



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
Lawrence, Kansas
October 11, 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 9/11/2024



Where the Harmony Began



Table of Contents

Reports	3
Report #200 --- CSD Events, Fall, 2024	3
Report #220 --- Contest and Judging, Fall, 2024	4
Report #300 --- Marketing and Public Relations, Fall, 2024	6
Report #330 --- Social Media, Fall, 2024	7
Report #400 --- Music and Performance, HEP School Fall, 2024	7
Report #430 --- Chorus Director Development, Fall, 2024	8
Report #580 --- Chapter Support and Leadership Training, Leadership Academy Fall, 2024	8
Report #470 --- Membership Development, Fall, 2024	9
Report #475 --- Chapter Eternal, Fall, 2024	9
Report #510 --- Iowa State V.P. Report, Fall, 2024	10
Report #520 --- Kansas State V.P. Report, Fall, 2024	11
Report #530 --- Missouri/Arkansas V.P. Report, Fall, 2024	12
Report #540 --- Nebraska State V.P. Report, Fall, 2024	13
Report #550 --- South Dakota State V.P. Report, Fall, 2024	14
Report #560 --- District Secretary's Report, Fall, 2024	15
Report #570 --- District Treasurer's Report, Fall, 2024	16
Report #580 --- Immediate Past President, Nominating Committee Report	17
Report #590 --- Executive Vice President Report, Fall, 2024	17
Report #600 --- District President Report, Fall, 2024	18

Reports

Report #200 --- CSD Events, Fall, 2024

Doug Brott, District Events V.P.



Plans and processes for the 2024 Fall Convention in Lawrence are proceeding well. The Metro Kansas City Chapter will 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. 13 Quartets have already registered along with 8 choruses. The Convention Team has added a number of New Opportunities for all Convention Attendees including Harmony Platoon, Quartet and Chorus Coaching on Friday prior to the Semifinals utilizing the Judges as coaches, a Director’s Roundtable and an EIH Chorus that will be the Mic Tester for the Chorus Contest. A BarberTots room will be available for families with small children at the contest venue in Lawrence.

Look for information for a Fall Leadership Academy to be published soon so that all new leaders for 2025 can get a head start on learning their new jobs.

The 2025 HEP School has been scheduled for February 22, 2025 in Shawnee KS. Look for information soon on the CSD Website.

The Spring 2025 Convention is scheduled for April 10-13, 2025 and will be convened at the Kansas City Airport Hilton Hotel. The hotel will be the Headquarters Hotel and the venue for the quartet Prelims contest. As previously communicated, all chorus contests are now run at the fall convention. The Convention Team is adding numerous other opportunities for Spring including Harmony Platoon, a second HEP School, EIH Chorus, and Director’s College Classes. Watch for more information that will be published by our Marketing Team and on the CSD Website.

Future conventions:

	Spring	Fall
2024		October 11-13, 2024 Lawrence, KS
2025	April 11-13, 2025 Kansas City, MO	October 10-12, 2025 Lawrence, KS
2026	April 24-26, 2026 TBD	Oct 9-11, 2026 Lawrence, KS
2027	April 23-25, 2027 TBC	Oct 8-10, 2027 Lawrence, KS

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

Carter Combs, Contest and Judging V.P.



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

- **SCJC** has begun its 3-year program of new judge training.
 - **CSD** has 4 approved Candidates: **2** Administrative, **2** Musicality.
 - All 4 attended Candidate School this summer, and will now begin practice panels.
- As the quality of Midwinter & International contest competitors continues to improve, to better manage the number of entries the SCJC is gradually increasing the automatic qualifying and minimum required scores. The announced target scores for upcoming contests are listed below.

