



Where the Harmony Began

Central States District
Association of Chapters Of
The Barbershop Harmony Society, aka
The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet
Singing In America, Inc.

Report to the House of Delegates (Consent Calendar)

October 13, 2023



[Our bylaws grant authority to the Board of Directors to manage the district affairs when the House of Delegates is not in session provided that all actions by the board are subject to approval by the House of Delegates. Acceptance of the Consent Calendar by the House of Delegates is the process by which action by the Board of Directors are approved.]

Reports received as of 9/10/2023

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Reports

Report #100 --- Executive Director Report

Steve Denino, Interim BHS CEO



NO REPORT

What's Happening

Midwinter Convention, January 9 – 14, 2024, New York, NY

International Convention, 2024, Cleveland, OH



Report #200 --- CSD Events, Fall, 2023

Doug Brott, District Events V.P.



Despite a 20th hour change in Local Host for the Fall Convention, things are proceeding well. The Des Moines Chapter was supposed to be the Local Host Team for this convention. On 18Aug2023, they let us know they would not be able to participate as Convention Host. The Metro Kansas City Chapter stepped up and once again will be the Host Team for the Convention. As of Mid-August, 6 Choruses and a Mic-Tester Chorus are confirmed along with 8 Quartets.

In an effort to attract more attendees, the District Convention Team has made changes to the Registration Categories, basically reducing the cost to families and non-competing attendees. In addition, limited slots for chorus and quartet coaching are offered on Friday prior to the Semifinals utilizing the Judges as coaches. We will also have a BarberTots room available for families with small children.

Leadership Academy will be held November 18, 2023 in Shawnee KS. Chapter elections should be complete by then so it is a perfect opportunity for new and experienced leadership to get a jump on the new year.

HEP School will be scheduled in January or February 2024. Jeff Veteto will provide more information as plans become available

The Convention Team was informed by the Kansas University Lied Center that the Board of Regents had published the future schedules for student Fall Break. The extended schedule fit nicely with the District Fall Convention dates. The Team now has contracts in place with the DoubleTree Hotel and commitments from the Lied Center to hold our Fall Convention in Lawrence KS, through 2027. As previously noted, the Spring 2024 convention will be held in Ames IA, and barring any complications, the Convention Team will endeavor to establish long term contracts with the Gateway Hotel and the Ames City Auditorium. Keeping both conventions in the Central Corridor of the District and long term contracts help to keep convention costs reasonable.

	Spring	Fall
2023		October 13-15 Lawrence, KS
2024	April 19-21 Ames, IA	October 11-13 Lawrence, KS
2025	April 11-13 Ames, IA (TBC)	October 10-12 Lawrence, KS
2026	April 24-26 Ames, IA (TBC)	Oct 9-11 Lawrence, KS
2027	April 23-25 Ames, IA (TBC)	Oct 8-10 Lawrence, KS

Report #210 --- CSD Convention Chair, Fall, 2023

Joy Suellentrop, Convention Chair



NO REPORT

Report #214 --- Contest and Judging, Fall, 2023

Carter Combs, Contest and Judging V.P.



♪ **SCJC (Society Contest and Judging Committee) announcements:**

- Automatic qualifying scores for the 2024 International in Cleveland:
 - **80%** for Choruses
 - **78%** for Quartets
 - Minimum score is 74% for both Chorus & Quartet
- Minimum average scores for the 2024 Midwinter in NYC:

- **65%** for Senior Choruses. The 10 highest scoring choruses who accept invitation will compete.
- **61%** for Senior Quartets
- All International contests are now open to all genders.
- **SCJC Category School** was held July 20-23 @ Loyola U, New Orleans (immediately prior to Harmony U) to certify judges for the next 3-year cycle. CSD's current certified judges are:
 - **ADM – Administrative**
 - Dan Bodtke – **new**
 - Don Fuson – 13 years
 - Matt Suellentrop – 4 years
 - **MUS – Musicality**
 - Erin Cook – **new**
 - Kevin Keller – 25 years
 - David Wright – **41 years!**
 - **PER – Performance**
 - Jon Kready – 4 years
 - Mike Louque – 16 years
 - Sandi Wright – 4 years
 - **SNG – Singing**
 - Eric Dalbey – 7 years
 - Rik Johnson – 28 years
 - Rob Mance – 22 years
- **SCJC** has started accepting applications for all categories for the next round of judging candidate training. The application deadline is December 15th. All interested parties should contact me ASAP.
- The **Music** category is being renamed to **Musicality**.
- **Evals** are being renamed **Feedback**, to describe the goal of the sessions more accurately.

