

**CSD Spring 2025 Board of Directors Meeting  
Kansas City Airport Hilton Inn, Kansas City, MO  
Saturday, April 10, 2025, 7 p.m.**



*Where the Harmony Began*



President Brett Randolph opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with "The Old Songs". **A quorum was announced**, with all ten of the board members present.



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



The **Financial Report** for Spring 2025 includes 12/31/24 Statement of Financial Position (formerly known as the Balance Sheet), 1/1/24 – 12/31/24 Statement of Activities, Fall Convention Recap, 2024 Budget vs Actual, and 2025 Amended Budget. The Financial Report has been posted on the [District website](https://singcsd.com). <https://singcsd.com>.



- **Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet);** This report is a snapshot our assets, liabilities and equity over the year as of December 31, 2024. Net income: last year we lost \$13,944.18. In 2023 we lost \$12,264.52. A little bigger loss last year. The loss goes back to the hit we took with the Spring 2024 Convention.
- **Statement of Activities (Profit and Loss)** Total income in 2024 is very consistent with total income in 2023, a little over \$81,000 in 2024 and a little under \$81,000 in 2023. All the expenses are very comparable. Total expenses in 2024 was about \$90,000 and just over \$90,000 in 2023, very consistent. A variation was the Harmony Foundation income, about \$5,800 in 2023 and just under \$2,000 in 2024. Fewer quartets and choruses qualified for International in 2024 so we saved a little bit there (Line 8321, Travel C & Q Subsidy). Net income for 2024 was minus \$13,944.18; minus \$12,264.52 in 2023.
- **Statement of Activities by Class.** Fall Convention 2024: almost broke even, only lost \$721.16.
- **Budget vs Actual.** Income was lower than budget and Expense was a little higher than budget, resulting in a net loss. We budgeted for \$110,375 and only brought in about \$81,000. Arians has been working with Events V.P. Brott and others to try to get income closer to budget in 2025. We've been consistently below \$100,000 in income since the pandemic. We've taken this into consideration for the 2025 budget. Previous CSD Treasurer Warrick budgeted things a little differently. Line 8310, Travel, including travel for judges, in 2023 was \$19,020.25 and \$5,378.84 in 2024 since Arians puts travel for judges in Judging Expenses (Line 7540). Bottom line: actual Total Expense was a little over \$90,000 and budgeted Total Expense was about \$93,00.
- **Amended Budget,** amended at the February retreat by board vote. Line 8560 under Expenses for Computer Services \$750 was added to the budget.

Stephen True made a **motion to receive the Financial Reports** as presented by Jeff Arians. **Without objection, the Financial Reports were received.**

**Minutes of Fall 2024 Board of Directors meeting** have been posted on the [District website](#). Secretary Fuerniss mentioned a few errors, mostly typographical, in the minutes as posted. Sixth line of page 2 should read "... expenses for judges formerly recorded **in the** travel section for the judges. Temp Help (Line 7550) for the Leid . . ." The word "chuck" in the second line of the second paragraph under 2025 Proposed Budget should be "**chunk**". On page 3, the time reference in Bass's motion to approve the budget should be removed. The second to last line of Brott's report should read "**In** August in Iowa we'll combine a HEP School with a festival." First sentence of the Nebraska report on page 4 should read "Hope to visit **chapters** yet this fall and next spring.

Motion made to approve Fall 2024 Board of Directors minutes as amended. **Without objection, the minutes of the fall Board of Directors meeting were approved as amended**

**Minutes of Fall 2024 House of Delegates meeting.** The first line of the minutes should read "President Suellentrop opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. with a quorum." **Olathe** is spelled incorrectly in the Chapter Eternal listing for Jim Skinner. Third line of page 5 should read "Membership, Don Fuson. Looking **at** problems **Member** Center is having, specifically with . . ." Remove the time reference before the State V.P. Reports. The third sentence of the Kansas report should read "They are doing outstanding jobs." The second to the last sentence of the Nebraska report on page 6 should read, "Omaha's Heartland Harmonizers Chorus has become a **mixed** chorus with a director, Mathan Mrkvicka." The District Secretaries name is misspelled in the Code of Regulations Revision updates report. Change "constitution" to "**constituting**" in second paragraph of this report. Correct spelling of "**Board**" in the second item. Correct "**NextGen**" in Harmony Foundation International report. Correct spelling of Society Board Member's name to "**Myers**" on page 8.

