



*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)  
Ames, IA  
April 19, 2024



*[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 3/29/2024*

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# Reports

## **Report #100 --- Executive Director Report**

Steve Denino, Executive Director,



## What's Happening

International Convention, June 30 – July 7, 2024, Cleveland, OH

Harmony University, July 28 – August 4, 2024, Denver, CO

Midwinter, January 28 – February 2, San Antonio, TX

International Convention, June 29 – July 6, 2025, Denver, CO

Midwinter, January 13 – 18, Pasadena, CA

International Convention, June 28 – July 5, 2026, St. Louis, MO

International Convention, July 4 – 11, 2027, Minneapolis, MN

International Convention, July 2 – 9, 2028, Chicago, IL

International Convention, July 1 – 8, 2029, San Antonio, TX



Robyn Chancey

Executive Assistant to the CEO

Barbershop Harmony Society

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## **Report #200 --- CSD Events, Spring. 2024**

Doug Brott, District Events V.P.



Plans and processes for the 2024 Spring Convention in Ames, Iowa are proceeding well. The Des Moines Chapter has been doing an amazing job in preparing to be the Local Host Team for this convention. Hotel reservations and Convention Registrations are going well with about two weeks before the deadlines for hotel, early bird convention and contest registrations. 20 quartets have already registered along with 2 choruses.

As noted last fall, In an effort to attract more attendees, the District Convention Team made changes to the Registration Categories, basically reducing the cost to families and non-competing attendees. We had a good increase in registrations last fall and we had no complaints about the registration categories so we have used them once again for the Spring Convention. Also, once again, limited slots for chorus and quartet coaching are offered on Friday prior to the Semifinals utilizing the Judges as coaches. A BarberTots room will be available for families with small children at the contest venue in Ames.

Due to a conflict, the Leadership Academy was delayed from late 2023 held February 3, 2024 in Shawnee KS. Intent will be to hold the next Leadership Academy before the end of 2024 so that all new leaders for 2025 can get a head start on learning their new jobs.

HEP School was held on February 24, 2024. We had around 80 participants with all the quartets and 3 choruses that attended.

Fall Conventions are now booked in Lawrence KS through 2027. Any minor date changes that occur will be published on the District Website.

The Convention Team has been discussing the Spring Convention Format and exploring what other districts are doing with their Spring Conventions. Attendance in the spring is usually half, or less than half, of that in the Fall and the Small Chorus Contest has not been well attended for years. The Team is looking at different options and formats that might make the Spring Convention more attractive for all and less of a drain on the District Budget. We hope to have at least a preliminary proposal ready to discuss at the Spring District Board and HOD Meetings.

Below are the future scheduled convention and probable sites. If you look at the CSD Website you will see that we have dates for Future Conventions through 2030. We already know we may have a conflict with SAI in some cases. The District Team will work on securing hotels and venues and confirming dates as soon as possible.

Below are the future scheduled convention and probable sites:

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

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***Report #210 --- CSD Convention Chair, Spring. 2024***

**Joy Suellentrop, Convention Chair**  
**Mike Nelson, Assistant Convention Chairman**



## Report #220 --- Contest and Judging, Spring, 2024

Carter Combs, Contest and Judging V.P.



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

- SCJC has accepting applications for all categories for the next round of judging candidate training.
  - CSD has 7 approved applicants: **2** Administrative, **3** Musicality, **1** Performance, and **1** Singing.
  - They are beginning their training and will attend Candidate School this summer.
- Minimum number of performers that define a **Chorus** has been reduced from 12 to 9.
- **Evals** are being renamed **Feedback**, to describe the goal of the sessions more accurately.
- Automatic qualifying scores for the 2024 International in Cleveland:
  - **80%** for Choruses
  - **78%** for Quartets
  - Minimum score is 74% for both Chorus & Quartet
- Minimum scores to qualify for the 2025 Midwinter in San Antonio:
  - **65%** for Senior Choruses. The 10 highest scoring choruses who accept invitation will compete.
  - **61%** for Senior Quartets