♪ **BHS Conventions & Contests:**

- **2023 July 2-9: International @ Louisville, KY**
 - International Chorus Champion is **Ambassadors of Harmony**, scoring 95.6
 - 5th, 91.4 – **Central Standard**
 - 14th, 85.1 – **The Recruits**
 - 22nd, 81.5 – **Smorgaschorus**
 - International Quartet Champion is **Midtown**, scoring 94.5 (with HOA's Anthony Fortino on lead!)
 - 16th, 83.0 – **Fleet Street**
 - 17th, 83.0 – **First Class**
 - 25th, 81.2 – **Harmonium**
 - 27th, 81.1 – **BoomTown**
 - 41st, 79.5 – **Union Station**
 - 42nd, 79.5 - **Spitfire**
 - Next Generation Barbershop Quartet Champion is **Full Effect**, scoring 83.2

- 2nd, 80.2 – **Tofu Concern**
 - 9th, 75.6 – **Momento** – also won the *139th Street Legacy Prize Award* of \$10,000
 - 10th, 75.3 – **Evening Glow**
 - **2024**
 - **January 9-14: Midwinter @** New York, NY
 - **June 30 – July 7: International @** Cleveland, OH
 - **2025**
 - **TBD: Midwinter @** TBD
 - **June 29 – July 6: International @** Denver, CO
- ♪ **CSD Conventions & Contests**
- **2024**
 - **April 19-21: CSD Spring Convention @** Ames, IA
 - **October 11-13: CSD Fall Convention @** Lawrence, KS
 - **2025**
 - **April 11-13: CSD Spring Convention @** Ames, IA (pending)
 - **October 10-12: CSD Fall Convention @** Lawrence, KS – **DATE CHANGE**
 - **2026**
 - **April 24-26: CSD Spring Convention @** Ames, IA (pending)
 - **October 9-11: CSD Fall Convention @** Lawrence, KS – **DATE CHANGE**
 - **2027**
 - **April 23-25: CSD Spring Convention @** Ames, IA (pending)
 - **October 8-10: CSD Fall Convention @** Lawrence, KS
- ♪ Districts determine which contests and awards they present, for all District-level championships.
- The CSD Board decided in July that we would discontinue having Men’s, Women’s, and Mixed Harmony categories for our Chorus and Quartet District contests. As of now, all contests are all open to all genders.
- ♪ CSD encourages all barbershop choruses, regardless of size, so has established contests for all ensembles, based on the number of performers on stage.
- Plateau levels:
 - 12 – 19 performers = **Plateau I** Chorus
 - 20 – 29 performers = **Plateau II** Chorus
 - 30 – 39 performers = **Plateau III** Chorus
 - 40 or more performers = **Plateau IV** Chorus
 - A chorus may elect to compete in a larger level Plateau if they desire.
 - A chorus with more performers on stage than a Plateau allows will automatically be reassigned to the appropriate level.
 - All Choruses with 12- 30 performers can compete in the CSD Small Chorus contest, which is held at the Spring Convention.
 - BHS officially defines a “chorus” as having at least 12 people. So, to allow for smaller groups, CSD has established an additional Spring contest for ensembles with fewer members than a “chorus”:
 - 5 – 11 performers = **VLQ = Very Large Quartet**

CHORDially,
Carter Combs
Cell [816-914-2998](tel:816-914-2998)
Central States District - Contest & Judging Vice President

Report #300 --- Marketing and Public Relations, Fall, 2023

Sandi Wright, Marketing and Public Relations V.P.



The Serenade is up and running thanks to Michael Pommier who stepped up to continue the tradition. With that said, it is hard to get all choruses and quartets acclimated to send in articles - even CSD's largest choruses don't contribute without a great deal of prompting. This, of course, gets exhausting for the editor.

There is now a group of Marketing and PR VPs of various districts who are having Zoom meetings to discuss ways to promote their districts and BHS to their constituency. It is the consensus that having this position is really unnecessary as social media and individual chapters seem pretty good at it. The focus in most districts is a "communications" person to get the word out about activities and resources available to chapters about district level activities (like Leadership Academy, HEP School and contests). One of the challenges these days seem to be that people get their news from various sources - Some want Facebook, Instagram and social platforms, while others only want email, and still others never look at either and want texts or snail mail.

