

CSD Fall 2023 Board of Directors Meeting

Double Tree Hotel, Lawrence, KS

Thursday, October 12, 2023, 7 p.m.



Executive Vice President Randolph opened the meeting in the absence of District President Suellentrop at 7:00 p.m. with “The Old Songs”. **A quorum was announced**, with nine out of ten board members present including Treasurer Warrick present via Zoom; President Sullentrop was absent. District Past Presidents in attendance were recognized: Don Fuson, also Society Past President; Chad Schuetz; Duane Lawson, Immediate District Past President; Harvey Kiser; and Mark Erickson. Self Introductions: Brett Randolph, District Executive Vice President; Mark Fuerniss, District Secretary; Mike Bass, Missouri/Arkansas State Vice President; Rick Pape, Nebraska State Vice President; Dave Stephenson, South Dakota State Vice President; Kevin Barker, Kansas State Vice President; Jeff Arians, Iowa State Vice President; Duane Lawson District Past President; Larry Warrick, District Treasurer, via Zoom. Special guest, Perry White, Harmony Foundation International President and CEO.



Treasurer’s Reports by CSD Treasurer Larry Warrick



As a reminder, the Board will vote on whether or not to “receive” the reports after they are presented and only board members are to vote. The Meeting will be conducted according to Robert’s Rules of Order for Small Boards, a second on motions is not required.

The **Financial Report** For the fall includes Spring Convention 2023, Income and Expense as of September 30, 2023, and Balance Sheet as of September 30, 2023. The accounting system is a modified cash basis. We do not actually carry over funds from year-to-year.

- **Spring Convention:** total income was \$13,519.72. We had an unusual expense for microphones that was not budgeted around \$3,200 (\$3,824.50). The end result for the spring convention was minus \$19,962.79. We were short on revenue and had some unexpected expenses that weren’t originally budgeted. We now own microphones for the contests.
- **9 months vs. Budget.** Income from January through September was \$38,754.39. Budget called for \$105,636.00. The expenses were in line with everything that has been going on. None of the fall convention, income or expenses, are being reported yet. The end of the report shows that, January through September, we were in the red \$21,187.65. We should be okay once we put in income and expenses for fall convention. We have not received the third quarter dues, should be around \$7,000. Also have not received Harmony Foundation funds which were around \$4,500 last fall.
- **Balance Sheet** The checking account has \$43,453.84; Money Market account has \$16,932.37; Certificate of Deposit has \$22,278.98. Checking/Savings assets of \$82,665.19. Right now, the district is setting very well financially.

Bass noted the date of the 9 months vs. Budget report is January 1 through September 1, 2021. Should be corrected to September 30, 2023. CSD Festival Budget, Line 8360; did the District provide Joplin

money for the Percy Wenrich/Joplin Sesquicentennial festival in April 2023? \$500 may have been sent to Bobby Grey or Greater Ozarks Chapter in the fall 2022. Warrick will check. Lawson questioned whether the reported \$105,536.00 total income on the 9 months vs Budget Report for an annual amount. Warrick answered that the \$105,536.00 is a 9 months figure. The budget column in the 9 month vs Budget Report is for 9 months. (9/12) of Randolph pointed out the 2023 Budget shows an income of \$116,571. The income on the 9-months vs Budget report does not include any income we might have for the fall convention. **Bass moved to receive the financial report with recommended adjustments. Motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.**

2024 Proposed Budget, as posted on CSD website,

Treasurer Warrick reviewed the **proposed 2024 Budget**. Convention items are figures provided by the Convention Team. Dues income is based on membership numbers in various membership categories, \$28,515. 2023 Actual amount as of August 31 does not include third quarter dues, around \$7,000. Fourth quarter dues does not come in until January or February. Interest income, \$350; Advertising Revenue, \$300; HEP Registrations \$4,100; Leadership Academy, \$2500; Contest recordings, \$1,425; Endowment contributions, \$5,500; Miscellaneous revenue from convention budget, \$5,500. BHS member donations are now put into Harmony Foundation funds. Total Revenue Budget is \$110,075.