### ♪ BHS Conventions & Contests:

- **2024**
  - **January 9-14: Midwinter @ New York, NY**
    - Seniors Quartet Contest
      - 1<sup>st</sup> place Champions: **Raise the Roof**, from MAD
      - 6<sup>th</sup> place: **JAZZ!** (2022 CSD Seniors Champs)
    - NextGen Junior Quartet Contest
      - 1<sup>st</sup> place Champions: **highkey!**, from Wichita Northwest HS, Wichita, KS
    - No CSD competitors in the chorus contests
  - **June 30 – July 7: International @ Cleveland, OH**
- **2025**
  - **January 28 – February 2: Midwinter @ San Antonio, TX**
  - **June 29 – July 6: International @ Denver, CO**
- **2026**
  - **January 13 – 18: Midwinter @ Pasadena, CA**
  - **June 28 – July 5: International @ St Louis, MO**
- **2027**
  - **July 4 – 11: International @ Minneapolis, MN**
- **2028**
  - **July 2 – 9: International @ Chicago, IL**
- **2029**
  - **July 1 – 8: International @ San Antonio, TX**

### ♪ 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**
- **2026**
  - **April 24-26: CSD Spring Convention @ Ames, IA (pending)**
  - **October 9-11: CSD Fall Convention @ Lawrence, KS**
- **2027**
  - **April 23-25: CSD Spring Convention @ Ames, IA (pending)**
  - **October 8-10: CSD Fall Convention @ Lawrence, KS**
- **2028**
  - **April 23-25: CSD Spring Convention @ TBD**
  - **October 8-10: CSD Fall Convention @ TBD**
- **2029**
  - **April 23-25: CSD Spring Convention @ TBD**
  - **October 8-10: CSD Fall Convention @ TBD**
- **2030**
  - **April 23-25: CSD Spring Convention @ TBD**
  - **October 8-10: CSD Fall Convention @ TBD**

♪ In November 2023, the SCJC reduced the minimum number of performers from 12 to 9 to be classified as a “chorus” CSD has adjusted our Plateau awards to reflect that change.

- Plateau levels:
  - 9 – 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 groups with 9-29 performers can compete in the CSD Small Chorus contest, which is held at the Spring Convention.
- To allow for smaller groups, CSD has established an additional Spring contest for ensembles with fewer members than a “chorus”:
  - 5 – 12 performers = **VLQ = Very Large Quartet**
  - Noting that there is now an overlap, ensembles with 9-12 performers may compete in either the **VLQ** or **Plateau I** contest, but not both.

♪ / **Keep the Whole World Singing** / **Everyone in Harmony** / **Go Chiefs!** /

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

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**Report #300 --- Marketing and Public Relations, Spring. 2024**  
**Todd Johnson, Marketing and Public Relations V.P.**

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**Report #310 --- District Website, Spring. 2024**

Donell Torres, Webmaster

Visit <https://singcsd.com>



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**Report #320 --- Serenade Magazine, Spring. 2024**

Michael Pommier, Editor

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**Report #340 --- CSD Philanthropy, Spring. 2024**

**Harmony Foundation International**

The mission of the **Harmony Foundation International** is to connect people through charitable giving to enrich lives through singing. HFI believes that singing improves lives and seeks philanthropic partners who wish to share the gift of singing as a means of making lives more enjoyable, satisfying and meaningful. HFI provides funding for music education programs for students in middle and high school and college, as well as outreach programs in communities, to promote, develop and advance opportunities for lifelong singing. Thanks for designating the Central States District on your Harmony Foundation International **Donor's Choice** donation! Up to 30% of your contribution may be returned to you chapter or district through the donor's choice program.



<https://www.harmonyfoundation.org/donors-choice>

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**Report #360 --- Historian, Spring. 2024**

Historical items are being digitized for electronic storage.

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**Report #400 --- Music and Performance, Spring, 2024**

**Report #410 --- HEP School, Spring. 2024**

Jeff Veteto, Music & Performance V.P.



The key event for Music and Performance in recent years has been the HEP (Harmony Education Program) School. HEP 2024 was held [February 24](#), 2024 at Shawnee Presbyterian Church in

Shawnee, Kansas, and it is accurate to describe it as a complete success. The entire agenda focused on coaching of quartets and choruses.

Choruses present for coaching were:

- Heart of America (Kansas City men's)
- Springfield Sound (Springfield men's)
- RiverSong (St. Joseph women's)

Quartets present for coaching were:

- Jazz!
- My Favorite Quartet
- Flourish
- Vocal Velocity
- SoundAbout
- Chordially Yours
- Maximum Ring
- Tonicity
- Tornado Alley
- KC Common

....plus one VLQ, Homeward Bound!

