**
 - ◆ **Subject: (description copied below)**
 - As you will recall, it was discussed at the fall 2013 HOD meeting, that the size of the Small Chorus would probably be adjusted for the 2014 spring contest. The HOD did not take an official vote, but the group did understand that this was being considered and there was no objection. Central States uses the membership number 39 and under. I think it would be appropriate to actually get it placed in our records in the form of a motion and recorded vote, that the size of a small chorus for the spring 2014 contest has been adjusted to that same membership number of 39 or under. This action will need to be explained and passed along to all of our chapters.
 - ◆ **Originator: Dave Cowin**
 - ◆ **Seconded: Jim Wagner**
 - ◆ **Voice vote: PASSED, via e-mail poll, all in favor except no response from Hugo Feugen**
- C&J
 - The big flurry of activity starts about 6 weeks before the contest
 - At this point, only 1 chorus and 2 quartets signed up
 - ◆ But that's not unusual at this early point
 - ◆ Dave will be calling around to chapter presidents to drum up more interest

- Out-of-district quartet competition
 - ◆ Rules require potential competitors to get permission from presidents and C&J VP from both affected districts
 - ◆ This must be done at least 30 days before the earlier of the two district contests
 - ◆ We have heard that “After Hours” and “The Committee” are both planning to compete out-of-district yet there hasn't been any official contact yet from either.
 - ◆ Dave will follow-up with both quartets
- “Best Seat in the House”
 - ◆ A chance to sit with the judges and score the contests, same as the judges
 - ◆ Awarded to highest bidder
 - ◆ Scores obviously don't apply to the contest results (and are not published)
- CDD (Tim Woodall)
 - (not present, no report)
 - Jeff is not sure if another CDWI is in the works
- Events (Will Thorndike)
 - Fall 2013 convention
 - ◆ We haven't received the hotel rebate yet.
 - We don't even know how much this should be
 - There have been some issues with the billing from the Doubletree from Fall 2013, things on the bill that should not have been. This delayed its payment (which was eventually settled).
 - Spring 2014 joint convention
 - ◆ Both ILL and CSD web sites have done a great job publicizing the event
 - ◆ Facility is going to be really nice
 - ◆ ILL is running the afterglow; no issues here.
 - ◆ Are we responsible for making our own reservations for the President's Room?
 - ◆ Will hasn't had to do a lot this time; CSD really seems to have things in control
 - ◆ It's important that when members register for the convention that members need to identify that they are associated with ILL – needed so that proceeds can be divided properly.
 - Fall 2014
 - ◆ This is **not** set yet. Last Fall Springfield was under consideration but nothing has happened there. We're looking hard at Bloomington now (BCPA + Doubletree). But time is getting short.
 - Jim Waldorf has just now confirmed that we have the BCPA tentatively reserved. (No deposit has been paid yet – Jim Waldorf has asked for a \$500 check deposit to use to nail down the BCPA.)
 - ◆ Note that we don't have the rebate from Fall 2013 yet; this needs to be taken into consideration when negotiating for Fall 2014.
 - With this history of billing / payment issues, why are we still considering the Doubletree?
 - ◆ Seems to be some logistical issues with Bloomington
 - No BCPA contract yet
 - Proposed Doubletree contract has some issues as well (e.g. a required minimum for food & related that is just totally out of scale)

- ♦ Logistical conflict with “The Sage” event – it's happening the same weekend.
 - Joe Sullivan is asking Will to “move the district convention”, but...
 - But we don't control the weekend choice – that's chosen by HQ
 - The district convention date for 2014 had been set & advertised for 3 years

→ Summary table of future events:

| When | Where | Venue | HQ |
|-------------------------------|---|--|------------------|
| Spring 2014 | Quad Cities area | Joint event with CSD; note also corresponding date change to 4/24-26 | |
| Fall 2014 (tentative) | Bloomington | BCPA (<i>Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts</i>) | Doubletree Hotel |
| Spring 2015 | Might not take place (depends on single-convention topic) | | |
| Fall 2015 (VERY tentative) | Bloomington | BCPA (<i>Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts</i>) | Doubletree Hotel |

➤ Marketing and Public Relations (Derek Gilbert)

→ [Attachment: “02-Report_Marketing.pdf”]

→ Mike Savard is helping out with social networking

- ♦ Typically news items get sent to Derek, but Mike needs to be in the loop on this
- ♦ Social networking communication can include a lot more informal communication, stuff that otherwise might be too much for more formal channels.

