

**CSD Spring 2024 House of Delegates Meeting**  
**Gateway Hotel, Ames, IA**  
**Friday, April 19, 2024, 12 noon**



*Where the Harmony Began*

**Delegates Present**

- Matt Suellentrop CSD President
- Brett Randolph CSD Executive Vice President
- Duane Lawson CSD Immediate Past President
- Mark Fuerniss CSD Secretary
- Jeff Arians CSD Treasurer
- Larry Hlavacek CSD Iowa State Vice President
- Michael Bass CSD Missouri/Arkansas State Vice President
- Mike Shepherd CSD Kansas State Vice President
- Rick Pape CSD Nebraska State Vice President
- Dave Stephenson CSD South Dakota State Vice President
- Don Fuson CSD Past President
- Chad Schuetz CSD Past President
- Gary Lindsay Cedar Rapids, IA President
- Andrew Wilson Davenport, IA President
- Greg Long Des Moines, IA President
- Mike Dawson Des Moines Metro, IA
- John Donehower Dubuque, IA
- David Keeley Iowa City, IA President
- Wendell Keith Linn County Metro, IA President
- Darrell Parks Manhattan, KS President
- Danny Anderson Kansas City, MO
- John Stockstill Springfield, MO President
- Janet Myers St. Charles, MO
- Andrew Barber Fremont, NE
- Bill Leslie Grand Island, NE President
- Rebecca Stock Omaha, NE President

President Suellentrop welcomed the delegates and guests to Ames and thanking the delegates for taking the time to represent their chapters.



Suellentrop opened the meeting with “The Old Songs” under the direction of Carter Combs. A quorum was confirmed.



President Suellentrop recognized past presidents in attendance, Duane Lawson, Chad Schuetz, and Don Fuson. Also recognized Perry White from Harmony Foundation Inc and Tim Myers from the Society Board. (Also in attendance were past District president John Marshall and past Society president John Donehower.) Self introductions: Matt Suellentrop, District President; Jeff Arians, District Treasurer; Bret Randolph, Executive Vice President; Duane Lawson, Immediate Past President; Mike Shepherd, Kansas Vice President; Rick Pape, Nebraska Vice President; Mike Bass, Missouri/Arkansas Vice President; Larry Hlavacek, Iowa Vice President; Don Fuson, Membership Vice President; Dave Stephenson; South Dakota Vice President; Chad Schuetz, Chapter Support and Leadership Vice President; Mark Fuerniss, District Secretary.

**Invocation and Chapter Eternal:** Randolph gave a brief invocation and Fuerniss read off names to be inducted into the CSD Chapter Eternal:

- Robert Goupel, Topeka, Kansas Chapter
- James Sprout, Algona IA Chapter
- Dennis Brandt, St. Charles and Florissant Valley, MO Chapters
- 'Chuck' Erling Nerem, Fort Dodge, IA Chapter
- W. Robert Hedgcock, St. Charles, MO Chapter
- Jace Hicok, Black Hawk Metro, IA Chapter
- Tim Kezar, Black Hawk Metro, IA Chapter
- Wayne Bailey, Manhattan, KS
- James Cuningham, Fremont, NE Chapter
- Michael Niebaum, Fremont, NE Chapter
- Sharon Ocker, Sioux City, IA Chapter
- Larry Bass, Leavenworth, KS Chapter
- Dale Comer, Lincoln & Fremont, NE Chapters
- Jack Bussell, Kansas City, MO Chapter
- Jon deNeui, Elkader and Dubuque, IA Chapters
- Ken Kritner, Lincoln, NE Chapter
- George Lee Lambert, St. Charles, MO Chapter
- Thomas Andersen, Algona, IA Chapter
- Herbert Roeser, Grand Island, Hastings, and Kearney, NE Chapters
- Buster Baster, Papillion, NE Chapter
- Roger Hibbs, Topeka, KS Chapter
- Edward Mutch, Papillion, NE Chapter
- Norman Chambers, Algona, IA Chapter
- Tom Stott, Davenport, IA Chapter
- Robert 'Barney' Alleman, Des Moines, IA
- Ray Brown, Fremont and Lincoln, NE , Denison, IA Chapters
- Jerry Leslie, Fremont, NE and Sioux City, IA Chapters
- David Marti, Kansas City MO Chapter
- Dwight LeMar Elliott, Topeka, KS Chapter
- Ron Bromert, Atlantic and Des Moines, IA Chapters

James Cunningham and Michael Niebaum from the Fremont, Ne Chapter were inducted into the CSD Chapter Eternal in the fall of 2024.