♪ **BHS Conventions & Contests:**

- **2024**
 - **June 30 – July 7: International @ Cleveland, OH – RESULTS:**
 - NextGen Varsity Quartet Contest
 - 1st place Champions: **Tofu Concern** (2023 CSD District Champs)
 - 8th place: **Chit Chat**
 - 14th place: **Vocal Velocity**
 - 15th place: **Gateway** (2024 CSD Youth Champs)
 - Chorus Contest
 - 1st place Champions: Westminster Chorus, from FWD
 - 9th place: **Visions of Harmony**
 - 13th place: **The Recruits** (2023 CSD District Champs)
 - 24th place: **SmorgasChorus** (2017 CSD District Champs)
 - Open Quartet Contest
 - 1st place Champions: Three and a Half Men, from SUN
 - 14th place: **Fleet Street** (2018 CSD District Champs)
 - 23rd place: **First Class** (2022 CSD District Champs)
 - 48th place: **Spitfire** (2019 CSD District Champs)
- **2025**
 - **January 28 – February 2: Midwinter @ San Antonio, TX**
 - Seniors Chorus – Minimum score = 61%
 - Seniors Quartet – Minimum score = 61%
 - **Ozark Overtones** qualified at our Spring contest, and has been invited to compete.
 - **June 29 – July 6: International @ Denver, CO**
 - Chorus – Qualifying score = 80%. Minimum score = 74%
 - Quartet – Qualifying score = 78%. Minimum score = 76%
- **2026**
 - **January 13 – 18: Midwinter @ Pasadena, CA**

- Seniors Chorus – Minimum score = 63%
 - Seniors Quartet – Minimum score = 63%
- **June 28 – July 5: International @ St Louis, MO**
 - Chorus – Qualifying score = 80%. Minimum score = 74%
 - Quartet – Qualifying score = TBA. Minimum score = TBA
- **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

- **2025**
 - **April 11-13: CSD Spring Convention @ Kansas City, MO**
 - **October 10-12: CSD Fall Convention @ Lawrence, KS**
- **2026**
 - **April 24-26: CSD Spring Convention @ TBD**
 - **October 9-11: CSD Fall Convention @ Lawrence, KS**
- **2027**
 - **April 23-25: CSD Spring Convention @ TBD**
 - **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**
- **Fall Conventions**
 - CSD Leadership (Board, PAT, & Convention Team) has decided that, going forward, we will hold **all** our District-level contests in the Fall, in addition to the Chorus International Prelim, and the Seniors Quartet International Prelim.
- **Spring Convention**
 - We will hold the Quartet International Prelim, and the Seniors Chorus International Prelim in the Spring.
 - This change provides opportunity to offer a wide variety of classes, coaching, Platoons, etc.

Central States District - Contest Calendar

Spring - Effective 2025		Fall - Effective 2024	
Quartet	Chorus	Quartet	Chorus
International . Prelims		International . Prelims	
Quartet Int'l Prelim - [2]	Seniors Chorus Int'l Prelim	Seniors Quartet Int'l Prelim	Chorus Int'l Prelim
District . Contests		District . Contests	
		District Quartet - [2]	District Chorus
		Novice Quartet	District Seniors Chorus
		SuperNovice Quartet	Plateau IV Chorus
		Seniors Quartet	Plateau III Chorus
		SuperSeniors Quartet	Plateau II Chorus
		Youth Quartet	Plateau I Chorus
			VLQ - Very Large Quartet

Contests denoted above by [2] are 2 rounds. All others are 1 round only.

The 10 highest scoring CSD quartets in these 2 contests advance to the Finals round.

♪ / **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

Report #300 --- Marketing and Public Relations, Fall, 2024

Todd Johnson, Marketing and Public Relations V.P.



* **Media Relations Strategy Updates**-We are developing and executing new communication strategies for the entire district to bring current information on events and local communities. Analyzing marketing data and PR campaigns for better performance with website and consistent and concise email campaigns. Restructuring the Serenade edition schedule.

* **Social Media Content Calendar**- Working on making the Serenade, website traffic and social media presence more cohesive and shifting responsibilities to streamline workflow.

* **Convention Event Planning**- Approval of plans for upcoming events from Fall 2024 through Spring 2025 IE: Conventions, community awareness and media engagement...to increase communication with BHS on events media.

The PR and Marketing Team remains committed to continuing consistent growth by implementing strategic communication and marketing initiatives. We will continue to

leverage various channels to build brand awareness, enhance reputation, and achieve our overall objectives.

Report #330 --- Social Media, Fall, 2024

Jim Tanis, Social Media Director



My job is to make social media posts of chapter shows and activities as well as posts of interest to the Central States members of barbershop activities like convention videos and posts.

A challenge is getting enough information to post. I would suggest chapters have someone at their local level create and maintain a social media presence, and keep it updated with current information, shows, events, and contact information. A page that was last updated 2 years ago does you no good.

Remember, to have your event shared on the CSD social media site, you must have it cleared first and then some sort of graphic information shared with me like a poster (in JPG high quality format (not a photo of a poster)) or a Facebook event on your own page that is shareable.

