

CSD Fall 2024 House of Delegates Meeting

DoubleTree Hotel, Lawrence, KS

Friday October 11, 2024, 10 a.m.



Where the Harmony Began



President Suellentrop opened the meeting in the absence of District President Suellentrop at 10 a.m. with a **quorum** and “The Old Songs”. Past District Presidents were recognized: Duane Lawson, Don Fuson, Harvey Kiser, Chad Schuetz, John Marshall, and Mark Erikson. Special



guests, Society Board Member Tim Myers, Singing Community Program Manager Dan Rohovit, and Harmony Foundation President Perry White. Robert’s Rules of Order for Small Boards will be used for the House of Delegates meeting.

Delegates Present

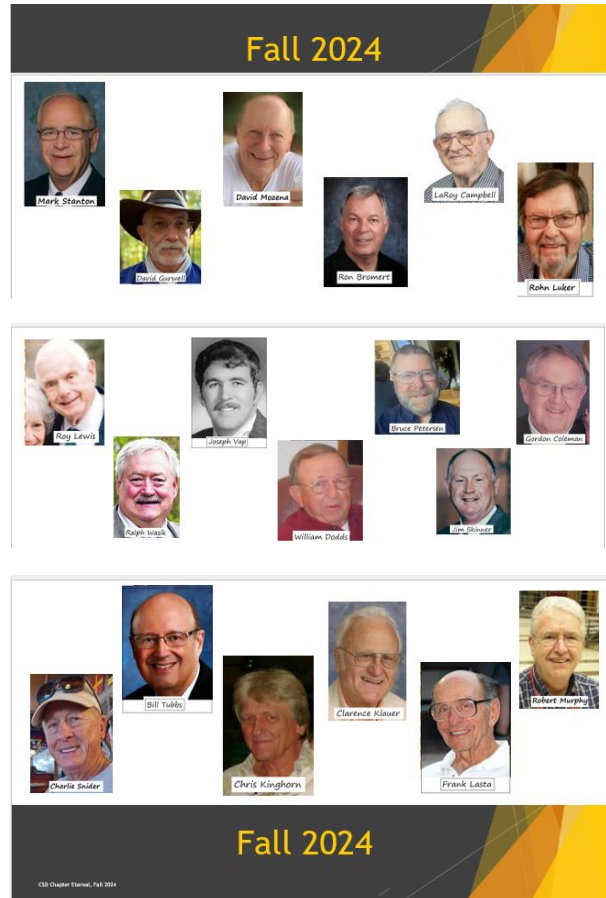
- Matt Suellentrop CSD President
- Brett Randolph CSD Executive Vice President
- Duane Lawson CSD Immediate Past President
- Mark Fuerniss CSD Secretary
- Jeff Arians CSD Treasurer
- Larry Hlavacek CSD Iowa State Vice President
- Michael Bass CSD Missouri/Arkansas State Vice President
- Mike Shepherd CSD Kansas State Vice President
- Rick Pape CSD Nebraska State Vice President
- John Marshall CSD Past President
- Don Fuson CSD Past President
- Harvey Kiser CSD Past President
- Mark Erikson CSD Past President
- Chad Schuetz CSD Past President
- J.P. Marshall Iowa City, IA
- Roger Day Hays, KS
- Darrell Parks Manhattan, KS President
- Joe Silsby Topeka, KS President
- Mike Shumacher Kansas City, MO President
- Brian Smith Springfield, MO
- Janet Myers St. Charles, MO
- Darryl Hollie Beatrice, NE
- Bill Leslie Grand Island, NE President
- Rebecca Stock Omaha, NE President
- Keith Hammons Papillion, NE President



Executive V.P. Randolph offered a brief invocation and Secretary Fuerniss presented the Fall 2024 inductees of the CSD Chater Eternal.