Focus now will be getting people registered for District contest. The new offerings are exciting and should bring more audience and competitors.

Sandi Wright
Marketing/PR VP

Report #310 --- District Website, Fall, 2023

Donell Torres, Webmaster

NO REPORT

Visit <https://www.singcsd.com>



Report #360 --- Historian, Fall, 2023

POSITION VACANT

NO REPORT

Report #400 --- Music and Performance, Fall, 2023

Jeff Veteto, Music & Performance V.P.



First, a bit of good news on the personnel front: Former CSD President Duane Lawson will be helping out on the Music and Performance side of things. Some former Presidents do cool things like Habitat projects; ours chose Music and Performance!

Cutting edge news: HEP School 2024 is now set for February 24, 2024. The venue is changing to Shawnee Presbyterian Church, in Shawnee KS. This venue:

- Maintains the centralized location for the HEP School
- Keeps things consistent, in that it is also the location for Leadership Academy (LA), reported elsewhere, and
- We are saving money with this change



We have already been in contact with many coaches around the district, and roughly half a dozen have this weekend penciled in. Meaning...so should you, and specifically, your quartet!

Quartets attending will be guaranteed 3 coaching sessions (possibly more), and you just won't find a better bang for the buck. Additionally, we will explore the option of having classes for individual attendees.

Any choruses interested in coaching would certainly be welcome. Please contact myself or Duane to work out details.

Specifics of pricing and registration will be forthcoming. Stay tuned!

Music and Performance

By Jeff Veteto

Report #420 --- Chorus Director Development, Fall, 2023

Larry Monson, Chorus Director Development V.P..



MUSIC TAKES TIME”

Chorus Director Development seems to be surrounded by

1. Who currently is the person in charge of the music team leadership of the local chapter and what are their needs?
2. How do we encourage continuing education of chapter music leaders beyond monetary gifts from the district?

Through emails and phone calls, we discovered some chapters are without Musical Directors. As well as Musical Directors, who have had a long tenure with the chapter chorus, want to step aside or will step aside. In each case, the question was “can you help”? Part of the dilemma that is occurring, is the lack of Musical leadership team involvement beyond the Musical director. How, where and when replacements can assume these positions will take time. These chapters are also declining in membership and the attraction for someone new to take the musical leadership can be a struggle. In some instances dues paying chapter members are smaller than those who are attending chapter meetings and chorus rehearsals. Is this problematic?

Instant gratification should not be a part of our vocabulary. Concepts in creating artistry; enrollment of new recruits; teaching style and techniques; score study; encouraging continuing thrilling education; learning how to listen to individual tracks; performances; patience; et al, takes time for all involved.

CSD Scholarship monies for Chapter Music leadership teams, ie: Musical Director, Assistant Director, Section Heads, etc. for chapters will take time. This past spring 3 Offers were given to Music Directors and one accepted. Plans are to advertise scholarship monies offered to those who qualify FOR 2024. Follow through of the successes of the scholarship recipients will also be a part of that education experience by CSD. We want the recipients to know that we support them beyond the HU experience. Therefore, Mentoring trips to Fremont, NE (Aug. 28), Iowa City, IA/ Cedar Rapids (Sept. 7), Elkader, IA (Sept. 11 Second Visit) will Occur.

At the International convention, in person discussions were very beneficial from Central Nebraska and South Dakota leadership on the status of musical direction for the chapters in these areas. Encouraging continuing education, for the 2024 HU, will begin the fall of 2023. This past spring we ran into “already planned vacations with family” for HU 2023. Yes, we see the need for continuing aid. Therefore attendance at the Leadership Academy for the music teams of chapter choruses can be an enticement for scholarship planning for the summer HU 2024.

Larry Monson,
CSD CDD
CSD Hall of Fame,2002
Emeritus Professor of Music

Report #450 --- Chapter Support and Leadership, Fall, 2023

Chad Schuetz, CSLT V.P.



Report #460 --- Leadership Academy, Fall, 2023

Chad Schuetz, CSLT V.P.

As I have moved into the role of Chapter Support and Leadership Training VP for our district, I am extremely thankful to be surrounded and supported by the high quality of leadership throughout.

