



*Where the Harmony Began*

Central States District  
Association of Chapters Of  
The Barbershop Harmony Society, aka  
The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet  
Singing In America, Inc.

Report to the House of Delegates (Consent Calendar)

October 10, 2025



*[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 9/08/2025*

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# Reports

## Report #100 --- BHS President

Kevin Keller, Society President



Below are topics the Society Board of Directors are discussing.

What	What is this?
Harmony Hall Sale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2023, BHS has put Harmony Hall up for sale</li> <li>• A buyer has currently expressed interest</li> <li>• When more information can be shared it will be</li> <li>• NOTE: Commercial Real Estate is nothing like Residential Real Estate – it takes time. Deals fall through and we start over. But there is continued interest. We debated about putting a pause on the sale since our financials were in better shape. Then a new offer came in. This is a long game.</li> </ul>
Moving after Harmony Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part of Harmony Hall is “missional” and “preservationist”</li> <li>• Are there things we no longer need (or need to do)?</li> <li>• What activities do we need to continue to support?</li> <li>• Operations understands what their needs are. What footprint/space is required for missional and preservationist activities and assets?</li> <li>• Assets have been defined. A committee has started in August going through assets.</li> </ul>
BHS/HFI Review of Joint Settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The settlement agreed to by BHS and HFI in 2023 requires both parties to review the settlement in 2025 and determine if any changes are required based upon our collective experiences over the past couple of years</li> <li>• We continue to meet to define our ongoing relationship in 2026 and beyond</li> </ul>
New CEO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robert Rund has been named our CEO.</li> </ul>
Strategic Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The strategic roadmap (Subway map) has been filled out and Harmony Hall will make plans for 2026 and beyond to meet the goals.</li> <li>• The SPC will actively address issues that Harmony Hall needs strategic guidance and ensure progress towards strategic growth</li> </ul>
Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harmony Hall continues to exceed budget due to favorable attendance at Midwinter and International compared to budget</li> <li>• In the event of the sale of Harmony Hall, the Finance Committee will look at putting the net proceeds in an endowment</li> </ul>

CEO Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Now that a new CEO is hired, we will be aggressive in defining goals for 2026</li> <li>• This is an ongoing committee</li> </ul>
Election of Board Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the highest complaints raised by members is how the Society Board elects its members and not having a voice in the election process</li> <li>• In 2024, an independent committee was formed to make recommendations for revisions to the process • SBOD reviewed at Midwinter</li> <li>• Working with DPC to understand current roles and processes. We will vote on a couple of modifications at the next Midwinter to affect 2026. 2025 elections were not affected by future changes.</li> <li>• Communication on this is forthcoming</li> </ul>
Process for obtaining BHS historical documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Periodically requests are made to research documents at Harmony Hall</li> <li>• Within all of these materials are sensitive documents that should not be shared</li> <li>• Procedures are now established and requests will be reviewed as received</li> </ul>
Moving SBOD committees to Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SBOD is accountable for the long term success of BHS • Its duty is oversight of the organization itself, not its individual members</li> <li>• Two of the SBOD committees historically are member oriented (Ethics and Hall of Fame)</li> <li>• The move of Ethics is near complete</li> <li>• Hall of Fame will happen in the second half of the year due to other higher priorities – their work doesn't start until 1Q26.</li> </ul>
Brand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SBOD is accountable for the BHS Brand while Harmony Hall develops and executes programs to support the BHS brand.</li> <li>• A new “Brand Anthem” will be issued that ties together several documents (Code of Ethics, Statements of Affirmation, and others) was issued in Denver</li> </ul>
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Almost 20 years ago, the SBOD adopted a Carver model, which provides clarity between governance (SBOD with policies and oversight) and operations (CEO/Harmony Hall)</li> <li>• The SBOD has identified gaps in our performance against this model and will work in 2025 to more focused on governance</li> </ul>

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## Report #120 --- BHS CFO/COO

Eric Dove, Society Chief Operating Officer



Some notes from 2025 Summer Talking Points.

The focus of 2025 continues to be maintaining stabilization and creating the foundation that will allow for growth and momentum opportunities! The Society Board of Directors, Harmony Hall Staff, District leaders, and newly established BHS Ambassadors are here to listen to you and provide services, resources and support to help in your local singing community, chapter/chorus engagement...we are here to help.