→ Spring 2014 convention

- ♦ Members need to know that they have to contact Bill Phelps at CSD for a hotel
 - This isn't just about a discount – you otherwise won't get a room at all.

→ Live Streaming

- ♦ Current copyright rules make this at best impractical, at least for now:
 - To stream video of copyrighted material requires pre-clearance per specific song, and that just isn't practical with district contest rules since specific song selection (out of the choices listed on the competitor's CJ-20) isn't technically set until the quartet takes the stage.
- ♦ Effort abandoned, for now.

➤ Membership (Hugo Feugen)

→ [Attachment: “03-Report_Membership.pdf”]

→ We're still losing members, another 10% it seems since last year (consider also another somewhat smaller loss in the prior year)

→ It's important that we deal with “ghost members” - not just from a dues standpoint but there can be insurance impacts as well.

→ It's also important to note that Board members (in any capacity) are not legal to serve when their dues are lapsed...

→ (See lots of additional comments in Hugo's report)

➤ Music & Performance (Terry Ludwig & Tim Pashon)

→ [Attachment: “04-Report_MusicAndPerf.pdf”]

→ IDAH

- ♦ Very successful

- ♦ Terry and Tim are planning ahead into the next year
- ♦ If we go to one convention / year, IDAH can effectively be something at the opposite side of the year to keep things going
- ♦ There is a plan to offer discounts for 2015 specifically for 2014 IDAH attendees (this does not exclude other discount possibilities, as had already been done for 2014).
- YIH (Rich Hansen)
 - [Attachment: "05-Report_YIH.pdf"]
 - YIH event dates are set
 - ♦ (see district calendar)
 - So many YIH events are popping up that Harmony Foundation is going to be unable to scale to match
 - ♦ So expect Harmony Foundation funding of YIH to attenuate going forward
 - The youth chorus event that has gone so well at mid-winter should be expanded
 - ♦ But there needs to be a funding source; Harmony Foundation will not be able to keep up
 - Ringmasters at YIH?
 - ♦ They are coming the USA at the end of October and their schedule is looking to fit activities in the ILL district over that time
 - ♦ Rich has been talking to them since the beginning of last summer
 - ♦ They might be able to perform at multiple YIH events
 - ♦ And it looks like they have a big discount for a "youth clinic"
 - ♦ Rich may be able to get an IDEA grant to cover Ringmaster's fee
 - ♦ Should be further updates about this in time for the Spring HOD
 - Grants for 2014 have all been taken care of
 - ♦ (These need to be submitted in the prior year)
 - ♦ Grants are contingent upon all participants – or even those might be just "thinking" of being involved – going through the video training, with all paperwork submitted to BHS. This is a large logistical headache.
 - Rich is seeking a replacement to serve in the YIH role for next year.
- Awards (Mike Bagby)
 - [Attachment: "06-Report_Awards.pdf"]
 - Award descriptions put up on the web site
 - Most Entertaining Chorus award
 - ♦ Want to continue this, but...
 - ♦ The host chapter must handle this
 - ♦ Bob Squires will be the liaison to the host chapter for this item
 - Bulletin Editor of the Year
 - ♦ Previously, nominations were sent to Craig Rigg who then made the determination.
 - ♦ Nashville however has taken this over
 - Nominees now have to be a member of Probe before any consideration can be given
 - Lapel pins
 - ♦ These were designed by Dickie Johnson
 - There is a metal pin which doesn't change, and a surround with the contest year embossed upon it. We have lots of pins, but...
 - ♦ We ran out of surrounds last Fall – Northbrook didn't get enough (and still doesn't have enough). This is still an open issue
 - ♦ Producing more surrounds is cost-prohibitive (~ \$2000)