Please **SAVE the DATE** for the next Central State District Leadership Academy! Leadership Academy will be held on **November 18** in Shawnee, Kansas, which is in the Kansas City Metro Area.

WHEN: **November 18**, 2023 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

WHERE: Shawnee Presbyterian Church, Shawnee, KS

COST: \$42 per registrant

WHAT'S INCLUDED: Food, Fellowship, Fun!

REGISTRATION BEGINS: **September 15**



Based on your feedback, we are expanding our offerings this year. Sessions will be led by: Sandi Wright, Don Fuson, Larry Monson, Larry Warrick, Mark Fuerniss, Jeff Arians and Brett Randolph. Check out singcsd.com for more details coming soon!

We are also refreshing our Chapter Advocate Program. If you have an interest in supporting chapters in your state, please contact me at chadschuetz@att.net. I'd love to connect with YOU!

Chad Schuetz

Principal

Blackmore Elementary

#PartOfThePride

☎ [316-322-4850](tel:316-322-4850)

🌐 530 N Orchard St, El Dorado, KS 67042

Report #470 --- Membership Development, Fall, 2023

Membership Development V.P. , Don Fuson

Fall 2023 Consent Report

CSD Membership VP – Don Fuson (donfuson@gmail.com)



The critical acts that chapter leaders take must focus on just ONE person. Which ONE is that?

Answer – the very NEXT member that needs help with music, with understanding chorus song assignments, with referring that member to someone that can help with musical and singing development, or just that same member that wants to chat a bit.

Listening five times harder than you speak is a good guide to help understand what the members may really want to talk about. We do need to be sure to focus on the expectations (many times unstated) that the members bring to meetings each week. That occasional chapter listening session during a chapter meeting is a good use of time. A more formal chapter survey, with a results discussion, can introduce some great new ideas for the chapter to discuss and adopt.

Supporting “other” member can involve a change of address, a timely renewal, understanding breaks in Society membership, and even forming and entering quartets into the contests and conventions that the district plans. We are continuing to work some systems issues with HQ, but often wind up fixing something that the local chapter leaders can get ahead of by using a monthly roster and “predicting” what issues might arise.

When each member does renew, let’s celebrate that event! Chapters have different ways of recognizing total years in the Society, as well as recognizing the number of members (Persons of Note) with whom you are able to share the joy of singing.

Plan now for a strong start for 2024. Review the job duties of each chapter role, and extend the involvement of more members in chapter committees. Involvement gives experience, and experience builds strong leaders for the future.

Don Fuson
CSD Membership VP



Report #475 --- Chapter Eternal, Fall, 2023

Fall, 2023, CSD Chapter Eternal inductees:

Walter Huebner
David Scott

Allen Finkbeiner
William Severa
Henry ‘Hank’ Junior Biere
Chris Upp
George Grovert
Roert Brockoff
Gerald Clemmens
Harold ‘Jim’ Blackledge
Donald Ostendorf

Ord, Ne
Cedar Rapids, Ia
Linn County Metro
Iowa City, Ia
Hays, Ks
Cedar Rapids, Ia
Greater Ozarks, Ar
Springfield, Mo
Cedar Rapids, Ia
Denison, Ia
Cedar Rapids, Ia
Cedar Rapids, Ia
Kearney, Ne

Valley Harmonizers
Harmony Hawks

Old Capitol Chorus
Hays High Plains
Harmony Hawks
Pride Of The Ozarks
Sho-Me Statesmen
Harmony Hawks
Happiness Express
Harmony Hawks
Harmony Hawks
1733 Area Chorus

Norman Giebler
Kenneth Jackson
Laurence Poisner
Larry Grinstead
Ed Shaw

Wendell Shaffer

Richard Kimball

Ron Abel

Hays, Ks
Olathe, Ks
Frank Thorne
Springfield, Mo
Lincoln, Ne
Beatrice, Ne
Kansas City, Mo
Overland Park, Ks
Omaha, Ne
Papillion, Ne
Kansas City, MO

Hays High Plains
Trails West

Sho-Me Statesmen
Lincoln Continentals
Homestead Harmonizers
Heart Of America
Overland Stage
Heartland Harmonizers
Sarpy Serenaders
Heart of America

Mark Fuerniss, District Secretary

Report #510 --- Iowa State V.P. Report, Fall, 2023

Jeffrey Ariens, Iowa State V.P.