- Midwinter 2025 San Antonio: 1,491 total attendees, an increase of 23 attendees from last year in NYC. We had an increase of 211 non-youth attendees vs last year in NYC. The event exceeded budget revenue by \$36,500.35.
- The UN-Convention took place in Nashville, TN- May 23-26, 2025. 198 participated in games, sang with friends by the pool, competed in the FINAL International Quartet Prelims for Denver 2025, and enjoyed stellar shows, featuring *Michigan Jake*, *Clever Girl*, *First Take* and more!
- Four, free, professional development sessions were offered for Music Educators in 2025. Hosted by the Barbershop Harmony Society, this [quarterly series](#) explores innovative ways to engage students through barbershop harmony and a cappella singing.
- The Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS) closed interim financial results through May 31, 2025, showing solid operational performance across most program areas and continued momentum from 2024. Total revenue is ahead of budget by approximately \$60K through May 31, 2025. We remain on track to meet or exceed the FY2025 budget, contingent on continued strong BHS Denver International Convention registrations and proactive management of identified risks.
- Singing Community statistics, June 2025
  - Society members, 13,913: 11,790 male, 1,985 female, 50 non-binary, 88, prefer not to say
  - Chapters, 570: 408 male, 3 female, 159 all voices
  - Choruses, 660: 453 male, 14 female, 193 all voices
  - Active Quartets, 967: 703 male, 58 female, 206 all voices
  -

### A Snapshot of Membership Numbers:

- 2015: 21,529
- 2016: 20,985
- 2017: 20,446
- 2018: 19,624
- 2019: 18,700
- 2020: 15,167
- 2021: 13,682
- 2022: 13,445
- 2023: 14,257
- Summer 2024: 14,296
- Fall 2024: 14,346
- Spring 2025: 14,152
- Summer 2025: 13,913

## **Report #200 --- CSD Events, Fall, 2025**

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



The Fall 2025 Convention is scheduled for Oct 9-12, 2025, at our usual Hotel and Venue in Lawrence KS. Registrations and Hotel Reservations are progressing well. The hotel is almost booked and we have an overflow hotel for additional rooms. We are expecting 15 - 20 Quartets and at least 15 choruses. As an experiment, we have added Quartet International Prelims to the Quartet Contest Agenda. In addition, we will again have a Harmony Platoon Opportunity and a number slots for quartet and chorus coaching. There may be some opportunities for classes as well. New this year is sign-up for the All Voice Mic Tester Chorus to be directed by Maria Christian.

Due to potential conflicts, the dates for the 2026 and 2027 Spring Conventions were changed. Dates noted below are the new dates. The location is under consideration with the goal to always keep the conventions centrally located if possible. If any chapter wishes to host a convention and feels they have the facilities in their area to host a convention, please contact the Convention Team.

### Future Conventions

2025 Fall Convention  
October 10 - 12, 2025  
Lawrence, KS

2027 Spring Convention  
April 9 - 10, 2027  
TBD

2026 Spring Convention  
April 10 - 11, 2026  
TBD

2027 Fall Convention  
October 8 - 10, 2027  
Lawrence, KS

2026 Fall Convention  
October 9 - 11, 2026  
Lawrence, KS

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## **Report #214 --- Contest and Judging, Fall, 2025**

**Carter Combs, Contest and Judging V.P.**



- ♪ **SCJC (Society Contest and Judging Committee) announcements:**
- At the Midwinter Convention, our Society Board approved a new **“BHS Statement Regarding Acceptable Taste.”** SCJC Performance Judges will use this in conjunction with the existing Contest & Judging Handbook, Chapter 9, **“Position Paper II – Taste”** to adjudicate and potentially penalize if performances are “overtly political, offensive, or sexualized.” Additional details can be found at: [www.barbershop.org/acceptable-taste](http://www.barbershop.org/acceptable-taste)

- SCJC has released updated versions of both the **BHS Contest Rules**, and the **Contest & Judging Handbook**. They can both be found at: [www.barbershop.org/contests/contests-judging](http://www.barbershop.org/contests/contests-judging)
- SCJC is now two thirds through its 3-year program of new judge training. CSD has 4 Candidates:
  - 2 Administrative – Kelby Cluck, Brett Randolph
  - 2 Musicality – Keegan Eich, Matt Webber
- New for **2026 International** - a “**sing-in**” single-session contest early in the convention week consisting of quartets that score at least a 78.0 in a preliminaries contest and do not receive a wild card invitation. The top two quartets from this contest will advance to the quartet quarterfinals contest.
- To better manage the number of international competitors at both the Midwinter & International contests, the SCJC is gradually increasing the qualifying target scores. The announced target scores for upcoming contests are listed below.