We would love to promote your activities other than shows also. Singouts, special trips, participation in a festival or church service, a special member, anything that would be of interest to the CSD membership.

I would probably want to clear any non show posts with Mark and or Todd first, but we'd love to hear from you.

I'm going to set up a special email address for you to contact me. It's CSDsocialmedia@gmail.com

Report #400 --- Music and Performance, HEP School Fall, 2024

Jeff Veteto, Music & Performance V.P.

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!



We will have a HEP session on Saturday, February 22, 2025 at the Shawnee Presbyterian Church in Shawnee, KS.

From Duane



Report #430 --- Chorus Director Development, Fall, 2024

Larry Monson, CSD Chorus Director Development

During the April Spring Convention, I had the opportunity to connect with several CSD Chorus Directors “face to face”. Although many conversations were brief, it was good to connect.

A few of the directors sang in the POP UP “Mic Tester” Chorus. The Mixed chorus included Board Members, younger quartet members, “older quartet members”, et al., enjoying the “Joy of Singing”.



In May, I had the privilege of conducting the “Cookie Festival Chorus” in Iowa City, which included the Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, Dubuque, and Davenport Chapters with their Musical Directors, as well as guests from Illinois, Wisconsin and Muscatine IA.

For the Fall Convention, A Musical Director’s Round Table discussion is planned featuring Directors from small, medium sized, and larger metro area chapters. The Round Table is open to all. I’ve asked the Panel to be prepared to share responses to questions dealing with music selections, recruiting, music team leadership, et al. Plans for course(s) for Leadership Academy might come from the Round Table. For the Fall Convention, plan on singing in the EIH, Mike Testing Chorus.

Larry

Report #580 --- Chapter Support and Leadership Training, Leadership Academy Fall, 2024

Chad Schuetz, CSLT V.P.

Earlier this year, CSD hosted the Leadership Academy. Given the feedback, and the number of registered participants in the original November timeframe, we will be scheduling this event for early 2025 to best suit our members needs. Be sure to look for additional information regarding this event during the Fall Convention as well as upcoming additions of the Serenade.



One responsibility that should be on your radar is securing your next group of chapter leaders. Your chapter leaders should be selected by **October 15**.

In addition to Leadership Academy, we are also refreshing our Chapter Advocate Program. If YOU, or someone you know, has an interest in supporting chapters in your state, please contact me at chadschuetz@att.net. I’d love to connect with YOU!

Chad Schuetz

Report #470 --- Membership Development, Fall, 2024

Membership Development V.P. , Don Fuson



Chapter Members are the “Lifeblood” of any active chorus, and within CSD, there are all types! Each type must encourage members to become and stay active and help plan the eventual shows and performances during the year.

Right now is the right time for the draft of the 2025 chapter board to think about getting a refreshed view of what the chapter members would like to do in 2025. Same? Different? New Music? Old Music? Outside coaching? More community performances (even if not paid)? And many other thoughts.

The Chapter Membership VP is the driver to keep these thoughts in the mind of the chapter board.

But wait! My chapter does NOT have a Chapter Membership or Chapter Development VP! Then this responsibility falls to . . . yes, the Chapter President! Every chapter looking into being successful in 2025 should fill this role. Only about 40% of CSD chapters have this role defined with a person Our collective goal for 2025 should be 100%.

Training, support, rosters, surveys, asking about member expectation, retention, mentoring, recruitment – these steps are all available from, and supported by, your CSD District Board and Program Administrator Team (PAT).

Moving forward with this stated objective to strengthen chapter memberships should be a common goal for the new year. Let us know what you need some help and let’s start moving in that direction together.

Don Fuson
CSD Membership VP

Report #475 --- Chapter Eternal, Fall, 2024

Mark Fuerniss, District Secretary



Since the Spring Convention, the following names have been added to the CSD Chapter Eternal.

- David Gurwell Iowa City, IA
- *Ron Bromert Des Moines, IA
- Roy Lewis Florissant Valley, MO
- LaRoy Campbell Lincoln, NE
- Ralph Wasik Cedar Rapids, IA
- Joseph Vap Cedar Rapids, IA
- William Dodds Olathe, KS

- Bruce Petersen Lincoln, NE
- Jim Skinner Olathe, KS
- Gordon Coleman Kansas City, MO
- Frank Laska Kansas City, MO
- Clarence Klauer Davenport, IA
- Chris Kinghorn Kansas City, MO

*Ron Bromer was inducted into CSD Chapter Eternal last spring.