Expenses are about the same as we've had before. Convention numbers come from convention team. Put in \$1,000 for the Next Gen chorus going to midwinter. One scholarship was given to Harmony University for a director, \$700. Category school won't come up until 2026. Leadership Academy expenses; \$2,500; HEP School expenses, \$4,100, recording of contestants, \$1.500 per convention; PayPal fees, around \$1,800; Web site is about the same as last year, paid a little extra for setting up the new web site; email service, \$540; Big Screen ad at International, \$180; Nebraska State Fair booth, \$200; \$1,000 miscellaneous expense for an item on the convention budget. This portion of the budget is \$76,112.54 for expenses. Rest of the expenses are Board and PAT member expenses for traveling to conventions. Not knowing arrangements for this year's District planning meeting, \$2,000 expense was left in the budget. The 2024 Proposed Budget is in the black, \$4,636.22. Fuson questioned the assumption of membership at end of 2024. Memberships based on payout of Member Care center. Warrick sorted September 15 District Report by membership categories and calculated according to district dues, less 4%, to arrive at District Dues figure in Proposed Budget. Fuson pointed out these membership numbers could change, either up or down by the end of the year. Would like to know how much actually came in at end of 2022 and 2023. But fourth quarter dues aren't received until January or February of the following year. The four quarter dues are received in different fiscal years. In 2021 we received \$23,683 in dues. In 2022 we received \$26,785 in dues. In 2023, they're showing \$21,838 without the fourth quarter figure. Other questions: Bass said the Kansas City chapter, Heart of America Chorus, is planning on replicating the Joplin event in spring 2025. (No one from Kansas City was aware of this. "Kansas City" later in meeting was corrected to "Joplin".) Should this be in the budget? Until there is clarification, it will not be put in the budget. Motion of the Board would be to move the Proposed Budget to the House of Delegates for approval. **Moton was made to accept the proposed 2024 budget and move Proposed Budget to House of Delegates for approval by Larry Warrick. Motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.**



Song break, Veteto directed, "Hello, Mary Lou".

Other introductions: Eliot Sheff, Des Moines Chapter President, Harmony Delegation Chorus; Doug Brott, CSD Events V.P., Mark Erickson, District Past President, Program Vice President of Fremont, NE Chapter ; Jeff Veteto, CSD Music and Performance V.P.; Harvey Kiser, District Past President; Chad Schuetz, District Past President and Chapter Support and Leadership Training V.P.; Carter Combs, Contest and Judging V.P.; Perry White, President and CEO of Harmony Foundation International; Daryl Schumacher, Black Hawk Metro Chapter and Proud Image Chorus. White said Harmony Foundation checks should be coming out very soon. Delay caused by new operating system. Checks are in the mail.

Approval of Minutes and Consent Calendar, as posted on the CSD website. Correction needed for Executive Vice President’s name. It was suggested that individuals representing chapters at House of Delegates meeting be listed in minutes, as it’s critical for historical purposes. **Fuson moved to approve the minutes of the Spring 2023 Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.**

Consent Calendar was also posted on the CSD website. Randolph reminded the Board that the Consent Calendar is one of a number of ways District Board and PAT can communicate to chapters the activity District. Randolph encouraged Board and PAT members to submit Consent Calendar Reports as part of the responsibilities of their office. **Barker moved to approve the Consent Calendar as posted. Motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.** Fuson expressed disappointment at missing reports including missing reports from the Society CEO and President, demonstrating a lack of appreciation for the communication that should be coming to Districts.

Election of Kansas and Iowa State Vice Presidents; District Secretary and District Treasurer

Lawson reminded the Board that the election of State Vice Presidents is done by the presidents of the respective states. Newly elected Iowa State Vice President is **Larry Hlavacek**, current



president of the Cedar Rapids, IA Chapter. Newly elected Kansas State vice President is **Mike Shepherd**, from the Manhattan, KS Chapter. Fuerniss has agreed to continue as District Secretary and the Nomination Committee




recommends Jeff Arians for District Treasurer. This slate of candidates will be presented to the House of Delegates. Warrick was thanked for his many years of service to the District as District Treasurer. A big thanks to both Warrick and Fuerniss for the time given to the District, its members, and chapters.