♪ **BHS Conventions & Contests:**

- **2025**
  - **June 29 – July 6: International @ Denver, CO**
    - Chorus Contest
      - 1<sup>st</sup> place champions: Vocal Majority, from SWD
      - 6<sup>th</sup>: **Central Standard**
      - 16<sup>th</sup>: **Visions of Harmony**
      - 17<sup>th</sup>: **The Recruits**
      - 29<sup>th</sup>: **SmorgasChorus**
    - Quartet Contest:
      - 1<sup>st</sup> place champions: Lemon Squeezy, from SNOBS
      - 13<sup>th</sup>: **Fleet Street** – 2018 CSD Champs
      - 37<sup>th</sup>: **HOME**
      - 46<sup>th</sup>: **Spitfire** – 2019 CSD Champs
    - NextGen Varsity Quartet Contest:
      - 1<sup>st</sup> place champions: Radiant, from SUN
      - 7<sup>th</sup>: **Gateway** – 2024 CSD Youth Champs
- **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 – Minimum score = 74%. Qualifying target score = 80%
    - Quartet – Minimum score = 76%. Qualifying target score = **81% – CHANGE**
- **2027**
  - **July 4 – 11: International @ Minneapolis, MN**
    - Chorus – Minimum score = 74%. Qualifying target score = **81% – CHANGE**
    - Quartet – Minimum score = 76%. Qualifying target score = 81%
- **2028**
  - **July 2 – 9: International @ Chicago, IL**

- 2029
  - July 1 – 8: International @ San Antonio, TX
- ♪ CSD Conventions & Contests
  - 2026
    - April 10-11: CSD Spring Convention @ TBD
    - October 8-11: CSD Fall Convention @ Lawrence, KS
  - 2027
    - April 9-10: CSD Spring Convention @ TBD – DATE CHANGE
    - October 7-10: CSD Fall Convention @ Lawrence, KS
  - 2028
    - April 20-23: CSD Spring Convention @ TBD – DATE CHANGE
    - October 12-15: CSD Fall Convention @ TBD
  - 2029
    - April 26-29: CSD Spring Convention @ TBD
    - October 11-14: CSD Fall Convention @ TBD
  - 2030
    - April 25-28: CSD Spring Convention @ TBD
    - October 10-13: CSD Fall Convention @ TBD
  - Fall Conventions
    - CSD Leadership (Board, PAT, & Convention Team) has decided that, in addition to holding **all** of our District-level contests in the Fall, we will **add the Quartet International Prelim** to the customary Chorus International Prelim and Seniors Quartet International Prelim.
  - Spring Convention
    - We will continue to 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 2025	
Spring		Fall	
Quartet	Chorus	Quartet	Chorus
Quartet Int'l Prelim - [2]	<u>International</u> Seniors Chorus Int'l Prelim	<u>Prelims</u> Quartet Int'l Prelim - [2] Seniors Quartet Int'l Prelim	Chorus Int'l Prelim Seniors Chorus Int'l Prelim
		<u>District Contests</u> District Quartet - [2] Novice Quartet SuperNovice Quartet Seniors Quartet SuperSeniors Quartet Youth Quartet	District Chorus District Seniors Chorus Plateau IV Chorus Plateau III Chorus Plateau II Chorus Plateau I Chorus VLQ - Very Large Quartet

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

♪ / **Keep the Whole World Singing** / **Everyone in Harmony** /

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

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## **Report #300 --- Marketing and Public Relations, Fall, 2025**

**Chad Schuetz, Marketing and Public Relations V.P.**



### **Marketing Consent Calendar Fall 2025**

As mentioned in the last *Serenade*, we are working diligently to increase two-way communication between the district and our chapters/members. We know that there are amazing things happening all across the district and we'd love to highlight them as often as we can! Our State VPs have been helping construct a list of chapter contacts to make this process easier and more consistent.

Speaking of consistency, I am proud to note that the marketing team has increased the consistent publishing of the *Serenade*, Social Media posting, email, as well as updates to the website. Thank you to Rick Ziegler, Michael Pommier, Jim Tanis and Tim Suellentrop for ALL of the work that you continue to do on behalf of the district.

We are always looking for content for the next issue of the *Serenade*! Michael Pommier and Rick Ziegler do a fantastic job of putting together the *Serenade* for us. We'd love to feature YOUR chapter or quartet! If you have any content to share, please send us a note at [marketing@singcsd.com](mailto:marketing@singcsd.com).

Lastly, if you are not currently receiving emails from the district and wish to do so, please e-mail [marketing@singcsd.com](mailto:marketing@singcsd.com).