Our sincere condolences to the families of these men and their fellow chapter/chorus members.

Send information on deceased members of your chapter to: membership@barbershop.org and to Mark Fuerniss, CSD Secretary, lonniemark@navix.net. The Society has links to obituaries for some of the deceased barbershoppers: <https://www.barbershop.org/in-memoriam>.

Report #510 --- Iowa State V.P. Report, Fall, 2024

Larry Hlavacek, Iowa State V.P.



I have begun visiting each of the Iowa chapters. As of this writing, I have been at six chapters' rehearsals. My plan is to visit each of the remaining chapters before the end of the calendar year. The first chorus I visited was Linn County Metro, Twenty-first Century Vocals. There were about ten people who attended the rehearsal. They have a up-tempo rehearsal and sound pretty good for a small chorus. Monday evenings are a popular meeting night for Iowa chapters. I attended the Mason City River City Chorus in August and rehearsed Christmas songs for two hours. I believe that is the first time in my singing career where I sang Christmas songs in August for the entire rehearsal! I participated in the same thing at the Iowa City Old Capitol Chorus rehearsal two weeks later. The week after the Mason City rehearsal I attended the Des Moines Harmony Delegation. They had a great rehearsal. Since their rehearsal ended shortly after 8:00, I decided to attend the Des Moines Vox Infinitus Taps and Tags monthly gathering. You can see a great write-up in the June 1, 2024, Serenade. The attendees sang a lot of tags and chorus numbers. If you are in the Des Moines area on the third Monday of the month, check out the gathering, you will thoroughly enjoy yourself.

I requested information from each chapter in Iowa to find out if they are attending fall convention, if they are aware of anyone planning on participating in the platoon, scheduled shows, things they need help with, and things they would like me to share. Five choruses responded. Here are some of the things that I have learned:

- Three of the chorus's plan on competing in the fall convention. Two of the three, Cedar Rapids Harmony Hawks and Iowa City Old Capitol Chorus, plan to combine again and compete as a single chorus.
- Three of the choruses know of at least one person who intends on participating in the platoon.
- Des Moines Metro, Vox Infinitus, will be holding a show on October 26, 2024, at Grand View College.
- Iowa City Old Capitol Chorus plans on having a show some time in December.

- Cedar Rapids Harmony Hawks plan on having a show in April 2025.
- Iowa City Old Capitol Chorus' next Cookie Festival is May 1, 2025. (see the August 15, 2024 Serenade for a report on the 2024 Cookie Festival)

Larry.hlavacek@gmail.com



Report #520 --- Kansas State V.P. Report, Fall, 2024

Mike Shepherd, Kansas State V.P.

Consent Calendar
 Kansas Report
 Mike Shepherd
 Kansas VP



Kansas: Harmonizing with Passion and Pride!

Greetings, Barbershop Harmony enthusiasts!

I am thrilled to share that Kansas is thriving with seven vibrant and active chapters. It was an absolute delight to attend the International Convention in Cleveland and witness the incredible performances by the CSD Quartets and Chorus groups. Their talent and dedication once again showcased the excellence of our district.

Having had the privilege to attend numerous Chapter Meetings and Performances, I am consistently amazed by the enthusiasm and professionalism displayed by all the Kansas groups. Each performance is a testament to our shared passion for Barbershop Harmony.

In exciting news, we have launched a new Facebook page dedicated to the Barbershop Harmony community in Kansas. This page is a hub for all eight active chapters across the state, including the Colby chapter, which, despite being associated with a different district due to its proximity to Colorado, remains an integral part of our Barbershop Harmony Society family. Our Facebook page is growing steadily, but we are always eager to welcome new followers. It serves as a platform to share event information, photos, and updates from any Kansas chapter. You can find us by searching for “**Kansas Barbershop Harmony**” on Facebook.

Let’s continue to celebrate our love for Barbershop Harmony and support each other in this melodious journey!

Harmoniously yours,
 Mike Shepherd
 Kansas VP

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

Michael Bass , Missouri/Arkansas State V.P.

Hello CSD!