### Treasurer's Reports, CSD Treasurer Jeff Arians

The **Financial Report** for spring 2024 includes 2023 Statement of Financial Position (formerly known as the Balance Sheet), 2023 Statement of Activities, 2023 Budget vs Actual, and 2024 HEP School & Leadership Academy Results.



- **Statement of Financial Position;** This report shows a comparison between 2023 and 2022. The negative amount in checking (Line 1010) shows the withdrawal from Warrick's bank account to Arian's account. Overall, the cash went down around \$900. There are things on the balance sheet that the Board has given Arians approval to clean up. Convention funding advances (Line 1310), \$3,000, will be cleaned up. These were non-refundable deposits for Prairie Meadows for Fall of 2020 Convention that was cancelled because of Covid, and a \$2,000 non-refundable deposit to the Wichita Orpheum. Also going to clean up the Equity section. Arians has to go through the temporary restricted funds. There needs to be a journal entry at the end of each year to allocate the profits and losses throughout the respective funds.
- **Statement of Activities** (former Profit and Loss) A two-year comparison between 2022 and 2023. Most of the numbers are pretty consistent. Total Income went down from around \$84,000 to \$80,681.02 in 2023, an unwanted trend recently. In the expense section, a lot of things are very consistent. Judging expenses went up about \$5,000 with travel costs and everything else going up these days. Line 8300, Travel, had a decrease of about \$10,000 in 2023. In 2022 we did not meet our hotel quota in Wichita so had a \$5,000-6,000 expense for the spring convention. 8400 Section: we had Category School expenses in 2023 which we did not have in 2022. This happens every three years. We ended up in the **red** \$9264.52. A little bit better than in 2022 when we were in the **red** \$11,056.27.
- **Budget vs Actual.** Will work with Brott to get a closer Convention budget for 2025. We were off on revenue for the Fall 2023 convention. Budgeted \$44,000 for District Convention and had actual \$28,000. Will work together to get better budget numbers for next year. Budgeted for \$112,000 for revenue and actually took in \$80,681.02 for 2023. Already talked about judges' expenses so that's why that number is way off. The rest of the numbers were pretty close to the budget, within reason. Total budget was in the **black** \$2650.45 but ended in the **red** \$9,264.52. Hopefully, working with Brott, we can get a better budget, closer numbers, for 2025.
- **Statement of Activities by Class** is a breakdown of activities that we do. Both the HEP School and Leadership Academy ended up in the **black**. HEP School made \$99.75; Leadership Academy made \$249.38. (Missing the \$100 rent deposit made in 2023.) Not only did we enrich lives with education, we made a little extra money.

**John Marshall moved that we accept the Financial Report pending audit. No opposition. Motion carried.**

**The Consent Calendar and as well as Minutes of Fall 2023 Meetings** have been posted on the District website. No comments on Consent Calendar nor minutes. **Mike Bass moved to accept the Fall 2023 House of Delegates minutes as posted. No opposition. Motion passed.**  
**Motion to accept the Consent Calendar made by Duane Lawson. No opposition. Motion passed.**

**Code of Regulations** updates; Matt Suellentrop, Brett Randolph, Duane Lawson, Mark Erikson and Mark Fuerniss

Randolph reported the team has reviewed the current Code of Regulation, referencing the Bylaws and Convention Manual and Operations Manual as to where the different components of the code are referenced and plan to generalize the language in the Code of Regulations and refer to policy documents in the Operations Manual and Convention Manual so a small change in the Code of Regulations would not require a vote of the House of Delegates, e.g. a change in District Dues. Hope to have something to bring to the House of Delegates in October.