The amazing coaches for the day were:

- David Wright
- Sandi Wright
- Susan Ives
- Matt Webber
- Bobby Gray
- Kevin Keller
- Paul Olguin
- Jon Kready
- David Krause

....for a total attendance of right at 90. This is about as good as we've had for any HEP school in which I have been involved. Further, I'm pleased to state that we hit right at break even financially, which is an amazing thing for an educational event featuring this caliber of faculty.

I took on the Music and Performance job in 2014, and my biggest stated goal was to revive HEP. We reintroduced HEP to CSD in 2015, with successful live HEP schools every year afterward, through 2020....one of the last events before COVID hit. We then held Virtual HEP schools in 2021 and 2022, returning to live events for 2023 and 2024. That makes a total of ten HEP schools, of which we should be proud.



I'm delighted to state that **Duane Lawson** will be taking over the Music and Performance role in 2025, and I am completely confident he will lead our musical education to greater heights. Go get 'em, Duane!



## **Report #430 --- Chorus Director Development, Spring. 2024**

**Larry Monson, CSD Chorus Director Development**

In October of 2022, I received a phone call from Duane Lawson concerning a need for someone to assume the Chorus Director Development project for CSD. After the Fall 2022 Convention, a line item to the budget was established to help defray costs for the project as well as provide scholarship monies for Chapter Directors/Assistant Directors/ Music Team members to attend BHS Harmony University in the summer of 2023.



In the early winter of 2023, I began making phone calls (thanks to Don Fusion and his organization of Officers Excel sheets) to various directors (recommend by a few CSD Board members) also “cold calls”, etc. Only one scholarship was given to attend HU. But most of the calls had this reaction, “can you help us find a new director?”

Quickly I observed that the problem was not finding a director, but the recognition of, “what makes a BHS director”. Leadership in a Musical 501c3, regardless of position, is based on connection with Singers to Director, as well as Director to the Singers. In three instances, Music Directors left the position, or want to leave.

In Person trips to chapters: three trips to Elkader Iowa, one trip to Fremont, NE, one trip to Iowa City/Cedar Rapids, one trip to Beatrice, NE and phone calls to Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa have been extremely interesting and informative. Some chapters are struggling with musical leadership, others are revamping their identity to include All Singers. Many chapter’s choruses have shied away from CSD Events that are only competition oriented.

Leadership classes at all CSD events from Leadership Academy, Spring and Fall conventions, should include chapter chorus/chapter quartet coaching, Director’s Forums, Festival singing, SINGING, et al to ignite a freshness in creative experiences to the Joy of Singing for All beyond the Wave of the Hand. Onward and Upward!!

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## **Report #580 --- Chapter Support and Leadership Training, Spring, 2024**

### **Report #585 --- Leadership Academy, Spring. 2024**

**Chad Schuetz, CSLT V.P.**



After a rocky start, I am pleased to report that we held a successful Leadership Academy at the beginning of February. While not well attended, it did provide participants with opportunities to network with each other and learn more about the roles that they will hold this coming year. In addition to the class offerings per role, we offered great breakout sessions focused on leadership and musical development.

We also had the opportunity to connect with Harmony Hall, specifically looking at the features of Member Center. This session was recorded and will be available for any chapter that would like more information. To get access, please e-mail me at [chadschuetz@att.net](mailto:chadschuetz@att.net).

We were surprised and delighted to have our 2022 District CHAMPS First Class Quartet rehearsing onsite, and they provided excellent entertainment for the participants.

Looking ahead to the next leadership academy, based on the feedback we received, we will be looking at how to engage more participants and get additional time for our officer role classes. Keep an eye on the Serenade and other district communications for the next date!

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](mailto:chadschuetz@att.net). I'd love to connect with YOU!

## **Chad Schuetz**

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### ***Report #470 --- Membership Development, Spring. 2024***

#### **Membership Development V.P. , Don Fuson**



MEmpership begins with ME! For each chapter, there is someone – some have a Membership/Development VP and others default to the President – whose job it is to start by having some “my contact events” with each member. The role here is continuing to help bring the chapter schedule, engagements, programs, skill building, etc. – to meet what the chapter members are expecting and interested in accomplishing.

