

CSD Spring 2023 Board of Directors Meeting

Drury Inn and Suites, Coralville, IA

Friday, **March 17, 2023, 9:00 a.m.**



Where the Harmony Began



President Matt Suellentrop called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. with “The Old Songs” directed by Jeff Veteto. Robert’s Rules of Order for Small Boards will be used for the Board of Directors meeting. **A quorum was announced at 9:04 a.m.**



All board members were present. (President, Matt Suellentrop; Executive Vice President, Brett Randolph; Immediate Past President, Duane Lawson; Secretary, Mark Fuerniss; Treasurer, Larry Warrick; Iowa State V.P., Jeff Ariens; Kansas State V.P., Kevin Barker; Missouri/Arkansas State V.P., Michael Bass; South Dakota State V.P. David Stephenson; Nebraska State V.P, Rick Pape.) Past Presidents, Don Fuson and Duane Lawson were recognized. Special guests, John Donehower and Tim Myers from the Society Board as part of our CSD family; Perry White from Harmony Foundation International. Program Administration Team members: Don Fuson, Membership Development V.P.; Carter Combs, Contest and Judging V.P.; Jeff Veteto, Music Performance V.P.; Doug Brott, Director of Events; Larry Monson, Chorus Director Development V.P.

Treasurer’s Report [Treasurer Larry Warrick reviewed the Treasurer’s Report for the first quarter of 2023. The report consists of five reports, Final Fall Convention 2022, Annual Financial Report Actual vs Budget 2022, Donation Report to Harmony Foundation and BHS Development, Balance Sheet December 31, 2022, and 2023 Budget. These reports are posted on the [District website](https://www.singcsd.org), <https://www.singcsd.org>

- Fall Convention Income and Expense Detail, Total Income \$41,044.11; Total Expenses \$42,391.25. Net Income, negative **\$1,347.14**.
- Annual vs Budget Report: At the end of 2022, Total Ordinary Income was \$84,266.92; (\$113,128.80 budgeted), and Total Ordinary Expense was 94,701.40; (\$105,118.84 budgeted). Net Ordinary Income was negative \$10,434.48; (\$8,009.96 budgeted). Other Income was \$10,858.21 (\$5,200.00 budgeted) and Other Expense was \$10,480.00 (\$9,500.00 budgeted). Net Other Income, \$378,21 (negative **\$4,300.00** budgeted). Final Net Income for 2022: negative **\$10,056.27**, (\$3,709.96 budgeted.)
- Donation Fund Report: Endow Fund Contributions (Harmony Foundation International donations) was \$10,148.95. BHS Development Fund was \$709.26. Net Income, \$10,858.21.
- Balance Sheet: Total Assets and Liabilities & Equity, \$107,695.84.
- Budget 2023: 2023 Budget January through December 2023; net income **\$2,650.45**]

[new tape] Comments on Fall Convention report.

Suellentrop: Eventbrite has taken a lot of money. Eventbrite Fees in the Convention Report, page 3, was \$1,846.78; includes \$400 investment in new software for ticketing with a lifetime license. Warrick pointed out the expense of \$1,846.78 for Eventbrite Fees was for both conventions, credit card fees of \$140.72 was for fall convention. Suellentrop: without the Eventbrite Fees, District would have ended in the black. The District needs to keep \$10,000 in the money market account to keep our credit card

account active. Chris Lowrey's Conrest [sic] Streaming Service fee is \$1500 per contest. \$3000 was an advance for new equipment. Lowrey handles livestream and video recording of contests. Previously one person did the contest recordings and another person did the livestreaming. Livestream is popular with those in the District who can come to the convention and those outside our District family. Fuson noted, on page 1 of the Convention Report, "Gross Profit" should be interpreted as "Gross Income". Warrick responded that QuickBooks software doesn't allow him to make this correction. **Suellentrop moved to receive the Financial Report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.** It will be reported to the House of Delegates that the Financial Report was received by the Board.

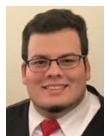


Song Break directed by Chorus Director Development V.P. Larry Monson, "My Wild Irish Rose."