Barbershop is still going strong in the state of Iowa! As I talked about last time, we have a new chapter (Des Moines Metro) who put on a great display at the spring convention. It was most of the members' first barbershop convention and they loved every minute of it. I know that when I went to bed around 1:00 AM, they were all still up and singing/tagging with other members of the CSD. The Iowa City chapter also had another successful cookie festival this year. If you haven't been to one, I strongly recommend driving to Iowa City to check it out! Mason City and Waterloo are still joining forces and have been doing church sing-outs, national anthems, and are planning a joint Christmas show. The Dubuque chapter is gearing up for their annual show with legendary Main Street as their guest quartet. You definitely won't want to miss that show! I also had the privilege of getting to know the members of the Davenport chapter in May. Every member (and all of their family members) was so pleasant to me and oh yeah, they can SING! I also got to hear a few of their chapter quartets, and let me tell you, there was some ringing going on!

It is crazy how fast my 2-year term as Iowa Vice-President went. As I am transitioning out of this role and into the role of CSD Treasurer, my main goal is to find my replacement and be available for any questions they may have. I am also very excited to learn the ropes of the Treasurer position from Larry and put my skills as a certified public accountant to good use!

Again, it has been an absolute treat to get to know our Iowa chapters on a deeper level during my 2-year term. While this is goodbye as Iowa Vice-President, I will still be a member of the CSD board and will always be there if you need anything. It has been exciting seeing barbershop come back alive after the pandemic and I know the future in Iowa is bright!

Report #520 --- Kansas State V.P. Report, Fall, 2023

Kevin Barker, Kansas State V.P.



How the time flies between Spring and Fall convention!! The Kansas chapter presidents are still meeting monthly by Zoom which is working out well! We don't have full attendance by all chapters, but we all have busy lives!

In May and June I invited Don Fuson (Membership Development V.P.) to talk about membership and for anyone who wanted more knowledge about members center and how to use this more effectively. The next meeting in June I had invited Sandi Wright, Marketing and Public Relations V.P to talk about more advanced Marketing technics we could use for getting the word out about our choruses! Very thought-provoking discussions!

I tried but could not secure a date for all the Kansas chorus and quartets to sing at the Kansas State Fair. I started to late in talking with them, but once the Fair is over, I will be talking with them again trying to set a date!

Thanks
Kevin Barker
Kansas State VP

Report #530 --- Missouri/Arkansas V.P. Report, Fall, 2023

Michael Bass , Missouri/Arkansas State V.P.



NO REPORT

Report #540 --- Nebraska State V.P. Report, Fall, 2023

Rick Pape, Nebraska State V.P.



NO REPORT

Report #550 --- South Dakota State V.P. Report, Fall, 2023

David Stephenson, South Dakota State V.P.



Acafellas Chorus – Winner, SD

In a short visit with Kelly, he said that they are just trying to stay alive, hoping to have all 4 parts for a practice. They did have 9 this night, and hopefully these will become more regular. They will not be having an annual show, but are holding singouts as people and occasions are available.

Glacial Lakes Harmonizers – Watertown, SD

No report at this time.

Mitchell Barbershop Chorus – Mitchell, SD

No report at this time, however, I did get a chance to visit with one of their newer members at Harmony Happenings in the Hills. Sounds like they are having regular practices, but as with most of us, could use some more singers.

Sioux Emperians – Sioux Falls, SD

The Emperians have not been practicing this summer. Did get a chance to speak to some of their members, (3), at Harmony Happenings in the Hills. Sounds like they hope to start practicing sometime soon, but nothing official.

Tri Valley Chorus – Viborg, SD

We have been very fortunate to hold our numbers fairly consistently through the year, typically 15-18 at practices, sometimes fewer. We have some younger fellas singing with us on a regular basis also. We just recently attended Harmony Happening in the Hills (8), and what a weekend it was We had the opportunity to sing as our chorus during the main show on Saturday evening. Then we sang as both a chorus and a quartet in the Afterglow. We have been able to sing at several Nursing Homes, had our regular Spring Show, sang during Danish Days in Viborg, and some of our quartets have had several opportunities to sing at different events. We have been discussing putting on a Christmas Concert, but trying to find a time and getting the guys through harvest will possibly create some real obstacles.