**Events Update.** Doug Brott, Events V.P

Hotel team in Ames have been great to work with; venue team proving to be equally so. As of yesterday, we had 180 paid registrations, close to half of what we had hoped to have for this convention. We are in Lawrence, KS for fall conventions through 2027, using the same hotel and Lied Center. We don't have anything planned for Spring after this weekend. We have the dates but not locations. Attendance and chorus participation at Spring Conventions have continued to decrease over time. That and changes made by the Society in how quartets qualify for International, no longer does the district champion get an automatic invitation to the International Contests, rather whatever chorus reaches a minimum score is eligible to go to International. No longer a District competition. Our plateau system is now based on the number of people on stage rather than the size of the chapter. Change in structure of our vocal contests. Move all chorus competition to the fall with the exception of Senior chorus wanting to qualify for the Mid-Winter, International Seniors Chorus competition. All choruses would compete in the fall. The Spring Convention would be just a quartet contest with one or two senior's choruses. This would hopefully encourage choruses to come to the fall convention, and reduce some of our expenses for a theater in the spring; doing everything in the hotel. Might allow us to combine spring convention with HEP school, utilizing judges as coaches, and encourage non-competing quartets and choruses to come for coaching, as has been offered the last few conventions. Brott is looking for feedback. Perhaps have quartet semi-finals and finals on Friday and have a festival, brigade, etc., on Saturday.

Choruses and quartets don't have to be competing to come and sing. Choruses and quartets can come for score and feedback only. They do not have to be in the competition. Can come for coaching. We have been adjusting registration categories to encourage more people and to come to conventions. Trying to encourage more families to come. It was pointed out there is no registration category for a non-barbershopper that wants to come to the entire convention or separate events. Changed from Event Bright to Cara last fall and need to work some bugs out. Only choruses that would come in the Spring are choruses that want to come for coaching or for the Seniors Chorus coming to sing to qualify for Mid-Winter. We could accommodate them on risers in the ballroom. Frustrating that chapters aren't aware that coaching is available as it has been announced on District media. Brott has been working with Marketing and P.R. to get the information out. Chorus and quartet coaching is just for non-competing choruses and quartets. Judges in the spring are outside the time frame and would not be judging at International. Donehower noted that another district moved all the choruses to the fall in a cost-effective effort and eventually just have one convention in the fall. A quartet can pretty much go almost anywhere to qualify for International in the spring. Have we considered jumping this intermediate step and going straight to a single convention in the fall? This doubled the size of their fall convention and created a lot of excitement. Brott responded that we have over 20 quartets competing in the spring the last 10 years. Getting quartets to the spring convention has not been an issue.

Brott said the idea is to try to keep conventions in the central corridor of the district to lessen travel costs. Can save on hotel contracts with multiple-year contracts.

**Song Break** Monson directed "Sweet and Lovely".



Suellentrop threw out that perhaps it's time to think about a new District logo. Is this something we might be interested in?

### **Highlight from PAT Reports**

**Contest and Judging** Randolph reported that we are in the midst of the candidate phase of Candidate School. We have seven applicants, two in administrative category, three in the musicality category, one in singing, and one in performance. BHS has reduced the minimum number of performers on stage to nine from 12. We have adjusted our plateau levels to accommodate this. Quartet qualifying score for International has risen to 78.

**Music and Performance**, 80 individuals came and received coaching at HEP School. This investment has resulted in higher level quartets in our district.

**Chorus Director Development**, Monson has been helping chapters in Iowa and Nebraska improve their directing techniques and helping chapters find directors.

**Chapter Support and Leadership Training** reported there were 28 registrants at Leadership Academy and was a successful endeavor nonetheless. Monson provided some music training and singing for the participants.

**Membership**, Fuson reported that BHS has adjusted membership cards. The back of the card has been redesigned. If you have a chapter member that has not received their membership renewal card, contact your chapter or district secretary. Or reach out to Fuson, or Society Customer Service. If the credit/debit card you use to pay for your membership expires, the Society will not reach out to you. Be sure your credit/debit card is active. You should get an email from Society saying your dues are about to expire. Be sure your email is active. Members can update their BHS Member Center profiles. Chapter Membership V.P. can monitor their chapter roster to see whose dues are about to expire.

**Historian**. Lawson reported that although the District no longer has a historian, the history boards are being digitized and can be put on the District website. Marshall pointed out that without a Historian there will be no one to nag the presidents to put together a history board. How is present history going to be recorded for the future? [ISSUU](#) website could be used to store materials.

**Nominating Report**, Duane Lawson reported that he will be reaching out to the chapters for State V.P. nominations. Suellentrop will be Immediate Past President, Randolph will be running for president; Missouri and Northwest Arkansas will be looking to replace Mike Bass who has completed his two, two-year terms. Rick Pape is eligible for another two-year term as Nebraska State V.P., Stephenson in South Dakota has completed his two terms. We will be looking for an Executive Vice President. Looking for someone to replace Fuerniss as District Secretary in 2026-2027.