Fall 2024 Chapter Eternal

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Mark Stanton | Mason City, IA |
| David Mozena | Iowa City, IA |
| David Gurwell | Iowa City, IA |
| Roy Lewis | Florissant Valley, MO |
| LaRoy Campbell | Lincoln, NE |
| Ronald Luker | Mason City, IA |
| Ralph Wasik | Cedar Rapids, IA |
| Joseph Vap | Cedar Rapids, IA |
| William Dodds | Olathe, KS |
| Bruce Petersen | Lincoln, NE |
| Jim Skinner | Olate, KS |
| Gordon Coleman | Kansas City, MO |
| Charles Snider | Springfield, MO |
| Frank Lasta | Kansas City, MO |
| Clarence Klauer | Davenport, IA |
| Christopher Kinghorn | Kansas City, MO |
| William Tubbs | Davenport, IA |
| Robert Murphy | Kansas City, MO |
| Also | |
| Richard Timmerman | Beatrice, NE |



Financial Reports by CSD Treasurer Jeff Arians

Treasurer Jeff Arians reviewed the financial reports which can be found on the [District web site](https://singcsd.com), <https://singcsd.com>.



- **Statement of Financial Position** (Balance Sheet in the “for profit” world) states our assets, liabilities & equity. The Central States District does not have any liability. Our assets is our cash and liquid accounts, checking account, savings account and CD. Total is just over \$100,000, last year total was about \$85,000. The prepaid convention deposit (Line 1315), \$870, is for our spring convention. The equity section is what we have accumulated over the years: Operating Fund and Temporarily Restricted Funds, and Permanent Restricted Funds, which are gone.
- **Statement of Activities** (Profit and Loss) Our cash are amounts are a little higher than last year because of a timing issue. The second line shows we have \$26,000 income for the fall convention.
- Paid registrations go to our Pay-Pal account; then transferred to our bank account. Our checking account was down to around \$6,000 or \$7,000 and we had some bigger checks to write, so some money was taken out of the Pay Pal account before we did last year, a timing issue, so last year



as of September 30 there is no fall income because it was pulled after the convention but this year ¾ of it pulled out now so we could pay our Leid Center bills, etc. So at the moment the bottom line is in the black, but will be in the red once expenses come for the fall convention. The next report will explain why. Net Income shows us in the black \$6,442.26 at the moment, basically the ~\$20,000 income with no fall expenses besides Leid Center deposit. Once we get all our fall expenses we'll likely go back into the red. Reason for that, if we go to the next report . .

- **Statement of Activities – Spring Convention.** We had an extremely large loss in Ames, \$17,334.06 from the Spring Convention. We budgeted for a larger income from registrations. Realized just over \$12,000 income when we budgeted for over \$20,000. Hopefully the changes we're making for spring 2025 will help mitigate some of these losses. With a more central location, hopefully we'll get more attendance and more registrations.
- **Budget vs Actual.** You'll see we budgeted \$21,000+ for Spring Convention (Line 5111, \$21,350) and actual was \$11,875 for Registrations. The middle column is for the entire year, the first column is really January through September 30, 2024. Far right column shows the over/under for the year. Total income budgeted for the year was \$110,375, and we're currently at \$67,641.90, well below the budget. All the money we bring in this weekend hasn't been recorded yet. Hard to compare expenses as all of our fall expenses haven't occurred yet. Currently we're showing in the black but don't expect that we'll end up in the black due to the large loss we had in the Spring.

Suellentrop asked for a **motion to receive the financial report.** Fuson moved to receive the financial report as presented. No discussion. **Motion approved unanimously with a voice vote.**

2025 Proposed Budget. We worked hard to get a more realistic budget, less inflated on the income side. Our attendance numbers have dropped significantly post pandemic. We're making changes to hopefully get attendance numbers back to where they were. We've talked about raising registrations or dues which haven't been raised since 2018. Since we raised registrations this year, we didn't think we should raise registrations in 2025 but to raise dues \$5 in 2025. This budget does include a \$5 increase in dues for everybody. The numbers in the budget come from the convention budget and Leadership Academy and HEP School. **Gift Revenue**, (Line 5820) which will be changed to Grand Revenue, from two grants we receive from Lawrence, \$7,250. In Expenses, **Donations to Other Orgs**, \$3,000, (Line 7020) is the amount given to convention host chapters, \$1,500 per convention. They will get a little extra if we show a profit. The other expenses are typical. **Historian**, line 8180, we budgeted \$1,500. The District has a large amount of video archives we want to get digitized. Recently we've had a board planning meeting at the beginning of the year, so there is an expense of \$1,000 for **Board Planning Meeting** (Line 8340). There is a new line item (line 8496) for **Iowa Directors/HEP Event**, \$1,000, (Line 8496). Lawson said a choral directors' coaching opportunity is planned for Saturday, August 23, 2025, in Des Moines with *Vox Infinitus*. And we'll have coaching opportunities for choruses and quartets. Looking at other income and expenses, budgeted \$1,500 income from **Endowed Fund Contributions** (Line 4010), money we get from Harmony Foundation. Budgeted \$1,000 for **Junior Quartets/Chorus** (Line 8333) as a travel stipend to MidWinter just as would for any other choruses that qualify for International competitions. The budget for 2025 is slightly in the black, \$1,225.