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## **Report #310 --- District Website, Fall, 2025**

**Tim Suellentrop, Webmaster**

Visit <https://www.singcsd.com>

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## **Report #340 --- CSD Philanthropy, Fall, 2025**

**Barbershop Harmony Society**

Fall, 2025 CSD Consent Calendar



[https://give.barbershop.org/campaign/barbershop-harmony-society-giving/c294985?c\\_src=donate\\_BHS\\_main\\_nav](https://give.barbershop.org/campaign/barbershop-harmony-society-giving/c294985?c_src=donate_BHS_main_nav)

## Harmony Foundation International, Donor's Choice



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

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### **Report #400 --- Music and Performance, Fall, 2025**

**Duane Lawson, Music & Performance V.P.**

The latest project for Music & Performance was in West Des Moines, IA on August 23, 2025. We called the event the **Iowa Harmony Clinic** and we brought in 3 outstanding coaches: Rik Johnson, Rick Knight, and Darin Drown.



The *Vox Infinitus* chorus hosted and was the chorus that was used for the Chorus Directing portion. Topher Otake, from the Columbia, MO Chapter seized the opportunity and worked with Darin Drown. Nathan Green, director of *Vox Infinitus*, also signed up and he was able to take advantage of some director coaching along with Darin coaching the chorus. Simultaneously, we had quartets coaching with Rik and Rick, then Darin was able to join in the afternoon. The quartets that signed up were *Antique Harmony*, *Assorted Parts*, *Remedy*, *Swing Shift*, *3 Souls* and then *Tapestry* received coaching Friday night.

I would like to thank the quartets again for investing in their craft. *Vox Infinitus* was amazing and did a great job adjusting to the direction during the director coaching.

Indirectly, the Lincoln, NE and Fremont, NE chapter were able to capitalize on Darin being in the area and lined up coaching on Sunday and Monday evening.

Looking forward to reaching out to other areas of CSD to come up with coaching opportunities for directors, choruses, and quartets and hopefully have opportunities for chapters to share in these opportunities together.

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### **Report #420 --- Chorus Director Development, Fall, 2025**

**,Duane Lawson, Interim Chorus Director Development V.P..**

See Report # 400 Music and Performance Report,”

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**Report #450 --- Chapter Support and Leadership, Fall, 2025**

**Report #460 --- Leadership Academy, Fall, 2025**

Tim Link, CSLT V.P.



A Leadership Academy has been scheduled for January 10, 2026 at Shawnee Presbyterian Church, 6837 Nieman Road, Shawnee, KS

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**Report #470 --- Membership Development, Fall, 2025**

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

Fall CSD Membership VP Report



2025 has held two zoom meetings for chapter membership/development VPs and any other interested folks. We “always” discover some new and different approaches to similar chapter problems. The main key point must remain that whatever we do as chapter leaders, we must test ourselves and make sure it is something that our members are engaged in doing as well. Learning songs. Making it easy for dues renewals. Welcoming guests with our 30-second elevator speech, that always works well when we sing out in public. These are the things which are not directly singing-related, but all of which support the singing organization we call our chapters, and therefore the many choruses that the chapter supports.

We also remind our current leaders, that Job#1 continues to be to help other chapter members grow and flourish, not only in singing, but also in doing organizational planning and follow-on tasks. Every member is a potential future leader. Some show leadership by quietly supporting the plans for the chapter. Of course, we also need “talkers” to meet and come up with options on performances, music selection, member sunshine and care, and a variety of things that make our meetings a place of welcoming fun . . . and singing!

Chapter development dips into the area of music and performance by encouraging four singers to get together and master a song or two on their own, and then sing for the chapter. This is the potential start of fostering many more unregistered quartets. The “I only sing in my section with someone behind me” can be encouraged to sing out, make some mistakes, and with supportive fellow singers, to fix those mistakes. Then Repeat! More quartet singers make better members having fun, and also turn into stronger chorus members, too.

All members should take a moment and also help the chapter look beyond the calendar, and into 2026. What new performance venues are in your community? Can I help reach out a sell an opportunity for a chapter quartet or chorus to expand our community presence?

We hope everyone grows in their chapter experience, singing, leadership, and helping us all to engage our communities more!