Those expectations which are not discussed with all chapter members, can often (and unintentionally) leave some members out of the loop for planning what the next year will bring for the chapter and the chorus(es). Chapter planning for various options to somehow include both old and new events and calendar plans are very important to each member. And each member can view that differently.

We all (I think) want to come and have a good time singing. We do want to learn to sing and PERFORM better for each of our audiences. But the planning for the social/non-singing opportunities are important as well.

Your 2024 Chapter Board has at least one chapter leader whose job it is to coordinate the membership support, and reach out to old, and then new/guest, members as well. Keep in mind that each of us may have a different opinion about the road we should take to reach our chapter goals. Those goals for inclusive for all of us, even if one other option considered might have been my favorite. We all need to support the overall plan.

The chapter leaders need to remind us, and be reminded as well, that EACH ONE of US is the ME in MEMbership. We are the ones talking to our friends about the chills we get performing. We are the ones helping our chapter mates in learning new music. We are the ones reaching out to those members who were missing last week at the chorus rehearsal and may need a phone call to bring a kind word for the day to them.

Put your “ME” into the job of strengthening your chapter MEMbership to benefit us all.

Don Fuson, CSD MEMbership VP

Contact ME if you have a question – [donfuson@gmail.com](mailto:donfuson@gmail.com)

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## **Report #475 --- Chapter Eternal, Spring. 2024**

**Mark Fuerniss, District Secretary**



The following barbershoppers will be inducted into the CSD Chapter Eternal during the Spring 2024 House of Delegates meeting, Spring 2024. Their contributions to their chapters, especially the vocal contributions to their choruses and quartets will be missed.

- Robert Goupil Topeka, KS
- Jim Sprout Algona, IA
- Dennis Brandt St. Charles, MO, Florissant Valley, MO
- Chuck Nerem Fort Dodge, IA
- Robert Hedgcock St. Charles, MO
- Jace Hicok Black Hawk Metro, IA
- Tim Kezar Black Hawk Metro, IA
- Wayne Bailie Manhattan, KS
- Sharon Ocker Sioux City, IA
- Larry Bass Leavenworth, KS
- Dale Comer Lincoln, NE, Fremont, NE
- Jack Bussell Kansas City, MO
- Jon deNeui Elkader, IA, Dubuque, IA
- Ken Kritner Lincoln, NE
- George Lambert St. Charles, MO
- Herbert Roeser Grand Island, NE, Hastings, NE, Kearney, NE
- Buster Baxter Papillion, NE
- Roger Lynn Hibbs Topeka, KS
- Edward Mutch Papillion, NE
- Tom Stott Davenport, IA
- Bob “Barney” Alleman Des Moines, IA
- Ray Brown Fremont, NE, Lincoln, NE
- Jerry Leslie Fremont, NE, Sioux City, IA
- David Marti Kansas City, MO

Send information on deceased members of your chapter to: [membership@barbershop.org](mailto:membership@barbershop.org) and to Mark Fuerniss, CSD Secretary, [lonniemark@navix.net](mailto:lonniemark@navix.net). The Society has links to obituaries for

some of the deceased barbershoppers: <https://www.barbershop.org/in-memoriam>.

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## **Report #510 --- Iowa State V.P. Report, Spring. 2024**

**Larry Hlavacek, Iowa State V.P.**



First off, I would like to thank Jeff Arians for his leadership as the Iowa State V.P. the past two years. I wish him well as the CSD Treasurer and I know he will do a great job!

I am in my first quarter as the Iowa State V.P. and I look forward to meeting and working with the chapters in Iowa. This is my first leadership role with CSD, so I have a lot to learn.

By the time you read this, I will have attended the Davenport Chordbusters show on March 16, with Muscatine Heartland as guest chorus and quartet, and the Mason City / Black Hawk show on April 6, with guest quartet OC Times. I will make every effort to attend as many shows as I can.

I have requested information from each chapter in Iowa to find out about their rehearsals, scheduled shows, things they need help with, and things they would like me to share. Here are some of the things that I have learned:

- The choruses that responded are all actively rehearsing and have between 9 and 25 people attending each week.
- Cedar Rapids Harmony Hawks have their show scheduled for May 11, celebrating 75 years in existence.
- Des Moines Metro Vox Infinitus has their show scheduled for October 26.
- Iowa City Old Capitol Chorus will host its Cookie Festival on Thursday May 2. It is an early evening event that includes a friendly contest (a fun trophy for the top performance to keep for the year) and everyone learning a song together. Of course, lots of delicious cookies to enjoy. Anyone can attend.
- Sioux City Siouxland Discovery Chorus says they have about 20 performances each year. This is fantastic!
- Linn County Metro Twenty-First Century Vocals have 8 active members, making them an official, active chapter.