Suellentrop asked for a motion to approve the 2025 Budget as presented. Marshall asked for clarification that approval of the budget includes approval of the \$5 increase in dues. Fuerniss received clarification that regular dues would be increased \$5; youth, senior, and 50+ members would receive the current discounts, 50% for youth and senior, and 100% for 50+ members. Marshall **moved that we approve the 2025 Budget as presented.** Motion seconded by Schuetz. Fuson asked that the assumption of increased attendance in 2025 be repeated. How the district is going to get members that have not attended to attend, impacting income. Suellentrop responded several different changes have been considered to increase attendance. Going to the format of quartet contests and senior chorus in the spring and chorus contests in the fall. This change must be marketed to our members. WE will have a new Marketing V.P. next year. Emphasis as to what we can do differently. Randolph encouraged chapter representatives to share information with their chapters. These changes are indirect responses to feedback provided from a survey taken last year, what would the district need to offer to get members to a convention. In addition to our own talented coaches we'll have access to judges outside our district during the convention weekend for coaching. A lot of the dissemination of information falls on the state V.P.s. What we were doing at spring conventions wasn't working, we were losing money. We don't want to have to eliminate the Spring convention. If we continue in the trend, that will be an option the leadership team may have to consider. Making an effort to have more non-competitive events. Randolph added at Spring 2025 Convention, the quartet contest and chorus contest will all be on Friday. There will be classes available Friday morning. All day Saturday there will be all choruses, quartets, members of the district will get their feedback sessions as well as participate in music education classes, leadership classes, like a mini- Harmony College. Contests on Friday; feedback and learning on Saturday. **Motion to approve the 2025 Budget as presented passed with a unanimous voice vote.**

Approval of minutes of **Spring 2024 HOD meeting and Consent Calendar** as posted on CSD website (<https://singcsd.com>) Fuerniss stated footer on House of Delegates minutes should read "CSD House of Delegates Minutes". Pape moved to receive minutes and Consent Calendar as posted, with the correction. **Motion to receive the House of Delegates minutes and Consent Calendar passed with a unanimous voice vote.**

Election of Missouri/Arkansas, Nebraska and South Dakota State Vice Presidents.

Immediate Past President Lawson reported elections of 2025-2026 state vice presidents of Missouri/Arkansas, Nebraska and South Dakota were conducted by the respective state vice presidents. **Mike Bass** is completing his second two-year term as Missouri/Arkansas Vice President. Chapter Presidents in Missouri and Greater Ozarks, AR elected **Stephen True** as Missouri/Arkansas State Vice President. **Rick Pape** is finishing his first term, eligible for a second term, has been voted in for a second term. **Dave Stephenson** is finishing his second term as South Dakota State Vice President. Did not receive a nomination for a South Dakota Vice president. The South Dakota State Vice President can be appointed by the to-be-elected District President. We will



have elections for District President and Executive Vice President. **Matt Suellentrop** will be moving on to Immediate Past President. Nominating Committee presents **Brett Randolph** as District President and **Dan Bodtke** as Executive Vice President. Lawson asked for a motion to elect Brett Randolph as District President and Dan Bodtke as District Executive Vice President. Motion made by Mike Schumacher. **Motion to elect Brett Randolph as District President and Dan Bodtke as District Executive Vice President passed with a unanimous voice vote.**

Highlights of the Program Administration Team.

Executive Vice President Randolph summarized:



Membership, Don Fuson. Looking at problems Members Center is having, specifically with membership card renewals, expiration of credit card notifications, and assisting chapters in that process.