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## **Report #475 --- Chapter Eternal, Fall, 2025**

Mark Fuerniss, District Secretary:



### **Chapter Eternal, Fall 2025**

Don 'Skip' Anderson	Fremont NE Chapter	Pathfinder Chorus
Stephen Kohlbray	St. Louis Suburban MO	Gentlemen of Sound
Robert Tompson	Columbia MO	Boonslick Chordbusters
Ronald Challacombe	Topeka, KS	Capital City Chorus
Bill Scott	Hays, KS	Fort Hays High Plains Chorus
Dee Clark	Overland Park, KS	Overland Stage Chorus
John Rolland Vaughn	Kansas City, MO	Heart of America Chorus
John Schlender	Manhattan, KS	Little Apple Chorus
Lawrence Vitosh	Beatrice, NE	Homestead Harmonizers
Robert Tribuno	Cedar Rapids, IA	Harmony Hawks
Dan Linn	Wichita, KS	Air Capital Chorus
Richard Hartzler	Olathe, KS	Trails West Chorus

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## **Report #510 --- Iowa State V.P. Report, Fall, 2025**

Larry Hlavacek, Iowa State V.P.



Following the untimely death of Randy Weir, the Des Moines Harmony Delegation chorus was looking for a new director. They recently hired Mike Williams, a native of the Des Moines area and Music Major at Drake University. Mike has been singing with the Prairieland Barbershop Chorus in Macomb, Illinois.

I was asked if I would be interested in attending Harmony University in Denver. I attended as the CSD representative to the President/EVP bootcamp. We spent ten hours discussing the interactions between the Barbershop Harmony Society and each district, and how BHS and districts interact with chapters. It was very interesting to hear other districts' perspectives on ways to improve interactions. Sub-groups are being formed to work with a few of the items that couldn't be addressed during the sessions. The EVP from the Pioneer District said she heard that CSD competitions were the best, so she was interested in finding out more and/or to attend our Fall Convention. Congratulations to everyone who has a part in making our conventions well-known. And, of course, the other classes offered were excellent. Everyone who has the ability should seriously consider attending a Harmony University!

The Central States District created a new event, Iowa Harmony Clinic, for coaching with quartets, choruses, and directors. Quartets and choruses could receive coaching. Each director could have a coaching session and could direct Des Moines Vox Infinitus. They could then view the other directors, including their feedback opportunities. The scheduled clinicians were Duane Lawson, Larry Monson, Rich Knight, Darrin Drown, Vox Infinitus, and others. It was held on

August 23, in West Des Moines, Iowa. Information on the success of the event should be available at Fall Convention.

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### **Report #520 --- Kansas State V.P. Report, Fall, 2025**

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

Consent Calendar  
Fall 2025  
Kansas Report  
Mike Shepherd  
Kansas VP



Welcome, fellow barbershoppers, to the highly anticipated Fall Convention! This event promises to be a fantastic opportunity for fellowship and celebration of our beloved Barbershop Style. Kansas is thriving with various Chapters actively working on their projects this year. Our Chapters have successfully completed several Spring Shows, and many of our members attended the International Convention in Denver. Our District can take pride in all those who crossed the stage.

The inaugural Kansas Brigade Program, Brigade On The Range, was a resounding success in Salina, Kansas, this summer. Plans are already underway to offer this incredible experience again next June. Don't miss out on the opportunity to participate right here in the heart of Kansas. For more details, visit the website: <http://www.BrigadeOnTheRange.org>.



Several Chapters are now planning Holiday Shows, and some have exciting youth outreach programs on the horizon. Additionally, all Chapters should be preparing for the leadership opportunities coming up in 2026.

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### **Report #530 --- Missouri/Arkansas V.P. Report, Fall, 2025**

**Steven True, Missouri/Arkansas State V.P.**

Hello CSD!

Missouri/Arkansas were wonderfully represented at the international contest in Denver earlier this year. In the quartet contest, Fleet Street came in 13th with an 85.9, HOME came in 37th with an 80.7, and Spitfire came in 46th with a 79.8. In the chorus contest, Central Standard came in 6th with an 89.0, Visions of Harmony came in 16th with an 84.8, and The Recruits came in 17th with an 84.5.



We're looking into the possibility of sponsoring booths at MMEA and MCDA. If you would like to be a part of that effort or would like to donate to the district to offset the cost of the booths please reach out to me.

Chapter reports:

Columbia:

- 30 active singers mostly youth
- Experimenting with contest chorus and all members chorus
- Looking into recruiting old Jeff City chapter members.
- Planning concert in Jeff City in December
- Christmas show Dec 6th
- Outreach event will be sometime before the Christmas show

Florissant Valley:

- 9 Active singers
- Mixed chorus talks
- Lots of performances in senior living centers
- Looking at bringing back nostalgic fundraising events from pre-covid

Joplin:

- I have made repeated calls to current and former chapter members and haven't been able to get a hold of the chapter president to assess the status of the chapter

Kansas City:

- 30 active singers
- Many festival type performances over the summer
- 19th annual golf scramble Sep 18th details on their website
- Holiday Harmony Spectacular Dec 6th details on their website
- Singing Valentines in February