Dave Stephenson
South Dakota VP, CSD

Report #560 --- District Secretary's Report, Fall, 2023

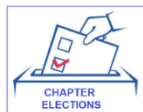
Mark Fuerniss, District Secretary



Since the Spring Convention in Coralville, IA the following chapter shows have been cleared.

- Hastings, NE June 10, 2023
- Kansas City, MO Overland Park June 10, 2023
- Topeka, KS June 25, 2023
- Leavenworth, KS August 4, 2023
- So. Central KS Wichita, KS August 27, 2023
- Dubuque, IA October 28, 2023
- Hastings, NE November 4, 2023
- St. Louis No.1, MO Hillsboro, MO December 2, 2023
- Kansas City, MO December 2, 2023
- So. Central KS Wichita, KS December 9, 2023

To obtain a performance license for your chapter show, send **2023 BMI/SESAC License Application For Show Clearance** to: Mark Fuerniss, Secretary, Central States District, 3060 San Agustin Drive, Lincoln, NE 68516 along with a check for an appropriate amount \$50/performance. Once your show has been officially cleared, the date will be entered into the Society and District Google Calendars and the BHS Events Calendar on Member Center and sent to CSD Market and P.R. V.P. for distribution on CSD media. A description of your event would be helpful. Shows that have not been officially cleared, should not be advertised in CSD media.



As a reminder, “The annual Chapter meeting for the **election of officers** and directors shall be held prior to October 15 of each year and the notice of the date of such meeting shall be given to the members at least two weeks prior to such date.” (Standard Chapter Bylaws, Article V, Paragraph 5.1) After the election, but before

the beginning of the new year, update new and existing chapter leaders on BHS Member Center. While you're there, check other chapter information for accuracy. I would encourage all new and returning chapter leaders, especially chapter presidents, chapter secretaries and chapter treasurers to attend a **Leadership Academy**.

It has been an honor to serve the District and its chapters and members for the past 20 years.

Mark Fuerniss, CSD Secretary
3060 San Agustin Drive
Lincoln, NE 68516
lonniemark@navix.net
402 310-8846

Report #570 --- District Treasurer's Report, Fall, 2023

Larry Warrick, District Treasurer



Accomplishments for the last 6 months are as follows:

- Prepared financial reports as requested by the District President and Exec. Vice President
- Financial questions I receive from chapters have been answered and the State VP copied on the reply
- Prepared the Financial report, Balance sheet
- Prepared Spring Convention financial report for the Fall Board meeting and HOD meeting
- Prepared proposed budget for 2024 with input from board and committee members
- Expense vouchers and bills have been paid in a timely manner with CSD President's approval
- Making plans for 2023 Leadership Academy

Respectively Submitted

Larry Warrick, CSD Treasurer

Report #580 --- Immediate Past President Report, Fall, 2023

Duane Lawson – Immediate Past President



Hello CSD! Since the Spring Convention, I did not take the opportunity to visit many chapters or shows. I did attend the CSD Sendoff in June and was also able to see most of the CSD quartets and choruses at the International contes in Louisville, KY. I am always blown away with the talent of our CSD quartets.

I have always had a soft spot for the Collegiate Contest or the correct title of BHS NextGen Varsity Quartet Contest. All three groups from CSD placed in the Top Ten. It was amazing to see Momento receive the 139th Street Legacy Award and Tofu Concern to achieve 2nd Place.

Our choruses represented CSD with the Ambassadors of Harmony winning another Gold medal. The Recruits and the SmorgasChorus represented themselves and CSD very well. And it's rare for a district to have 2 chapters in the top 10, but once again CSD had two medalist choruses with Central Standard achieving a 5 Place Medal.

And I don't know how he did it, but I believe Marshall Crowl was in 5 different singing ensembles at International. I want to be him when I grow up!!

Our district historian, Tom Schulein, has decided to step down. Tom has done a great job!! For a few years, the district leadership has wanted to digitize our history boards and with the recent change in our SingCSD website, I hope to help in making that goal happen.

Immediate Past President

Central States District

Report #585 --- Nominating Committee Report, Fall, 2023

2024 Nominating Committee Report by Duane Lawson

Greetings Central States District! I was honored to chair the Nominating Committee with Chad Schuetz, Brett Randolph, and Matt Suellentrop.

We will be recommending Jeff Arians as the CSD Treasurer to start January 1, 2024. Along with Jeff being a well-known tenor in the Tapestry quartet, serving as the Iowa Vice President, he is the Owner of Quality Accounting Services.