State Vice President Reports:

- **Iowa.** Jeff Arians reported he has enjoyed singing on chapter shows. Black Hawk Metro and Mason City have had successful combined shows to sold-out crowds. A lot of the Iowa chapters are dwindling following Covid. There are a lot of young folks singing in Iowa. Vox Infinitus from Des Moines Metro made their debut last spring. Goal next year is to work with Larry Warrick and Larry Hlavacek. Looking forward to working as District Treasurer.
- **Kansas.** Although he will be rolling of as Kansas State V.P., intends to keep working on getting a combined chorus to the Kansas State Fair next year. Proud that the Hays chapter will be here this weekend. Barker was thanked for his service as Kansas Vice President.

- South Dakota.** Dave Stephenson reported that four of the five chapters in South Dakota are struggling. Sioux Falls, Winner, and Mitchell are very small but are hanging on as well as Watertown. Viborg is doing very well. A few members from Sioux Falls are singing with Viborg and Viborg has picked up a few younger members. Eight members from Viborg, three from Sioux Falls and one from Winner attended the [Harmony Happening in the Hills](#). Rapid City Chapter and Shrine of Democracy chorus had 91 singing in the amphitheater at Mount Rushmore. Communication with chapters is a challenge. Most of the chapters meet on the same night. Mitchell meets irregularly and often lacks enough to cover four parts but are active in the community.


- Nebraska.** Rick Pape said Nebraska is doing pretty well. After 10 months he has a better understanding of what is happening in the eastern 2/3 of the state. He has visited 9 of the 10 chapters and attended several chapter shows. He hopes to visit the Ord chapter this fall. Fremont, Lincoln, and Beatrice are the only chapters interested in District conventions. The rest are satisfied with being community choruses. Kearney and Hastings chapters share a lot of members. Grand Island lists 7 members but only 4 actively involved members. After an extensive visit with one of the chapter members, he has a better understanding of why they are not growing. With 5 active members, the Nebraska City Chapter puts on a show with around 24 singers. They struggle with having all the parts covered. Erickson mentioned potential liability issues of “perm-guests” at chapter meetings. Pape suggested combining the best voices from Sweet Adeline Bells A-Peeling chorus with best voices from Apple Corps to form a mixed chorus. Omaha is working under a part-time director. A mixed VLQ performs around the Omaha area. Fran Wilson from the Kearney Chapter put on the barbershop booth at the Nebraska State Fair with the help of the Hastings Chapter. 4 – 8 barbershoppers at the booth; impromptu singing. Several a cappella groups sang at NebraskAppella Day, including a mixed high school chorus from Columbus, directed by barbershopper Jake Ritter. A good way to spread the sound of barbershop at the State Fair. Nebraska had a net increase in four members from spring to fall.
- Missouri-Arkansas** – Discussion about the Joplin/Percy Wenrich/AIC event in Joplin last spring. A CSD event, supported by some CSD people? No report on the event was provided by organizers for informational purposes. Bass said it as a big year for Missouri barbershop with Missouri choruses being represented on the International stage this summer and at Mid Winter. A lot of borderline between content and complacent with a lot of chapters; they don’t know what help they want, what help they need, if they even want help. We need to help chapters ask the right questions and seek the right kind of support. There are a lot of “asks” for help finding members.

Program Administration Team Reports

- History** Lawson is working with Tom Schulein to retrieve historical items still in Tom’s possession and get them digitized, e.g. poster boards documenting CSD history. Suellentrop will help with the digitization. A “retreat”/planning meeting is being considered for early next year, January or February. Suellentrop is going to form a committee to review the District’s Code of Regulations.