Metro KC:

- 45 active singers
- Hosting fall contest
- Guest Night Sep 4th details on their Facebook page
- Joint holiday show with Vocal Standard Dec 13th details on both chorus websites

Springfield:

- Springfield Sound about 20 members
- Few recruits from local college
- New director Marcus Falcomata
- New president Paul Olguin
- Ozark Overtones qualified for the international senior chorus contest at Midwinter in Pasadena
- Ozark Overtones now an all-voices chorus

St. Charles:

- Hosted [Acappelloza](#) youth camp over the summer and hosting another one in September
- Christmas shows in December



- Ambassadors of Harmony
  - 80+ active singers
  - Attended BABS in May
- Visions of Harmony
  - 40-50 active singers
  - Fall show 9/27/25 details on website.
- The Recruits
  - 20-25 active singers

St. Joseph:

- Under 10 active singers:
- Meeting regularly
- Director search

St. Louis #1:

- 20 active singers
- Excellent financial position
- Christmas Dec 13 details on their website

St. Louis Suburban:

- 10 active singers
- Working on reconnecting with the district and the international
- Considering merging with Florissant Valley

Greater Ozarks:

- 10 active singers
- All voices chorus
- Reaching out to local colleges for collaboration and recruitment. If successful, will try with Missouri chapters and colleges that aren't already collaborating.

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**Report #540 --- Nebraska State V.P. Report, Fall, 2025**

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



A busy summer for all of the Nebraska chapters. The Lincoln Chapter kicked off its summer with its second year of Star City Sound. SCS is the mixed chorus sponsored by the Lincoln Continentals men's chorus. SCS grew to 65 members this year, with ages ranging from 10 to 92. The summer concluded with several performances at multiple venues. From a recruiting stand point the men's chorus gained a few new members from the mixed chorus.

The Pathfinder chorus in **Fremont** had an extremely busy summer performing at multiple county fairs, plus many sing outs in Fremont and Omaha area. The Pathfinders will be traveling to Denver soon to perform for a corporate group. The Pathfinders will also be the closing act at

Nebraskappella! Day at the Nebraska State Fair on August 24<sup>th</sup>. As the largest and most successful chorus in Nebraska, the Pathfinders have multiple guest nights during the year they are hoping to grow their chorus even more.

The **Beatrice** chapter continues to do many summer performances throughout the community, and as always look forward to convention this fall in Lawrence KS.

The **Omaha** chapter has successfully transitioned from the Heartland Harmonizer men's chorus to the new OmaHarmonizers mixed chorus. Their current membership has grown to 17, and they are looking forward to competing at fall convention 2026.

The **Papillion** chapter, Sarpy Serenaders, continue sharing their music with the Omaha metro area. Recently they had a joint performance with the OmaHarmonizers, and area quartets.

The **Grand Island, Kearney, Hastings, and Ord** chapters will be staffing the Barbershop Harmony booth during the Nebraska State Fair August 22<sup>nd</sup> through September 1<sup>st</sup>. Sunday August 24<sup>th</sup> is Nebraskappella! Day at the fair. There will be 8 different a cappella groups performing that day, including the Kearney Area 1733 chorus, Nebraska Pride Sweet Adeline chorus, The Sarpy Serenaders, Cabriolet women's quartet, Columbus High School Vocal Music, Ord 18<sup>th</sup> Street Singers, Hastings Chorus of the Plains, and The Fremont Pathfinder Chorus. Fran Wilson, director of the Kearney Chorus, always does a fabulous job organizing this every year at the fair. Hopefully all of this will be a great recruiting tool for the chapters in the central part of Nebraska.

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## **Report #550 --- South Dakota State V.P. Report, Fall, 2025**

**Cliff Huot, South Dakota State V.P.**

South Dakota State V.P. Report, Fall, 2025

Cliff Huot, South Dakota State V.P.

CONSENT CALENDAR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA  
FALL CONVENTION 2025

Acafellas Chorus-Winner, SD

Continued work on contact with the chapter is ongoing.

Glacial Lakes-Watertown, SD

Recruiting for new singers at Lake Area Tech.

Sang the National Anthem at the American Legion State Baseball Tournament.

Mitchell Barbershop Chorus-Mitchell, SD

Church sing out at Trinity Lutheran Church as well as patriotic program before Veteran's Day.

Prepping for Christmas season sing outs.

Sioux Emperians-Sioux Falls, SD

Church sing outs as well as Prince of Peace Retirement Center sing out.

Working with McCrossan Boys Ranch with introduction to barbershop music.

Tri-Valley Chorus-Viborg, SD

Participated in Harmony Happening in the Hills Aug 22 & 23.