Please introduce yourself at Spring Convention and know that you can contact me and I will try to help you. I look forward to meeting you.  
Larry.hlavacek@gmail.com

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**Report #520 --- Kansas State V.P. Report, Spring. 2024**

**Mike Shepherd, Kansas State V.P.**



Kansas is alive and well with seven active chapters listed below.

Topeka,KS; Capital City Chorus. Chapter President, Joe Silsby  
Chorus rehearsals are Sunday afternoons at 3:00 P.M. at Westside Baptist Church, 4th and Fillmore. Enter on the north side of the building.

Leavenworth, KS. The Cody Choraliers. Chapter President, Bill Krondak  
Chapter meets Monday Night at 7:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 5th and Walnut, Leavenworth, KS 66048. President Krondak writes that their previous director retired but have a couple of new folks auditioning for the role. Annual show is currently planned for [August 17](#).

Manhattan, KS. Little Apple Chorus and Heartland Harmony Chorus. Chapter President, Darrell Parks  
Rehearsals are Thursday 7-9 Church of Christ 2510 Dickens Ave

*Wichita, KS; Air Capital Chorus. President – Paul Nelson  
Rehearsal Status Unknown*

South Central Kansas, KS; Smorgaschorus. Chapter President – Corbin Donovan  
Rehearsals are Monday Evenings (6:45 - 9:15 PM) at Wichita Collegiate High School, 9115 E 13th Street North, Wichita, KS 67206. Group meets in the common area with the entrance on the South Side of the High School.

Hays Chapter; Hays High Plains Chorus. President – Gary Horchem  
The Chapter meets at 7:30 P.M. every Thursday evening at Trinity Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall at the corner of Fort Street and 27th Street, Hays, KS. Please use the entrance on the north side of the church.

Central Kanas, KS; Men In Harmony Chorus. Chapter President – Tal Boese  
Meeting night Thursday 7 to 9 p.m. First Christian Church, enter East door, call for entrance information.

Olathe, KS; Trails West Chorus. Chapter President – Mark Perry  
We meet Tuesdays from 7-9pm at the First Baptist Church of Olathe, 2024 E 151st Street, Olathe, KS.

While the start of this year has been a rocky start with me suffering a Viral Infection that has kept me home sick for the entire month of February, my goal is to meet with each chapter during the year and be available for any needs that arise.



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## **Report #530 --- Missouri/Arkansas V.P. Report, Spring. 2024**

**Michael Bass , Missouri/Arkansas State V.P.**



The state of barbershop in the state of Missouri is fantastic. The “show me state” has done exactly that to close 2023 and we are looking forward to another successful year in 2024. 5 Missouri choruses, featuring 146 singers, crossed the stage at our district convention in Lawrence in October. The Recruits from St. Charles MO were crowned District Champs and punched their ticket to Cleveland along with another MO chorus the Visions of Harmony! Missouri is also proud to claim the 2024 CSD Quartet Champions Tofu Concern! Looking ahead to this summer’s International Convention, on top of being represented by 2 choruses, our 2024 Champion Chorus the Ambassadors of Harmony is sure to make us proud, not to mention 3 quartets in the Varsity Quartet Contest, and who knows what prelims season will bring.

This is my final year in term representing Missouri on the CSD Board and it’s been an absolute honor to do so. I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Please reach out if there is anything I can do for you and your singing community!

Mike Bass

314-308-2261

[Mike.bass@geodis.com](mailto:Mike.bass@geodis.com)

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## **Report #540 --- Nebraska State V.P. Report, Spring. 2024**

**Rick Pape, Nebraska State V.P.**



Fall 2023 Report, submitted October 12, 2023

After my first 10 months as the Nebraska State VP, I have a better understanding of the chapters in the eastern 2/3 of Nebraska. I was able to visit with members of every chapter except Ord, which is on the schedule for sometime in November. I was able to attend several chapter shows, and a few chapter meetings. Only Fremont, Lincoln and Beatrice have shown any interest in attending conventions. Kearney, Hastings, Papillion, and Nebraska City have a nice group of members, but are only interested in being community choruses. Ord and Grand Island have not expanded their membership. Omaha has a small mixed VLQ that does performances around town. Currently, Omaha only has a part-time director.