I am nearing the end of my term as the Missouri and Arkansas VP. It has been an absolute honor to serve the greatest district in the Society since 2016! I know my successor will be a great addition to the CSD team. A quick recap of Cleveland! Missouri/Arkansas were well represented throughout the week of contests. I am very proud to have had Gateway (15th), Chit Chat (8th) and Tofu Concern (Champions!) represent us in the Next Gen contest. Spitfire (48th) First Class (23rd) and Fleet Street (14th) performing in the open contest. Finally The Recruits (13th) and first time competitor Visions of Harmony (9th) rounded out the chorus contest and both joined The Ambassadors of Harmony on stage for their swan set. We also elected 2018 CSD Hall of Fame Inductee Kevin Keller as the next Barbershop Harmony Society President!



Springfield:

- We expect to see all 3 choruses in Lawrence this Fall
- The chapter is preparing for the annual Shrimp boil and Christmas show
- Interested in hosting a youth event in the future once their new Director is oriented
- Leadership feels good that the chapter is in a very healthy place

Florissant Valley

- Meeting weekly with about 1 performance per month
- Share director with *Gentleman of Sound* and collaborate on events
- Preparing for a very busy season, 5 upcoming events!
- Leadership expressed membership challenges with growth and retention. Chorus is open to all genders

Harmony STL

- 2 choruses will represent the chapter in Lawrence
- Preparing for 4 fall shows, a youth day camp, and annual Christmas shows
- Upcoming International trip (BABS)

Columbia

- Working on a membership solution
- Strong numbers are not currently recorded
- Very active, Director was recently featured in a BHS Harmony U testimonial video!

St. Joseph

- Chapter was heavily impacted by covid
- Wishes to remain active and build membership
- The members have sung at few small local events and are active in the community
- Open discussion about EIH opportunities

Mike Bass
314-308-2261
Mike.bass@geodis.com

Report #540 --- Nebraska State V.P. Report, Fall, 2024
Rick Pape, Nebraska State V.P.



2024 Fall Report for State of Nebraska

Typically, during the summer months, attendance is down for weekly practices. The Music Team of the Lincoln chapter chose to change that trend this past spring. The idea the Music Team launched in late spring was to have a mixed chorus of all ages and abilities, with no audition required – “just come sing and have fun”. Each individual who wanted to join this seven-week summer chorus, “Star City Sound,” would need to pay an entry fee to cover the cost of sheet music, access to learning tracks via Groupanizer, and a T-shirt with the Star City Sound logo. Current Lincoln Continental men’s chorus members who wanted to join Star City Sound would need to pay for only their T-shirt.

Weekly practices for Star City Sound began the first week in June. The Directors, Logan Langholdt and Dr. Mary Young, introduced seven brand new SATB songs to the group. People interested in joining Star City Sound could come sing with the group for the first two weeks without financial commitment if they wanted to test the waters. After the first two weeks, singers needed to pay the fee to gain access to Groupanizer. As each week passed, excitement about the group grew via social media and word of mouth, resulting in Star City Sound growing to 64 members. The group contained singers of a wide range of ages, from fourth graders to 80-year-olds who had only sung in a church choir previously.

At the end of the seven-week period, the group put on two free performances in Lincoln. Each performance was filled with excitement and energy, with songs varying from traditional barbershop to jazz, religious, and choral pop. Both performances received standing ovations. Two weeks following the performances, Lincoln’s chapter secretary sent a survey via email to all performers asking if they would be interested in joining such a chorus again next summer. The results were a resounding “YES!”

After the final performance, the directors and some Lincoln chapter members attended Harmony University in Denver. When they returned, the Lincoln chapter resumed regular practices – and noticed some new faces of men who had sung with the summer mixed chorus. All in all, I feel this was a great success, and everyone is looking forward to next summer’s group. As an added benefit, the Omaha chapter’s director and president attended Star City Sound’s final performance. And afterward had a lengthy conversation with Lincoln’s directors to ask for input to grow the Omaha chorus.

Members of the Lincoln chapter traveled to Mt. Rushmore in late August to perform with South Dakota chapters for Harmony in the Hills at the monument on a Saturday evening. There was a

social gathering for all singers and their families Friday evening preceding, which included a quartet contest open to all.

The four chapters in the central part of Nebraska – Kearney, Hastings, Grand Island, and Ord – continue to do regular sing outs at senior centers and churches in their communities. Also, the chapters again staffed a booth at the Nebraska State Fair in Grand Island, which was from August 23 through September 2. The volunteers from these chapters typically try to have all four singing parts represented so they can share our hobby with anyone who will listen. Thanks again Fran Wilson, director of the Kearney chapter, for heading this up for the past several years. The Fremont chapter is planning a chapter reunion this fall for all past members and are inviting one of their favorite coaches, Joe Connelly, to join them for the party.