Performed for the De Smet area concert series on Sep 7.



Plans are getting put in place for their 75<sup>th</sup> annual show on April 18, 2026 with guest quartets Storm Front and Three and a Half Men.

Aug 16, 2025

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## Report #560 --- District Secretary's Report, Fall, 2025

Mark Fuerniss, District Secretary



**Gender Classifications.** I noticed the revised BHS Standard Chapter Bylaws allow chapters to declare (restrict) their *participation* membership as a) any male, b) any female, or c) any person (select one option).

*Sept 2019 revision of BHS Standard Chapter Bylaws*

**ARTICLE VIII: Participation Membership**

**8.01 Qualifications for Membership (Select One of the Following Provisions)**

- Any male who meets the qualifications of Society Membership as set forth in Article VIII of the Society Bylaws (see Section 8.03 (a)) may be considered for participation membership in the Chapter.
  
- Any female who meets the qualifications of Society Membership as set forth in Article VIII of the Society Bylaws (see Section 8.03 (a)) may be considered for participation membership in the Chapter.
  
- Any person who meets the qualifications of Society Membership as set forth in Article VIII of the Society Bylaws (see 8.03.a) may be considered for membership in the Chapter.

Notwithstanding the foregoing selection, the Chapter may consist of any number of performing groups, including, but not limited to, choruses, quartets or ensembles. Such performing groups may consist of members of the same gender or open to members of any gender at the option of the Chapter.

This allows chapters to remain all male if they so wish. Once adopted, or amended, the chapter's version of the BHS Standard Chapter Bylaws should be submitted to the both <https://governanceandbylaws@barbershop.org> and <https://customerservice@barbershop.org>. Currently, there is no gender classification listed on the **chapter** pages of Member Center.

Chapters may designate their *choruses* as a) men's b) women's, or c) mixed harmony on the **chorus** page of Member Center, <https://members.barbershop.org>. If a member of a chorus opts for "non-binary" or "prefer not to say" gender identification, the chorus should be classified as "c) mixed harmony". That is, all members of a men's chorus must identify as "male" and all members of a women's chorus must identify as "female". Any **chorus** gender classification changes should be sent to <https://customerservice@barbershop.org>. Practically, gender classifications do not impact award eligibility for our District contests.



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 the election, but before

the beginning of the new year, update new and existing chapter leaders on BHS Member Center. While you're there, check other chapter information for accuracy. I would encourage all new and returning chapter leaders, especially chapter presidents, chapter secretaries and chapter treasurers to attend the **Leadership Academy** planned for January 10, 2026 at Shawnee Presbyterian Church, Shawnee, KS

Finally, before a chapter show can be advertised in District media, performance licenses should be obtained by completing a BMI/SESAC License Application for Show Clearance and submitting, along with a check in the appropriate amount, to the District Secretary. Forms are available on the [BHS Member Center](#).

Mark Fuerniss, CSD Secretary  
3060 San Agustin Drive  
Lincoln, NE 68516  
[lonniemark@navix.net](mailto:lonniemark@navix.net)  
402 310-8846

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## **Report #570 --- District Treasurer's Report, Fall, 2025**

**Jeff Arians, District Treasurer**



It's hard to believe that my two-year term as the CSD Treasurer is already coming to a close. I have enjoyed meeting a bunch of chapter Treasurers this year and know that the chapters of the CSD are in good hands. I have been working hard on Treasurer duties, and I will highlight some of them below:

- 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
- Presented June 30, 2025, financials to the board at our remote board meeting in July
- Expense vouchers and bills have been paid in a timely manner with CSD President's approval
- Assisted a couple chapter Treasurers on issues with their banks recognizing the chapter's chorus name on checks/documents
- Worked with our President, EVP, and Past President to look at expenses we can reduce for the future
- Filed our 2024 Form 990-EZ before the May 15, 2025, 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  
[treasurer@singcsd.com](mailto:treasurer@singcsd.com)



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## **Report #580 --- Immediate Past President Report, Fall, 2025**

### **Report #585 --- Nominating Committee Report, Fall, 2025**

**Matt Suellentrop – Immediate Past President**

Since the conclusion of the spring convention, the focus has been the CSD Board election that will be held this fall in Lawrence. Although there are still some results to be finalized, I'd like to announce the results as of this writing in early September.



For treasurer, **Jeff Arians** has agreed to continue in this role for another term and has been supported by the House of Delegates.

For secretary, **Mark Fuerniss** has decided to step down after decades of wonderful service in this role. **Larry Hlavacek** has been shadowing Mark for the past year and will be voted on at the House of Delegates meeting.