- ♦ We're the only district in the society that gives individual pins for the top five chorus winners. Central States does give individual pins to their District Chorus Champions. Hugo will work with Mike Bagby to get more information so that we can consider doing something similar.“
- ♦ Mike Bagby feels that the Awards Committee is in a conflict-of-interest with fixing the Northbrook situation since multiple committee members are also Northbrook members.
 - Unfortunately it's not possible to create exact replacements, and the nearest alternative is a much “nicer” metal surround that would seem unfair in a whole different way
 - Recommendation is to simply discontinue the practice, and – with apologies – decline to solve the problem with lack-of-surrounds at Northbrook
- ♦ **Motion:**
 - **Subject: Discontinue the practice of giving awards to individual members of the top-5 choruses at the district chorus contest**
 - **Originator: Mike Bagby**
 - **Seconded: Jim Wagner**
 - **Voice vote: PASSED.**

New Business

- Unfilled VP positions – CSLT and Financial Development
 - ➔ Jeff & Rich have been trying to hard to find a candidate for CSLT, without success. Role:
 - ♦ Coordinate CSLT
 - ♦ Also work with Chapter Counselors – as a “hub” – look in on chapters, see how they are doing
 - Bob Squires has volunteered to be a Chapter Counselor for the northern area of the district.
 - ♦ Bret Mulford has offered to be the hub – but is not really interested in the CSLT side of this.
 - ♦ If we had others to support Bret specifically for CSLT then maybe this could work
 - ♦ This seems to be a chance to get others we “don't” implicitly know at other chapters involved at the district level. Suggest there be some 1-on-1 conversations with other chapter presidents about nominating a potential VP CSLT.
- District Policy Manual update – Will Thorndike (chair) purpose and goals
 - ➔ There is the Society-provided by-laws; this does not change
 - ➔ But we have additional procedures / rules that need to be reviewed, kept up-to-date, etc.
 - ♦ Will has a dead-tree copy of this, but that seems to be it.
 - ♦ Secretary will be the permanent holder of these records
 - ♦ At the end of a President's 2 year term, the outgoing President (and thus incoming Immediate Past President) becomes a member of the committee replacing the previous IPP on the committee to ensure policies changed under his administration are included and to help the committee keep all procedures accurate going forward.
- IDAH budget (profits from 2014)
 - ➔ Terry and Tim have both asked about earmarking 2014 IDAH profits as a resource for future IDAH
 - ➔ This seems like a not-so-great precedent.
 - ➔ We don't earmark money from other income sources, e.g. conventions

- The district has to pay for other events that never make money (e.g. YIH). The money has to come from somewhere
- IDAH has lost money for years and the district has always backed that.
- With all that said, of course for 2015 if there is an idea for IDAH that requires more resources, then let's consider that and fund it. Given the recent success it would make obvious sense to be open to more changes. Earmarking from 2014 is not strictly needed for this.
- Really this is just about making appropriate budget requests
- Jim Wagner will follow-up with Terry about how the district will proceed regarding IDAH funding
- HOD meeting start time
 - Move it 9:30AM? What if?
 - Moving it earlier (on that Friday) makes it harder on HOD members, e.g. having to leave very early to make the meeting, or staying over Thursday night.
 - What about 11:30AM? That still avoids a Thursday stayover.
 - **Motion:**
 - ♦ **Subject: Move HOD meeting to 11:30AM on Friday (two hours earlier), starting with the Spring 2014 convention**
 - ♦ **Originator: Jim Waldorf**
 - ♦ **Seconded: Dave Cowin**
 - ♦ **Voice vote: PASSED.**
- Future Convention Report (Will Thorndike)
 - One convention per year – ideas / implications
 - ♦ Two districts have moved to single convention per year
 - ♦ We don't want to give up 2 big events per year. But the Spring convention has been an ongoing problem. Perhaps IDAH can be that other “big event” and then we drop the Spring convention
 - ♦ If we go to one convention then the district quartet qualifications happen in the Fall same as what happens with the choruses. Judging logistics (& expenses) needs therefore only happen in the Fall, lowering overall district costs
 - ♦ Combine IDAH with a “festival” like what was done in Spring 2013 to become the “Spring” event going forward. A lot of positive reactions to this.
 - ♦ Venue costs and judging expenses are the drivers of costs for a convention
 - ♦ Observation: IDAH brings in coaches who tend to be judges anyway. They're at the event – so this would enable a collegiate qualification contest to run with IDAH. But wait; then Nashville has to assign the judging panel – AND the date. That would badly impact IDAH scheduling.
 - Let's just keep the collegiate qualification event in the Fall.
 - ♦ A change like this could be implemented as early as Spring 2015 – with the implication that quartet qualifications for 2015 would be pulled up to Fall 2014.
 - ♦ HOD approval obviously needed here – Board would approve the idea here and then present it to the HOD for approval. Do we go forward bringing this to the HOD?
 - ♦ IDAH was successful this year – a big improvement over previous years. Let's not accidentally smother it with all this other stuff.
 - ♦ There should be a lucid, clearly written discussion / description / outline of this proposal which can be presented to the HOD..