Omaha and Papillion chapters continue doing individual and joint performances in the Omaha metro area.

Regarding the current membership numbers for the state of Nebraska at the end of August 2024: 7 of the 10 chapters have remained the same. Fremont gained three new members after a very successful guest night that I attended this summer. Beatrice gained one new member, and the Hastings chapter lost one member.

In Harmony,
Rick Pape, CSD NE VP

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

David Stephenson, South Dakota State V.P.

CONSENT CALENDAR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA
FALL CONVENTION 2024



Acafellas Chorus – Winner, SD

This group continues to struggle to get back together. They have had no practices since Christmas. There is hope to start singing again sometime soon.

Glacial Lakes – Watertown, SD

There has been very limited activity this summer for singing. They will most likely do some Christmas Shows, which are a regular part of their performing year. They are without a Director right now, which tends to make practicing difficult. They had talked about trying to put on a Spring Show, but that has slipped away for now.

Mitchell Barbershop Chorus – Mitchell, SD

Mitchell is struggling to get people together to sing on a regular basis, however, they do continue to participate in local events. They continue to maintain their membership status, so hopefully this winter, participation will pick up.

Sioux Emperions – Sioux Falls, SD

The Emperions were really divided with the presence of COVID. They are still struggling with weekly singers. They do keep singing at local events around Sioux Falls. There are not any plans for any type of a Show this year.

Tri-Valley Chorus – Viborg, SD

We are very fortunate in maintaining numbers at our weekly practices on Monday nights, with 16-20 present most nights. We have gained a couple of new voices, which is always appreciated. As always, one of our Quartets went out on Valentines Day and entertained the ladies with songs of love. Many smiles were the result. Our local Food Pantry held a fund raising day with different activities going on throughout a Sunday afternoon. We closed the day with a performance at our church, which resulted in a generous donation to the Food Pantry. We have been working hard the last several weeks preparing for Harmony Happenings in the Hills, which is August 23-24 in Hill City, SD. Approximately 100 Barbershoppers will fill the stage at Mt. Rushmore on Saturday afternoon for a performance. We had 12 attend and participate this year. We had 8 attend last year, and it was a wonderful experience. We are also working on our Spring Show, which will be March 29, 2025. Midtown will be our featured Quartet. Once again, our show will be at 4:00 in the afternoon.

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

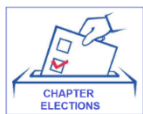
Report #560 --- District Secretary's Report, Fall, 2024

Mark Fuerniss, District Secretary



Welcome delegates to the Fall, 2024 House of Delegates Meeting.

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 your election of chapter leaders, but before December 30, 2024, update new and existing chapter leaders on [BHS Member Center](#), . Chapter presidents and chapter secretaries can download a chapter roster from Member Center. While you have your chapter page on Member Center open, check other chapter information for accuracy. Encourage your chapter members to check their profiles. Members should check to see if they have, by default, “opted” for paperless materials from the Society, including Harmonizer and membership cards. I would encourage all new and returning chapter leaders, especially chapter presidents, chapter secretaries and chapter treasurers to attend the upcoming **Leadership Academy**. Training videos are also available on BHS Member Center, click on the LEARN link on the home page to access Chapter Leader Training.



Continue sending show clearance/BMI & SESAC License applications, with a check, to me at the address listed below. Sending the application elsewhere delays the process. Be sure to use current forms. Forms are available by searching for “clearance forms” on BHS Member Center.

Thanks for devoting time to serve your chapters.

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

Report #570 --- District Treasurer’s Report, Fall, 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 my last update are:

- Timely reconciled all of our bank accounts
- Maintained the CSD PayPal account
- Used my expertise as a Certified Public Accountant to dive into our financials/clean-up some outstanding items
- Prepared the spring convention financial report
- Worked hard with Doug and other board members on the budget for our fall 2024 and spring 2025 convention budgets
- Expense vouchers and bills have been paid in a timely manner with CSD President’s approval
- Battled with the IRS on an issue with a prior Form 990-EZ that was filed for tax year 2021
- Answered questions from our members relating to taxation and entity formation for quartets
- Filed our 2023 Form 990 before the May 15, 2024, deadline

As you can see, I’ve been busy in the last few months. 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

Report #580 --- Immediate Past President, Nominating Committee Report

Duane Lawson – Immediate Past President

Immediate Past President report by Duane Lawson

Since the Spring Convention, my focus has been the CSD Board election during the Fall Convention. I would like to pass on the results as I have at the time of the report, although I am still awaiting results.