The Barbershop Harmony Booth at the Nebraska State Fair, which I helped staff for 3 of the 11 days, went very well. Thanks for Fran Wilson of Keraney and multiple members from the Hastings Chapter for organizing the booth. The fair is held in Gand Island, and 1 of the 4 active members of the Grand Island Chapter was there to help man the booth most days of the fair. On average there were 4 to 8 members working the booth every day. We had a lot of great compliments on the booth and fair attendees really enjoyed the entertainment we provided – we

sang multiples songs throughout the building. A lot of literature was handed out for the various chapters in the area. Hopefully we can grow the Nebraska Chapters' membership in the future.

Chapter		23-Feb	23-Oct	Chapter President	
Antelope Valley, NE	A-117	0	0	Jacob (Jake) K Bartlett	402 314-8520
Beatrice, NE	A-100	39	42	Mark D Pinkerton	402 421-8101
Fremont, NE	A-020	48	49	Thomas (Tom) R Westman	
Grand Island, NE	A-005	7	7	Bill D Leslie	308 382-2052
Hastings, NE	A-061	14	13	David (Dave) M Mendyk	402 469-0857
Kearney, NE	A-035	24	22	Ramon G Johnson	308 236-7472
Lincoln, NE	A-060	31	35	Kent L Zimmerman	402 677-3424
McCook, NE (Closed)	A=113	0	0		
Nebraska City, NE	A-001	10	5	Ray VanVoorhis	660 736-4705
Omaha, NE	A-062	13	12	David (Dave) Stock	402 334-2896
Ord, NE	A-024	8	9	Delmer D Dietz	308 730-7587
Papillion, NE	A-101	23	27	Keith A Hammons	402 871-7627
		217	221		

#### CSD Nebraska VP Spring Report 2024

I was able to visit three of the smaller chapters in Nebraska this spring. I performed the installation of new officers for the Hastings chapter on February 19 and visited the Ord chapter the following Monday, February 26. I attended the Nebraska City chapter's spring show on March 2 and saw an amazing guest quartet (Fleet Street) along with several other musical groups.

Currently, Nebraska lists 11 chapters. Out of the 11, two are inactive: Antelope Valley and Grand Island. The other nine chapters have been very active doing shows and performances in their communities and surrounding areas. In 2023, there were 210 active members in these nine chapters. In the spring of 2024, the same nine chapters have 208 active members. Beatrice, Lincoln, Ord, and Papillion each had a net gain. While the other five chapters experienced declines in membership.

The Nebraska State Fair barbershop booth in Grand Island, hosted by the Kearney and Hastings chapters last fall, was a lot of fun. I assisted in staffing the booth for two days. Several members of multiple choruses were also able to staff the booth during this 11-day event. Although it was great fun sharing our hobby with many fairgoers, as a recruiting tool the State Fair barbershop booth has not netted any new members for the surrounding chapters during the past two years. In the fall of 2024, the Lincoln Chorus will be joining with The Shrine of Democracy Chorus of South Dakota and The Rocky Mountain District to do a joint performance at Mount Rushmore (the home of the nation's largest rock quartet).

Rick Pape  
CSD Nebraska State V.P.

## **Report #550 --- South Dakota State V.P. Report, Spring. 2024**

**David Stephenson, South Dakota State V.P.**



### **Mitchell Barbershop Chorus – Mitchell, SD**

The Mitchell Chorus is in a rebuilding phase right now. Much of that going back to the “COVID” days. They are still practicing weekly on Thursday nights with about 6-10 singers present. They have a few new members, which is always good news. There are no plans for a Show for this year, although they are still doing some local singouts. They participated in a Student/Teacher Appreciation Day at their school, and were asked to put on a mini concert for a selected class. That turned out to be a Kindergarten class of about 20 kids. They had a lot of fun in singing to them. They have also been doing some local singouts at Churches and a Women’s Appreciation Meeting. Mitchell has worked hard to maintain their membership status, and is currently at that point. In dealing with some changes in officers, they had some fun dealings with BHS, but got through it.