Larry Warrick has been the CSD Treasurer for a very long time and has done an outstanding job for our district! Larry requested earlier this year that he retire as CSD Treasurer. The vote for Jeff will be held at the House of Delegates meeting on Friday, October 13, 2023.

For 2024, it is time for the Vice President election of Iowa and Kansas. The nominee for Iowa is Larry Hlavacek. Larry is the current Cedar Rapids President and a dual member with Iowa City. At the time of this report, the vote is pending by Iowa Chapter Presidents.

The nominee for Kansas is Mike Shepherd. Mike has been Kansas Vice President previously and eligible again. Mike is a member of the Manhattan, KS chapter. At the time of this report, the vote is pending by the Kansas Chapter Presidents.

These 3 nominations are the only changes for 2024. Mark Fuerniss, our District Secretary has expressed interest in retiring. If you are reading this and have an interest or know of someone willing to accept the extremely important role of Central States District Secretary, please contact myself or a member of the Nominating Committee.

Report #590 --- Executive Vice President Report, Fall, 2023

Brett Randolph, Executive Vice President

Hello barbershoppers of the Central States District! Since my last report, I have had numerous opportunities to see old friends, meet new friends, and hear some amazing barbershop quartets and choruses. And that was just at the Spring Convention in Iowa City! The weather was a bit chilly, but it was an excellent convention. A big thanks to the Events Team and the Iowa City Chapter for hosting a wonderful event. I hope to see all of you in Lawrence for our Fall Convention and in Ames, Iowa for our 2024 Spring Convention.



In July at the International Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, I attended the Society Board of Directors Meeting where two At-Large Members were elected, Larry Bombback from MAD and

CSD's own Gene Spilker. I also participated in two meetings with Society Board Members, Harmony Hall Staff, and members of the District Presidents Council where we worked together to continue the work that was started at the 2023 Midwinter Convention. I visited all four of the choruses that were in Louisville representing CSD and as usual, our District performed masterfully bringing home the 1st and 5th place medals. Congratulations to the Ambassadors of Harmony and to Central Standard! CSD was also well represented in both quartet contests held in Louisville. Medals were also won in the Next Generation Varsity Quartet Contest by Tofu Concern who took home 2nd place. In addition to medals, Momento, a Next Generation Varsity Quartet from CSD, was awarded \$10K for being the highest scoring quartet with two members new to barbershop. What an accomplishment! Needless to say, it was a successful week for CSD in Louisville.

District Leadership and the Program Administrative Team are working for your chapters and your members to have the best barbershop experience possible. Do not hesitate to contact us and let us know how we can help. I know how much impact barbershop has had on my life and how important it is to have chapters that strive to be the best that they can be. Whether that is as a community chorus, a competitive chorus, supporting music education, or just getting together once a week to sing songs and tags. There are numerous ways to have success as a chapter. Know that the Board and PAT members are here to help support you.

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Report #600 --- District President Report, Fall, 2023

Matt Suellentrop, District President



As of this writing, you may or may not be seeing me at the upcoming fall convention. In my 17 years as a barbershopper, I have not missed a single CSD convention. However, my wife and I are rapidly approaching the due date of our second boy and while it's sometimes hard to admit, there are things more important than barbershop!

As you most likely know by now, Marty Monson, CEO of the Barbershop Harmony Society, has stepped down from his role. The BHS Board of Directors have appointed Steve Denino as interim CEO while they begin a national search. I have known Steve personally for quite a while as well as through our leadership's work while he was BHS Executive Vice President. I have the utmost confidence that Steve will continue to move the Society in the right direction and look forward to working with him closely through the District President's Council.

I want to thank our district events team for their hard work in preparing for this convention. They have added multiple tiers to our registration pricing to make it more family friendly and

affordable. In addition, there will be a Barbertots Room at the Lied Center to allow parents to take their young children to play while still having access to the contest live stream.

Lastly, you may have noticed an update to our district website. I took over as webmaster in 2017 and have thoroughly enjoyed providing a place for our members to get all information pertaining to CSD. But it was time to bring in some new blood. Donell Torres from the St. Charles chapter has stepped up and already made some great updates to the site!

Here's to a fantastic time in Lawrence!

Matt Suellentrop, CSD President



Where the Harmony Began