### **State V.P. Reports**

Suellentrop reiterated that the House that the state V.P.s are here to serve the chapters. State V.P.s are the chapters' first point of contact with the District Board.

**Kansas. Shepherd** reported that Kansas is alive and well, switching over from a brown state to a green state. Wants to establish a line of communication with chapters. Try to make it to a chapter meeting once or twice a year and their chapter show. Most of the chapters are happy with what they are doing.

**Nebraska. Pape** reported that Nebraska is doing pretty well, growing slightly. Visited the Ord, Chapter, always eager to sing at senior centers in the area. Attended the Nebraska City show with a wide variety of community groups. Number one goal is to encourage smaller chorus to attend the convention in Lawrence. Identify their main hurdle for not coming to the convention in the fall. The second goal is to make sure all chapters have a social media presence. Fremont chapter wants to have a Pathfinder Invitational on August 23 with quartet coaching on the 24; a

judging and coaching opportunity prior to the fall convention. Free attendance for high school and college vocal groups. Hope to establish a Labor Day Jamboree.

**South Dakota. Dave Stephenson.** Four of the five chapters in South Dakota are still struggling since COVID. There has been a little bit of growth in a few of them. Watertown plans to put on a show next year. Viborg Chapter, Tri-Valley chorus is doing very well. Members of three of the other chapters attended the Viborg show. Watertown participated in the afterglow. There is hope.

**Michael Bass, Missouri/Arkansas.** Success all across the state. Chapters represented at conventions, spring, fall, and international. Stay on the right side of content and not drift into complacent. Want to make sure chapters know District is here for them 365 days of the year. Contact information is in the Consent Calendar.

**Larry Hlavacek, Iowa.** Learning about chapters/choruses in Iowa. Attended the Davenport/Muscatine combined show as well as the Mason City/Blackhawk Metro shows. Five members have been added to the Iowa City chapter this calendar year.

### Special Guest Addresses.

**Harmony Foundation International Perry White, CEO.**



Representatives from HF visit chapter all over the country at least twice a year. Sensing growing positivity. CSD was well represented, and rewarded, at Mid-Winter in New York. HF



Kicked off a campaign for the NextGen program at Mid-Winter, Tyler Wigginton as point-guard. Later a program for Harmony University in mid-July will be announced. AIC Outreach program introduces barbershop to students and their teachers. Eleven programs scheduled for 2024. Scheduling has begun for 2025 and 2026. At the end of the year over 7500 students and their teachers will have been engaged in the AIC Outreach program. 'Need donors to follow the interest in this program. Power of Harmony, an anti-recidivism program, taking barbershop music into youth incarceration centers. Launched in Ohio, and fully functional in all three facilities in Ohio; fully functional in Gainesville, Texas with the assistance of the Vocal Majority. But those that give to President's Council and Ambassadors of Song support all of those programs.

This is the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of President's Council. 2024 President's Council donors will receive a celebratory artwork created by Collin Drown. New Ambassador of Song or President's Council member will receive a I love Barbershop pin during the convention. Board of Trustees has affirmed our strategic map for the next five years, stressing three themes: be donor-centric, be a model organization, and be fiscally responsible, with objectives for each theme. White asked us to look at these objectives and provide feedback.

Ambassadors of Song and President’s Council are “Donor Choice” programs which allow some of your donations to come back to your chapter and district. Encourage members of your chapters to become members of the Foundation, President’s Council or Ambassadors of Song donors, and to choose the Donor’s Choice option.

**Tim Myers, BHS Society Board Member** Starting this past January, the Society Board went through a major strategic adjustment, focusing more heavily on the strategy of how we enable what we do, the art form and membership participation. Have been partnering with BPC and Harmony Hall to create a more unified leadership across the organization. Most visible result was changes in membership cards. Statements of affirmation changed the canons of the Society Code of Ethics, ten statements that describe who we are and what we do. The Society Board is taking a stronger look at our Mission and Vision and our strategy to achieve it. Vision is still “Everyone In Harmony” but how do we do that with our members and our participation and the art form. Ensuring the three main leadership groups of the Society are working in harmony. Invited the delegates to the Town Hall following the House of Delegates meeting.



With that being said, and with no other items from the floor, President Suellentrop entertained a motion to adjourn. Donehower made the motion to adjourn. No opposition. Adjourned with “Keep the Whole World Singing” 1:35 pm.



Minutes recorded and compiled by Mark Fuerniss  
CSD Secretary



*Where the Harmony Began*