Secretary Report. Approval of minutes, Fall, 2022, Consent Calendar

Secretary Fuerniss stated that the minutes of last Fall's meeting in Lawrence have been posted on the District [website](#) and asked if any corrections or additions needed to be made. Hearing none, **Suellentrop moved to approve the Fall 2022 Board and House of Delegates meeting minutes as posted on the website. Motion passed unanimously.**

The **Consent Calendar** containing various reports was also posted on the District [website](#). Suggestion was made to note "No Report" for reports not received. Nebraska State V.P. Pape asked if Ames, IA will be the site for the 2024 Spring Convention. Events V.P. Brott said contracts have been signed with Ames, IA for the Spring 2024 Convention and if things go well, multi-year contracts will be drawn up for Ames for spring conventions in 2025, 2026 and 2027*. At this time, location of Spring conventions beyond 2024 are not locked in. Iowa City Chapter President John Marshall said the Iowa City Chapter



would be willing to act as host chapter for a convention in Ames, IA. Suellentrop announced we have a **new web master** coming on, **Donell Torres**, from the St. Charles Chapter and is in the process of rebuilding a **new District web site**. Hopefully the new site will be launched before the International Convention. With no other comments, **Warrick moved to receive the Consent Calendar as posted. Motion passed unanimously.**

(*Regarding up-coming conventions: Doug Brott reported the Convention team has been working to get long-term contracts for both fall and spring contests. This particular spring convention has been interesting as we had to change the date, had to change the hotel, and had to change the venue, all within several months. All considered we are going to do okay. We have been successful in a long term contract for the fall contests barring scheduling changes by the KU Board of Regents for fall 2026 and 2027. We have entered a contract with a venue and a hotel in Ames, IA for Spring 2024 and assuming everything goes well, we will create a multi-year contract to hold Spring conventions in Ames. Trying to keep everything centrally located in the District. The goal of the convention team is to try different things to attract more people to our conventions. At this time, location of Spring conventions beyond 2024 are not locked in. Lincoln and Dubuque had expressed interest in hosting the spring 2024 convention. Iowa City Chapter President Marshall said the Iowa City Chapter is pleased to host this convention and apologized that, because the Iowa City Board of Education did not allow us to use City High School, the alternate venue, Coralville Performing Arts Center is a wonderful venue, but much more expensive. Dusty Schleier, BHS Director of Events and Conventions, helped us with our conversations with the other hotel. We cannot afford to have other entities determine when we can

hold our contests. Brott added that we have plans to work with the two Sweet Adelines Regions to avoid conflicting dates in the future. BHS has district convention dates published to 2027. We try to stay within our (published) dates to give our membership, quartets and choruses as much information as early as possible to plan for the conventions.

Program Administration Team Reports

Executive Vice President Randolph summarized Program Administrative Team reports given at the PAT meeting last night: Each PAT members was asked what information they need from chapters to help them do their job.

- **Carter Combs, Contest and Judging V.P.** proposed potential changes in our awards given at our conventions. Currently we could potentially distribute 28 district awards due to men's, women's, and all voice groups. We could bring this down to 19 district awards. Combs suggested presenting this to the House of Delegates meeting for their potential approval at the Fall meeting. In addition, the new application window for judge candidates is going to open this coming August. Interested people should contact Combs. Combs would like to get feed back from chapters on this proposal and what chapters might be coming to conventions. State V.P.'s could get information to chapters and their feedback.
- **Chad Schuetz, Chapter Support and Leadership Training V.P.** would like to find out what courses chapters would like to see offered at Leadership Academies which would drive them to attend Leadership Academy. Perhaps have one or two satellite academies around the district, perhaps one in November and another one in late January or early February in a different location.
- **Doug Brott, Director of Events**, would like to find out what incentives can we do to attract non-competing members to conventions. Would also like to know which choruses are planning to attend.
- **Larry Monson is our new Chorus Director Development V.P.** His biggest need is to get chapters to list their chorus directors on BHS Member Center so he can reach out to them. He will be working with Veteto and Schuetz for chorus development coaching and potentially offering a director's scholarship to Harmony U.
- **Sandi Wright, Marketing and P.R., V.P.**, was not able to attend the meeting.
- **Don Fuson, Membership Development**, had a lot of good information to share with us on membership.
- **Jeff Veteto, Music and Performance V.P.**, is continuing with HEP School.



We need to find a way to gather information from the chapters. Suellentrop added that the [Serenade](#) is coming back, digitally, under the editorship of Michael Pommier. Chapter Presidents should identify someone in their chapter than can report to Pommier with events in their chapter.

State V.P. Reports.

To start the strategic planning for the District, we had a meeting in Kansas City last month. State V.P.s came up with some great ideas at that meeting.

- **Missouri/Arkansas V.P. Michael Bass**, wants to meet chapters where they are, help them define what success looks like for them, to give their members and singing community whatever

experience is fulfilling to them. Helping chapters develop a short or long-term plan. The St. Joseph Chapter is celebrating their 65th anniversary today.