- Events** Doug Brott: after the spring convention we changed the convention registration categories in the hopes of encouraging more families to attend. Also hoped to attract non-competing quartets and choruses for coaching; open this up to Harmony, Inc. and Sweet Adelines. No participation with this this fall, will try again next spring. As of this morning we have a little over 550 registrations including 75 “bundles” i.e. member + spouse. And about 37 first-time attendees. A number of walkups is expected. Hays High Plains will be the mic-testers and sing later after the chorus contest as well as a high school chorus from Wichita. We have made an agreement now with an overflow hotel for a block of rooms if needed with no attrition. Currently, we are at the DoubleTree Hotel until 2027. We have a contract and agreements with the KU Board of Regents to use the Lied Center up until that point. We try to get long-term contracts to keep the price down. We have next spring’s convention in **Ames, IA** and if that works, we will set up a long-term contract with them. The headquarters hotel will be the **Gateway Hotel and Convention Center**, the venue is the **Ames City Auditorium**. In response to Erickson’s questions, volunteers that aren’t competing are given complimentary passes to this convention. The few issues with convention rates at the hotel were taken care of. A broken link, new web master, registration system changed from Event Bright to a new system, and different registration classifications caused some challenges.
- Music and Performance.** Jeff Veteto said the **HEP School** is scheduled for February 24, 2024 at Shawnee Presbyterian Church in Shawnee, KS. Six or seven top-tier coaches have been secured.
- Contest and Judging.** Carter Combs referred the Board to his report in the Consent Calendar. Requested that the State V.P.s assist letting chapters know that this is the season that applications for new judges are submitted.
- Chapter Support and Leadership.** Chad Schuetz announced the **Leadership Academy** will take place November 18, 2023 at Shawnee Presbyterian Church, Shawnee, KS. Based on feedback from surveys, a music team course will be added, led by CSD Chorus Director Development V.P. Larry Monson. Plans are to have **Old Shawnee Pizza** for lunch.
- Membership Development.** Don Fuson pointed out that the Consent Calendar should be shared with chapter members.



Harmony Foundation International HFI President and CEO Perry White said he will inform the House of Delegates tomorrow that this year is the 20th anniversary of the President’s Council level for giving to the Foundation at \$1000 and up, and the Lumbard family has come forward with a \$150,000 challenge to match every new President’s Council or Ambassador of Song gift, every increase in these gifts, or every reinstatement of anyone who have fallen away for more than a year. Gifts to these programs support AIC Outreach Program, Power of Harmony Program, and Barbershop Harmony Society programs, e.g. Next Gen programs for quartets and choruses, as well as Harmony University programs. Those gifts are all eligible for Donor’s Choice, where up to 30% of the gift can be returned to a chapter or district. As a result of the settlement with the Society, the District Direct program was discontinued. But the Donor’s Choice was reinstated at the district level. What programs at the District level are promoted by the Donor’s Choice at the district level? What Donor Choice dollars are doing at the District level? Which programs at district level are supported with Donor Choice dollars. Fuson answered, HEP School

coaching for quartets and choruses, scholarship to send a director to Harmony U. White would say to the State V.P.s, encourage the membership in your states to become President's Council or Ambassador of Song members and support the idea of selecting Donors Choice for money coming back to the district or chapters.

Events Brott asked State V.P.s if they are getting the information you need to promote conventions and district events to your chapters. For example, the opportunity for quartet and chorus coaching at the convention at a significantly reduced rate. Is the District giving you the information you need pass along to your chapters? Pape answered that traveling distance and expenses may be a hindrance for some chapters. Lawson added, the upcoming Spring convention would be a great place for a chorus to go to get coaching if they didn't want to compete. Lawson: It's important to get information from the PAT to the State V.P.s to share with their chapters. Sandi Wright, CSD Marketing and Public Relations V.P., is the person to contact to help disseminate information from PAT to State Vice Presidents. Bass suggested a repository of information that needs to be communicated to chapter leaders.

Meeting adjourned with *Keep the Whole World Singing* under direction of Jeff Veteto.

Minutes recorded and submitted by

Mark Fuerniss, Secretary
Central States District