Events, Doug Brott reported last night that we have 537 registrants for the convention. Hope to have close to 600 by the end of the weekend with single registrations. Something new, there is a Harmony Platoon at this convention. A Harmony Platoon will be offered again at the Spring 25 Convention. We are fortunate to be getting some grants from the Lawrence Visitors Bureau and Transient Tax Program through the City of Lawrence. We will be looking at some additional grants to help offset our expenses for future conventions. Send grant leads to Randolph.

Music and Performance. Duane Lawson. Aa HEP School is planned for February 22, 2025 in Kansas City (Shawnee, KS). Choruses and quartets can come and receive coaching. More information will be forthcoming.

Chapter Support and Leadership Training. Chad Schuetz. Leadership Academy is scheduled for January 11, 2025, also in Kansas City (Shawnee, KS). This particular LA is being marketed for first time chapter presidents, secretaries and treasurers.

Suellentrop added that we have a handful of **candidate judges** from our district receiving training. In addition to Randolph (South Central Kansas), Kelby Cluck (Metro Kansas City) for Contest Administration candidates, Matt Weber (South Central Kansas) and Keegan Eich (St. Charles) are Musicality candidates. (36:37)

State V.P. Reports.

Mike Shepherd, Kansas. Welcome to Kansas! Kansas chapters are doing well. Visted every chapter, at a chapter meeting or chapter shows. They are doing an outstanding jobs. Created a [Kansas Barbershop Harmony](#) Facebook page for Kansas chapters and barbershoppers to share information.



Larry Hlavacek, Iowa. While visiting chapters in Iowa, first time I've gone to a chapter rehearsal in August and only sung Christmas music. Specia kudos to the **Sioux City Chapter, Siouxlanders Chorus** for taking advantage of the Harmony Platoon opportunity this weekend. **Fort Dodge Chapter**, a struggling small chapter with three or four members found some barbershoppers in nearby Humboldt and a director from Humboldt High School who would work with them in November



Michael Bass, Missouri/Arkansas, Great success in Cleveland. Most of the chapters are represented in the Consent Calendar report. A couple chapters are being rediscovered, working with them to get them back in good standing.



Rick Pape, Nebraska. Encouraged with seeing what is going on with Nebraska chapters. We have some very healthy chapters. **Fremont** and **Pathfinder Chorus** is



growing. **Scott Spilker** with **Beatrice** has the **Homestead Harmonizers** singing very well and is growing. The **Lincoln Chapter** is starting to grow again with the addition of some college students that have connections with our young directors. Chapters in western Nebraska are holding their own. Goal next year is to encourage chapters out west to participate in conventions. **Fremont** and **Beatrice** are here. **Lincoln** will be here next fall. Need to get in front of each chapter and sell the conventions. Why do they not want to come? Bill Leslie, director of the Conestoga Chorus of the **Grand Island Chapter** is here. **Omaha's Heartland Harmonizers Chorus** has become a mixes chorus with a director, Mathan Mrkvicka. Hope to keep membership grown in Nebraska.

Song Break. Erikson directed "Sweet and Lovely".



Google Tools

Suellentrop informed us that as a non-profit, Google has some discounted services that will help up improve our mission and goals that the Board is looking into.

Code of Regulations Revision updates.



Past President Erikson presented an update on a review of the CSD Code of Regulations that a team comprised of Suellentrop, Randolph, Lawson, Erikson and Fuerniss, have been working on. Erikson reminded us that there are four basic governance documents. The Society Bylaws were updated a couple years ago primarily to embrace "Everyone In Harmony". In 2022 the Board and House approved the modified BHS Standard District Bylaws.

Change in Bylaws allows for video conferences as long as everyone constitution a quorum can hear and see each other simultaneously.

The Code of Regulations is like an owner's manual was last updated in 2015. The impetus to review the Code was to comply with Society gender neutral policy.

Code of Regulations adds more detail to the Bylaws. The Code of Regulations is an internal document that does not have to go the Society for approval which the Bylaws do. Code of Regulations contains policies approved by the House of Delegates and Board.