- **Nebraska V.P. Rick Pape**, hopes to visit each Nebraska chapter at least twice this year, once for a show and once for a rehearsal/board meeting. Change the old mindset about attending conventions, from “We wouldn’t score well.” to an opportunity for the chorus to get help from the judging panel to sing better. Suellentrop: Identify what chapters want. Try different things at conventions; utilize coaches; remind choruses they don’t have to sing for a score, but for evaluation. Combs: put emphasis on *convention* rather than contest. Encourage chapters to attend conventions. Pape hopes to keep communication open with the Omaha chapter. Promote the barbershop hobby with Nebraska chapters, coercing (encouraging) them to participate in barbershop activities at the Nebraska State Fair, August 25 – September 4.
- **Iowa V.P. Jeff Arians** wants to find out what information district leaders need from the chapters. A lot of the Iowa chapters don’t want to *compete* anymore, e.g. Mason City and Black Hawk Metro. Promote attendance at conventions in Iowa. A new Iowa chapter will be competing this weekend, Des Moines Metro.
- **South Dakota V.P. David Stephenson**, chapters in South Dakota are small and still struggling with the aftereffects of Covid. Needs to learn what the District has to offer smaller, struggling chapters. South Dakota chapters aren’t interested in competing but would enjoy the convention. Would like to revive interest in the South Dakota Festival. The District has money set aside for a South Dakota Festival.
- **Kansas V.P. Kevin Barker**, continue Zoom meetings with invited guests with the Kansas chapters. Try to go out and meet with chapters. Try to work with one chapter in particular with four members, offer suggestions to get them back up and running again.



Song break. Combs led “Sweet Roses of Morn”

New Business

Most of old VHS tapes from Combs have been digitized. History V.P. Tom Schulein found more tapes. Some of these are older and need to be professionally digitized. BHS’s Preservation Project is reaching out to districts regarding digitizing old performances. They would create a subchannel on their YouTube platform for the District. What to do with the tapes after they have been digitized? Hope to get performances off the tapes in the next year. Digitizing poster boards is another project.

Will try to use “[Slack](#)” as a communication tool.



Working on a District strategic plan. **Mission and Vision statements** were discussed at the March strategic planning meeting. Mission statement is the “What?”, vision statement is the “How?”. The BHS Mission statement is: “To Bring People Together in Harmony and Fellowship to Enrich Lives Through Singing”. Seems we could keep this as our District Mission statement. “To encourage and support an inclusive musical experience for all singing communities within the Central States District.” was proposed as the vision statement. 10:25 am. Sullentrop will send out a summary of the strategic planning meeting.

[Harmony Foundation Incorporated](#). Perry White, HFI President and CEO. The litigation is over between the BHS and the Foundation. HFI has been supporting barbershop at the local and regional level the last couple years and can now again support barbershop and the preservation of barbershop at the national level, allowing us to fulfill its mission to connect people through charitable giving to enrich lives through singing. The programs in the BHS are great programs that help us do that. [AIC Outreach Program](#): Had an event in the Kansas City area last year. At least four chapters are involved with the upcoming Joplin event, "Tribute to Percy Wenrich, the Joplin Kid". The [Power of Harmony](#) program is also flourishing. Completely operational in all three juvenile



detention centers in Ohio. Launching the program in Texas with the help of the Vocal Majority. 40 young men stepped forward in Gainesville, TX to participate in this program. Vocal Majority has provided six instructors. Just as the AIC program has exploded; the Power of Harmony program has exploded. Barbershop Harmony programs have the opportunity to explode. The need is great, resources are few. The opportunity of promoting barbershop singing is even greater. An individual has to look through a problem to see what the opportunity is. We've had some serious problems the last couple years. We're now on the cusp of making a difference. But it will take all of us and resources to do that. White hoped we become donors if we aren't already and encourage others to become donors.

BHS representative, Tim Myers is available and more than happy to answer questions concerning affairs of the Society.

There will be an all-singers mic tester chorus under the direction of Larry Monson. All non-competitors are invited to sing.

The **House of Delegate** meeting will be in the Coralville Ballroom at noon. Suellentrop and Randolph will host a "town-hall" meeting at 2:30 p.m. Contest starts at 6 p.m. **Motion was made to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.**



"Keep the Whole World Singing"

Minutes compiled by

Mark Fuerniss

Mark Fuerniss
CSD Secretary