For the Missouri/NW Arkansas Vice President, **Mike Bass** will be finishing his second term in 2024. We have received enough votes to announce that **Stephen True**, from the Metro Kansas City, MO chapter will serve as the Missouri/Arkansas Vice President for 2025-2026.



For Nebraska, **Rick Pape** will be finishing his first term in 2024. I am waiting for a few more chapters, but it appears that Rick will run unopposed and serve as the Nebraska Vice President for 2025-2026.

For South Dakota, **David Stephenson** is finishing his second term in 2024. The Nominating Committee has not received a nomination for 2025-2026. If a nomination is not received, there will not be a South Dakota VP named and the CSD President will be charged with appointing one later or the CSD Board will seek another solution.

Matt Suellentrop will automatically transition to Immediate Past President for 2025-2026.

Although, not automatic, the nominating committee will plan to have **Brett Randolph** move from Executive Vice President to District President and this vote will be held at the House of Delegates Meeting.



And last but not least, we will also have a vote for Executive Vice President at the House of Delegates Meeting. The official nomination that the nominating committee has received is **Dan Bodtke**. Dan is a member of the Metro Kansas City, MO chapter.

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.

Report #590 --- Executive Vice President Report, Fall, 2024

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



Ames! A big thanks to the Events Team and the Des Moines Chapter for hosting a wonderful event. I hope to see all of you in Lawrence for our Fall Convention.

In July at the International Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, I attended the Society Board of Directors Meeting where CSD's own Kevin Keller was elected as the President-Elect, Zach Materne of the SWD was elected Executive Vice President-Elect, Maria Christian of the Pioneer District was elected Secretary, Michele Niec of the Southeastern Harmony District and Jeff Wolff of the Central States District were the two At-Large Members elected. That means that five members of the Society Board have ties to the Central States District! CSD was also well represented in both quartet contests and the chorus contest held in Cleveland. Tofu Concern was named as the champions of the Next Generation Varsity Quartet Contest. Chit Chat, Vocal Velocity, and Gateway did excellent and represented the Central States District well. Spitfire, First Class, and Fleet Street gave wonderful performances in the International Quartet Contest. The SmorgasChorus, The Recruits, and Visions of Harmony were amazing and represented the Central States District well. It was a successful week for CSD in Cleveland!

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.

Brett Randolph
Executive Vice President
brett_randolph@hotmail.com
316-371-1269

Report #600 --- District President Report, Fall, 2024

Matt Suellentrop, District President



Time sure does fly when you're having fun! It's hard to believe that this is my last convention as district president. It has surely been an honor to hold this position, and I look forward to supporting the board moving forward.

As always, I want to thank the district events team for all of their hard work preparing for this upcoming convention. It's no small feat, and I know that first hand. We've come to call Lawrence home for our fall conventions, and I appreciate our relationships with the Doubletree and Lied Center for being so accommodating.

So, what's on the horizon for CSD? Many things are in the works, from the revitalized Serenade to a format change for our spring convention in 2025. As you know, all chorus contests have moved to the fall convention with primary spring focus on the spring preliminary quartet contest. This was not an easy decision, but one that I believe is necessary. For a number of years, our

spring convention has been in the red financially, and some sort of change was needed. By having a quartet-only contest, we are able to house everything in the headquarters hotel which eliminates the cost of a larger venue for the choruses and the risers they would need. If you haven't already seen, this event will take place in the Kansas City area, with hopes of bringing in many quartets to the "center" of the district.

As always, we want to make sure that we as district leadership are doing everything we can to support our members in their barbershop experience. And that doesn't look the same for all of us. However you enjoy our hobby, please let us know if we can be of assistance in any way. Whether it's having trouble navigating Member Center to renew your membership or updating your chapter officers, looking for assistance in recruiting a new director or registering for an upcoming contest, we have a team of highly dedicated individuals who are here to support you. So don't be afraid to take advantage of that!

Thanks to all for the support you've lent me over these last two years, and let's sing some tags!

Matt Suellentrop
CSD President