Item by item summary,

1. Dues, easier to update dues.
2. Duties of officers, State vice presidents are elected and are on the District Board. Program administrative team vice presidents are appointed, not on the District Borad nor delegates to House of Delegates.
3. Terms of officers have been formalized.
4. House of Delegates, no change.
5. Committees. Finances for Past Champs, Association of Central States Champions, ACSC, were moved to Finance section.
6. Finances. The Contest and Judging Vice President is now expected to be at International Conventions for Contest and Judging meetings. District will provide some financial support for the Contest and Judging V.P. to attend.
7. Conventions. Deleted reference to Lifeblood.
8. Contests . Contest details are in the Operations Manual.

9. Communications. The Serenade and CSD website are the primary methods of communication. Removed requirements to maintain a District Directory. Last person in charge of this “aged” out. [Editor’s note: Ron McIntire (Kansas City, MO), editor of the District Directory, died September 18, 2022.] (1:01:40) Contact secretary or state v.p. if you need to find someone.
10. Chapter Show Clearance. Duplicates and copies of Show Clearance application are no longer required. Need to let the District Secretary know if you are having a chapter show. Have a policy of not having chapter shows x-number of miles within each other, competing for the same audience. Chapter shows are covered for indemnity.
11. Awards, no change to the Bylaws (sic). Details are contained in the Operations Manual.
13. Chapters in Good Standing. Clarification as what constitutes a “chapter in good standing”.
14. Name Badges. Secretary responsible that name badges are up to date and pins are available.
15. District Meetings. Erikson said the Roberts Rules of Order for Small Business allows for chairs to make motions.

Code of Regulations only needs to go to House of Delegates for approval. The Code will be posted on the District web site. Chapters are not required to have a Code of Regulations, but some sort of “How to . . .” document is encouraged. Erikson suggested that bylaws, code of regulations, be reviewed every two years.

Erikson, as a member of the House of Delegates, moved that we **approve the Code of Regulations as presented and posted on the District website**. Without further discussion, Erikson called for a vote. **Motion passes unanimously with a voice vote.**

Harmony Foundation International, Perry White. A lot of great stuff happening. Three areas of support donors are providing. AIC Outreach, reaching between 2500 and 3000 high school and



middle school students a year to engage teachers and students. 2026 grant applications are on the Harmony Foundation International web site <https://harmonyfoundation.org>. NextGen program helps send youth choruses and quartets to MidWinter Convention. Harmony



Foundation supports Harmony University programs. The Power of Harmony anti recidivism program is fully active in Ohio, Indiana, and Texas. Four different chapters are participating; Circle City Sound (Indianapolis, IN), Men of Independence (Cleveland, OH), Singing Buckeyes, (Columbus, Ohio) and Vocal Majority (Dallas, Texas) are participating in this program, providing 80% of the instructors, teaching young men to sing, building ensembles, providing a network of support when they get out. Encourage members of your chapters to visit the Harmony Foundation web site and see what’s happening. Follow the Foundation on Facebook. Subscribe to our newsletter that comes out every couple of months. These programs are supported by President’s Council and Ambassadors of Songs, both eligible for Donor’s Choice; 30% of gifts to President’s Council and Ambassadors of Song can be redirected back to the District or to a chapter. Currently 11% of barbershop members contribute to these programs. Next week, about \$1,000 will be coming back to the District, over \$5,000 will be coming back to Central States chapters (1:12:46) [“Keep a Melody Ringing”](#) recognizes barbershoppers on a plaque in Harmony Hall. Every year a video of names being added to the “Keep a Melody Ringing” plaque is produced. Action item, encourage members of your chapter to give back to barbershop by contributing to Harmony Foundation. Contact White if you have questions, his contact information is [Harmony Foundation International](#) web site.



Other Items:

- Society Board Member Tim Myres is here if you have questions you would like to discuss with him.
- Suellentrop recognized Jim Tanis who assists the District with maintaining the Facebook page. Tanis added that chapters can use Facebook to promote chapter activities other than chapter shows, such as chapter sing-outs for national anthem, rest homes, etc.
- Suellentrop reported that the District is working with Google to get contact leader information on website.
- Delegates Darryl Hollie from Beatrice and Becky Stock from **Omaha** reported singing in local schools exposing them to the barbershop art form.

Without objection Suellentrop moved to bring this meeting to a close. Motion passed unanimously with a voice vote. 11:28 am.

Marshall directed “Keep The Whole World Singing”



Minutes compiled by

Mark Fuerniss

Mark Fuerniss
CSD Secretary