### **Sioux Emperians – Sioux Falls, SD**

### **Tri-Valley Chorus – Viborg, SD**

Tri-Valley has been very fortunate in maintaining numbers throughout the COVID days and since. We are averaging 16-20 each Monday night for practice, and are putting the finishing touches on songs for our Spring Show, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm. Our featured Quartet will be “Instant Classic”, and our theme this year is “Love Is In The Air”. We have had the privilege to sing for several of the Nursing Homes around the area. One of Quartets, The All Nighters, sang for several ladies for Valentines. They put on several miles in doing so, but had a lot of fun bringing smiles to the ladies faces. This past year some of us attended “The Harmony Happening in the Hills”, in Hill City, SD. We performed on stage at the Mt. Rushmore Amphitheater. More of us are planning to go again this year, Aug. 23-24. We have some younger singers that have been a part of our Chorus this past year, and look forward to watching them grow with us.

### **Glacial Lakes Harmonizers – Watertown, SD**

Glacial Lakes has been fairly active this past year. They sang a 2 Birthday Parties for folks over 100 years of age. They sang the National Anthem at the State Youth Wrestling Tournament for a gathering of several hundred spectators. They sang on Valentines for several ladies and brought smiles to a lot of faces. Practices have averaged 8-9 and have been as high as 12. A couple of new singers, a bass and a baritone have become part of the chorus, and new blood is always welcome and appreciated. They had a sacred song actually arranged for their chorus entitled “Now I Belong To Jesus”, and have had the opportunity to share that music. There are no plans for a Show any time soon, but gladly accept the opportunity to sing at any local events.

### **Acafellas Chorus – Winner, SD**

This group has been struggling and have not been gathering for practice since Christmas. There has been talk among themselves about starting again. They were having 9-10 at practices



before Christmas, but due to some health issues and everyone just being busy, haven't managed to get back together. They hope to be able to put together a few singouts this summer.

Dave Stephenson  
South Dakota State V.P.  
March 17, 2024

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**Report #560 --- District Secretary's Report, Spring. 2024**

**Mark Fuerniss, District Secretary**



Delegates, welcome to the House of Delegates Meeting.

BHS Member Center has added a "Member Connection Tool" which allows you to check on lapsed chapter and chorus members. Also added to the BHS Member Center is a Member Dues Estimator Tool. Check these new features to see if they are helpful to you. Chapter President, Secretary, and Treasurer training tutorials can be found in the Documents Center, search for "Chapter Officer Training" form the Member Center page, <https://members.barbershop.org>.

Upcoming Chapter performances which have been cleared:

May 4, 2024	Manhattan, KS	KSU, Forum Hall	Manhattan, KS
May 11, 2024	St. Louis No. 1, MO	K of C Hall	Desoto, MO
Dec. 7, 2024	St. Louis No. 1, MO	Jefferson College	Hillsboro, MO

Please send BMI/SESAC license, show clearance applications forms (new forms with new rates effective 2/2024) to my current address in Lincoln, NE as show clearance forms and checks sent to other addresses may not get to me. According to the CSD Code of Regulations "No chapter show can be cleared if the date of the show conflicts with a Society or District event." ASCAP Report Forms and checks should be sent to Society office in Nashville at the end of each year or the beginning of the next year after all show receipts have been received.

Mark Fuerniss, CSD Secretary  
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402 310-8846

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## ***Report #570 --- District Treasurer's Report, Spring. 2024***

**Jeff Arians, District Treasurer**



Since I took over as Treasurer for the great Larry Warrick this January, I have been learning non-stop. I've been brought up to speed on the processes and procedures that Larry and the CSD had in place and am actively working to adopt most of them and update only a couple of them. Some of the main Treasurer duties that I have worked on since January 1<sup>st</sup> are:

- Transferred the CSD QuickBooks file from Larry's computer to my own
- Obtained all of the documents/support that Larry had from his tenure
- Opened a checking account, savings account, and a CD at a local bank and transferred the funds from Larry's bank to these new accounts
- Timely reconciled all of these accounts, along with Larry's account, until his was closed
- Taken over the CSD PayPal account
- Co-taught the Treasurer's class at Leadership Academy with Larry
- Used my expertise as a Certified Public Accountant to dive into our financials/clean-up some outstanding items
- Filed Form 1096 and 1099-NEC for the two individuals who required one
- Answered questions relating to taxation and entity formation for quartets

As you can see, I've been busy in these first few months. I cannot wait to take a deeper dive into everything after I have more free time when the tax deadline passes. As always, if anyone ever has questions regarding their chapter or quartet's accounting/taxes, don't hesitate to ask!