For Kansas, **Mike Shepherd** will be finishing his first term in 2025. He is running unopposed and will serve as the Kansas Vice President for 2026-2027.

For Iowa, **Larry Hlavacek** will be finishing his second term in 2025. While I'm waiting for a few more chapters, it appears that **Allan Mebus** will run unopposed and serve as the Iowa Vice President for 2026-2027.

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## **Report #590 --- Executive Vice President Report, Fall, 2025**

**Dan Bodtke, Executive Vice President**

Since my last update, I've been immersed in barbershop events! I competed in the first BHS Un-Convention with my quartet, attended SAI Region 5 convention, administrative judged the Mid-Atlantic District and the Sunshine District, and competed at BHS international with my chorus. Seven barbershop conventions so far this year and three more to go! Every time I go to a convention, I continue to look for ideas to bring back to our district team so we can serve you the best we can.



In regards to the 2025 Spring Convention, the event went very well even though we didn't get the turnout we were hoping for. However, we were able to learn more about what the district wants out of the Spring Convention. We're in the process of finding a location that will hopefully be a better fit for our needs in Spring 2026.

BHS International is one of my favorite weeks of the year and adding my EVP responsibilities to it has only enhanced my week. Brett and I were able to attend the BHS board meetings and the District Presidents Council meetings. These meetings give us the opportunity to network, hear

about any future changes, voice thoughts, and share ideas. Outside of the meetings, Brett and I were able to visit all of our district choruses at least once throughout the week. We're so lucky to have such an amazing set of groups that represent us. Congratulations to all of those who competed at International!

As part of our goals to promote the musical growth of our community, Duane Lawson, Music & Performance VP, created an event in Des Moines, Iowa. The Iowa Harmony Clinic focused on coaching opportunities for directors, choruses, and quartets. We're hoping to offer more localized events like this in other parts of the district next year.

Planning the district events is a never ending process for the Program Administrative Team and the Events Team. They continue to amaze me regarding what we can accomplish. Keep your eyes open for more event details in the near future for Leadership Academy, Spring Convention, and other localized events!

The District Board and the Program Administrative Team strive to serve the district to the best of our ability and we're always looking for constructive feedback. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have ideas on how we could improve and how we can best support you and our CSD community.

Dan Bodtke  
[evp@singcsd.com](mailto:evp@singcsd.com)  
507-993-2597

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## ***Report #600 --- District President Report, Fall, 2025***

**Brett Randolph, District President**



Hello barbershoppers of the Central States District! As 2025 is coming to a close, I am hopeful that this year has been successful for you and your chapters. It certainly has for the CSD! Building on the strong showing of CSD performers at the Midwinter Convention, the talent of the district showed even brighter at the International Convention held in Denver, Colorado. All of the groups represented the district well and performed masterfully!

The success of the District has not only been on the contest stage. We have accomplished a lot during 2025 and we are focused on providing support to all the members and chapters of CSD. We developed goals centered around providing resources to chapters in the area of membership and marketing, hosting regional quartet and chorus director coaching, utilizing Google for Nonprofits, refreshed our website, hosted a Facebook Live event, monthly video updates, hosted HEP School, Spring Convention, and a Harmony Clinic throughout CSD to help you expand your knowledge and expertise as a barbershopper.

The Board of Directors and the Program Administrative Team have been working hard to put together events for our members that help us achieve our mission to bring people together in

harmony and fellowship to enrich lives through singing. To that end, we redesigned the Spring Convention to host contests while also offering chapter leadership, singing, performance, and music leadership classes and built time for non-competitive events like chorus and quartet coaching, tag room, tag contest, and a mass sing for all convention attendees. We are excited to offer some of these opportunities at the fall convention and have added an all-voice mic testing chorus opportunity. A big thanks to the convention team for all of the work they have done to make this convention full of competitive and non-competitive opportunities for all of the members of the Central States District.

Plans are in the works for 2026 which will be a very special year for CSD as we will be celebrating our 80th anniversary! Make plans now to join us at both conventions as we honor the best district in BHS!

District leadership is committed to creating a support structure to allow the chapters and members to have the best barbershop experience possible. We recognize how much impact barbershop has had on our lives and how important it is to have chapters that strive to be the best that they can be. Whether that is as a community chorus, a competitive chorus, supporting music education, or just getting together once a week to sing songs and tags. Feel free to utilize the expertise of our highly dedicated leaders. I hope to see you all in Lawrence!

Brett Randolph  
District President  
president@singcsd.com  
316-371-1269



*Where the Harmony Began*