- This should be put early on the agenda so that C&J and Events can be present during the discussion.
- ♦ Resolution: Rich Hansen and Mike Isely to put together an outline / discussion for presentation to the HOD.
- QCA show possibilities (Rich has had conversations with the QCA)
 - ♦ QCA “show of champions”?
 - ♦ Idea of a district-wide afterglow
 - “parade of anniversary quartets”
 - outgoing district champs swan song
 - music man award
 - More formalized
 - This would be a ticketed event but would be part of an all-events pass
 - Vocal Spectrum would love to do something like this (but not available for Fall 2014)
 - ♦ If this is to be a ticketed event, then we need to do a much better effort at enforcing it
 - ♦ There would be no President's Reception
 - opens up a time for hospitality rooms
 - But Friday night the mood is different – the quartets are still thinking about the upcoming contests not about the more relaxed atmosphere of the hospitality rooms.
 - ♦ Proceeds for event might go to the QCA? There was some discussion about this; but the QCA should not expect this to be a fundraising source.
 - ♦ This could take place in the BCPA Ballroom instead of back at the Doubletree (when in Bloomington) – we're already paying for that space anyway
 - ♦ Put this on Friday night instead of Saturday night – might draw people there on Friday night?
 - ♦ Think of this like what HQ does with the AIC show. Same idea, at the district level.
- Host chapter stipend
 - ♦ We did this as a one-off for last Fall.
 - ♦ Do we need to formalize this for the future?
 - ♦ It's been done in the past
 - ♦ And if we go to one convention/per it will be a bigger impact on the host chapter.
 - ♦ This is not an issue for Spring 2014 (joint convention with CSD)
 - ♦ Should this be a fixed amount or a percentage?
 - It's a lot easier to budget a known amount
 - There's only so much a host chapter can do to boost attendance (thus a percentage makes less sense)
 - CSD uses a percentage basis, but they also hand off a whole list of tasks to that chapter (which likely scale in complexity with convention size)
 - ♦ If we were to offer a stipend, then there should be a list of tasks for which that host chapter is responsible. Some items: Registrations, Judges transportation, Ushers, Rushers set up / tear-down / storage
 - List to be created by key people, reviewed, and THEN we can talk about an appropriate stipend
- Observation about the previously-held convention in Springfield
 - ♦ It was considered to be a successful convention, yet...
 - ♦ The district lost money on the event

- ♦ What is wrong with this picture?
- ♦ It turns out that it's really expensive to build a stage (venue didn't have a stage)
 - And the result was, well, sub-optimal
- Current convention situation summary:
 - ♦ What about that great Chicago area proposal from a year ago?
 - Dave Cowin will investigate possibilities.
- Adjournment
 - Closing Song – Hugo Feugen, Director “Keep The Whole World Singing”

Adjourned: 2:03 PM

Respectfully submitted by Mike Isely