Thank you!

Jeff Arians  
CSD Treasurer  
jeffrey.arians@gmail.com

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## ***Report #580 --- Immediate Past President Report, and***

## ***Report #585 --- Nominating Committee Report, Spring. 2024***

**Duane Lawson – Immediate Past President**

With the upcoming Fall Convention, there will be an election for a few positions on the CSD Board of Directors:

- Executive Vice President
- Nebraska State Vice President
- Missouri/ NW Arkansas State Vice President
- South Dakota State Vice President



For Nebraska, Rick Pape will be eligible for a second term. Michael Bass (Missouri/NW Arkansas) and Dave Stephenson (South Dakota) have both served and fulfilled the 2 Consecutive two-year terms.

Matt Suellentrop will move to Immediate Past President and Brett Randolph will run for President.

And last, but not least, we are looking for someone to shadow our District Secretary before the 2026 election. Mark Fuerniss has served the Central States District for many years and has expressed interest in retiring. The position has many details, and our goal is to have someone work with Mark for a year before the transition.

If you or a member of your chapter are interested in a position on the Central States District Board of Directors, please contact me at [tornadoalleybaritone@gmail.com](mailto:tornadoalleybaritone@gmail.com) .

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## ***Report #590 --- Executive Vice President Report, Spring. 2024***

**Brett Randolph, Executive Vice Presiden**



Hello barbershoppers of the Central States District! I hope that you and your chapters are having a great start to 2024 and that the goals and plans you have made to help your chapter have a successful year are going well. If not, please know that you have resources at the District and at Harmony Hall to assist you with your plans. Reach out to your State VP to get you connected to the right people.

I was fortunate enough to facilitate the President's class at the CSD Leadership Academy and was able to share the triumphs and failures of my chapter and provide them with information related to being the Chapter President with those who attended. The ability to connect with barbershoppers from throughout the District is invaluable and I learn so much each time we come together. The members of the Program Administrative Team strive to provide the members of CSD with high quality events to enhance your barbershop experiences. I am very proud of the work that they do and the support that they offer to the chapters and members of CSD. I hope that you will take advantage of these opportunities in the future.

In February, members of the Board and Program Administrative Team met in Kansas City for a retreat. It was a great event and I am in awe of the passion the leaders of CSD have for our members and chapters. They all know how much impact barbershop has had on their lives 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. Brett Randolph Executive Vice President [brett\\_randolph@hotmail.com](mailto:brett_randolph@hotmail.com) 316-371-1269

Brett Randolph  
Executive Vice President  
[brett\\_randolph@hotmail.com](mailto:brett_randolph@hotmail.com)  
316-371-1269

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## ***Report #600 --- District President Report, Spring. 2024***

**Matt Suellentrop, District President**



After missing you all last fall in Lawrence, I'm excited for the upcoming CSD spring convention in Ames!

As always, I want to start by giving a big thanks to our district convention team for their hard work in preparing for this convention. They work extremely hard to work through every little detail to provide a fantastic experience for all of us. I'm excited for us to have a new experience at Ames and I'm sure it will be wonderful.

Already, there have been some fantastic events taken place in CSD this year. Music VP Jeff Veteto put on yet another successful HEP school that showcased both the talents of our quartets and chorus, but also reminded us how fortunate we are to have top-level talent right here in our district serving as our coaches. Our rescheduled Leadership Academy, led by CSLT VP (and former district president) Chad Schuetz, gave some valuable training and information to our chapter leaders to take back home and implement. I highly encourage you to attend the next LA. Whether you are going to be brand new to your position or are a seasoned pro, there is always something to learn!

Like last year, the district board and PAT met for a day to really dig into various topics within CSD and find ways that we can elevate the barbershopping experience for our members. Of course, part of that is hearing from you and what it is that the district leadership can do to assist your chapter. Please feel free to reach out to your State VP or myself with any ideas, concerns or otherwise. We'd love to hear from you!

I'm looking forward to seeing and singing with you all in just a few short weeks.

Here's to a fantastic time in Ames!

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*Where the Harmony Began*