Motion made to approve Fall 2024 House of Delegates minutes as amended. **Without objection, the minutes of the Fall House of Delegates meeting were approved as amended.**

**Approval of Consent Calendar.** "**City**" is misspelled on the cover sheet "**Schuetz**" is misspelled in the Marketing and Public Relations Report. With these corrections, motion was made to accept the Consent Calendar as amended. Without objection, **the Spring 2025 Consent Calendar was approved as amended.**

**Program Administrative Team Reports.** Executive Vice President Dan Bodtke

- **History Report, James Gwaltney.** Bodtke reported that James is about 75% finished digitizing history boards and historical materials he has been given. He will upload these to Google Drive and see what gaps we have to be filled in.
- **Music and Performance. Duane Lawson.** Lawson reported he would like to do more regional workshops. August 23 in Des Moines working with Chorus Director Development, Larry Monson and *Vox Infinitus* chorus, and Darrin Drown for director coaching and quartet coaching. Combs and Brott have done a good job organizing coaching for this weekend. Looking to putting on a regional workshop in South Dakota and Springfield MO area in 2026. Chapters don't understand the Music and Performance V.P. role. Applied for a Harmony Foundation grant for fall of 2026.



- **Chorus Director Development. Larry Monson.** Monson is looking forward to working with Lawson. Monson noted there are some director vacancies and will reach out to see how we can help them.



- **Membership Development. Don Fuson.** Had a successful Zoom roundtable discussion in February with about 10 to 12 chapter representatives throughout CSD. Only about 1/3 of the chapters have a Membership V.P. shown. Need help from state V.P.s identifying Chapter Membership V.P.s., whether chapters need help with membership training, membership expectations. Need to understand what chapters are doing on their own and what assistance they might need. Are chapters monitoring their chapter membership roster for lapsed members, previous members. Chapter member engagement at guest nights. Fuson also asked the State Vice Presidents to report any unregistered chapter quartets so they could be added to the marketing outreach.



- **Events. Doug Brott.** We have encouraged people to come and increase our attendance, but don't believe we have sufficient attendance to break even. The hotel has been very good to work with us on pricing. Overall quality of hotel and the level of competition should be good. Have a new live stream service Acaville, to include all of the contest sessions as well as coaching under glass sessions and the show with *12<sup>th</sup> Street Rag*. We've added classes. The Columbia, MO Boonslick Chordbusters are here and will be singing and hopefully return in the fall. 245 paid attendees including 212 attendees plus 48 comps with perhaps 10 -20 walkups. More money coming in for quartet videos. Hopefully the live stream will bring in a lot of people, say 10,000 people at \$10 each!



- **Chapter Support and Leadership. Chad Schuetz.** Leadership Academy in January was targeted for new chapter presidents, chapter secretaries, and chapter treasurers. Good feedback from attendees. Low attendance but those attending found value in the classes. Don't believe the LA was marketed well. From last fall's feedback, leadership classes are mixed in with music classes this weekend.



- **Marketing and Public Relations. Chad Schuetz.** Lot a platforms available that we have not used. About 80% are accessing email with a desk or lap top computer. Rick Ziegler has been doing a lot of our Facebook posts. Almost 50,000 hits in the last 28 days; around 3,000 followers. Biggest followers in in the over 65 year range. Lowest Facebook followers are in the 18-24 range. Different demographics for Instagram. Tim Suellentrop is our new webmaster. Very responsive to the members of the administrative team. Todd Johnson put together a marketing calendar.

- **Contest and Judging, Carter Combs.** *12<sup>th</sup> Street Rag* is BHS new Senior Quartet Champions. Congratulations. Also representing CSD at Midwinter were Springfield quartets *Vintage Vibe* and *Jazz* finished 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>,



respectively. *Ozark Overtones*, senior chorus came in second overall; *Blue Valley High School* won the NextGen junior division; two junior quartets, *Zenith* and *Starletts* from Wichita and Augusta, Kansas. We have four judging candidates: two administrators, Kelby Cluck and Brett Randolph, and two musicality candidates, Keegan Eich and Matt Webber. SCJC has published a new white paper on acceptable performances. Judges have right to adjudicate what is appropriate on the contest stage and will enforce penalties if need be up to and including stopping a performance. A resource is available for contestants to check to see if their performance will be acceptable.

Song Break Larry Monson conducted “My Wild Irish Rose”



### **Approval of 2025 CSD Goals**

**Motion was made to approve the 2025 CSD Goals with a full report at the Fall Convention.** Questions and discussion: Plan is to report back on progress of these goals at the fall convention. President Randolph and Executive V.P. Bodtke will check on their progress throughout the year. Erikson suggested having some intermediate milestones. Schuetz said Marketing relies on State Vice Presidents to help with information, for example relaying information regarding chapter contacts to Marketing V.P. Pape added that for smaller chapters it’s difficult to determine which chapter member has what responsibility.

**Motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.**

### **BHS Ambassador to Central States District, Bob Cox was introduced.**

Bob’s background includes 50 year barbershop membership, past district president of the Evergreen District, Society Board member for four years and served on several Society committees.

As a BHS Ambassador, Bob welcomed the opportunity to go out, share and listen to what is going on around our Society and take these back to the BHS Executive Board and CEO to have a better understanding of some of the challenges we are facing within our different districts and Society. Bob has been assigned to the Evergreen, Far Western and Central States Districts.

Bob shared a power point presentation “BHS Ambassadors Presentation” regarding the new BHS Ambassador program. Currently there are eight barbershop leaders with a variety of experiences whose goal is to reach out to districts, chapters, and individual barbershoppers, encouraging dialogue regarding challenges and how the Ambassadors can support chapters and members. Bob Cox’s power point presentation will be posted on the CSD Website under Convention Documents for Spring 2025. Email Bob at [Robert.Cox@barbershop.org](mailto:Robert.Cox@barbershop.org).

Some comments:

- Cox will share his reports with the district presidents.
- The Big Leap workshops are not a membership recruitment program, rather a way to involve your chapter with other community arts organizations.
- The BHS Ambassadors will be looking at the effect chapter dues has on membership recruitment and retention.

- The “Last chance for quartets to qualify for International,” while not intended to replace district conventions, is perceived as a threat to districts as home-based quartets can forego competing at their district convention and opt to try to qualify at the Un-Convention. Cox responded that the goal of the Un-Convention is not to take competing quartets away from district conventions but to put on shows, have fun and share ideas.
- Chapter Support and Leadership Vice President and Marketing and Public Relations V.P. stated he has never had anyone from the Society reach out to him regarding Chapter Support and Leadership or Marketing. Although the limited number of BHS staff can make it difficult to reach out to districts and chapters, if districts are going to offer services to chapters, districts need to know what is going on.
- The [2024 Annual BHS Report](#) will be out in the next Serenade. (May/June 2025 *Harmonizer*).



[Harmony Foundation International](#) President and CEO Perry White said that Harmony Foundation International will be working hand-in-hand with the BHS Ambassadors program. It’s important for BHS Ambassadors to share information with districts. Danger with Carver model is the rift between the Society Board and everyone else in the organization; the Boards inability to hear and “face reality”. When the Board is responsible for making strategic decisions, it is important that the BHS Ambassadors get information to the Board. White is thrilled that Cox is here to listen and take information back.



White spoke briefly about Harmony Foundation International programs: **AIC Outreach; BHS Programs, NextGen and Harmony U; and Power of Harmony** (See May/June 2025 *Harmonizer*) (20:45) programs and ways HFI can “Help Me Help Jeff”, through HFI **Presidents Council** and **Ambassadors of Song** donor’s choice programs. The donor base has not rebounded to pre-Covid levels and donors are less and less inclined to select donor’s choice as part of their gift. White explained the [Legacy of Harmony](#) and [Keep the Melody Ringing](#) programs. Through Legacy of Harmony, HFI will work with donors to support those activities that are important to the donor and insure the donor’s options will accomplish what the donor wishes with their resources. The [Keep the Melody Ringing](#) program allows deceased to be recognized in perpetuity, with their name placed on a board at Harmony Hall. HFI is in discussion with Steve Dinero about where the boards will go when the building is sold.

Randolph asked the Board to direct the Financial Advisory Committee (Jeff Arians (chair), Paul Cartwright, Larry Warrick) to look into our reimbursement policy, registration categories, and any other financial aspect of our district that needs to be examined and to report back to us at the fall convention.

Randolph made a **motion to direct the Financial Advisory Committee to research the district’s reimbursement policies and registration categories and any other financial aspects of our district as an analysis.** “So moved” by Suellentrop. **Without objection, motion passed.**

President Randolph made a **motion to adjourn the meeting** after we finish singing “Keep the Whole World Singing”. **Without objection, motion passed.**

“Keep The Whole World Singing” directed by John Marshall.



**Meeting adjourned.**

Minutes compiled by Mark Fuerniss, CSD Secretary

2025 CSD Goals			
Goal	Status	Notes	PAT Role Assigned
Recruitment/Retention resources made available on the CSD website	Proposed	Always a big need of chapters	Membership
Marketing resources made available on the CSD website	Proposed	Always a big need of chapters	Marketing
Develop a coaching cadre for chapters	Proposed	Chapters need accessible coaching	Music & Performance
Investigate District-supported learning tracks for small chapters	Proposed	Cost of learning tracks can be a barrier for chapters	Music & Performance
One contact per chapter for marketing and media purposes	Proposed	Many are not opening our emails. This would help get our information out to chapters	Marketing
Develop chorus director workshops to host throughout the District	Proposed	Help new directors to improve their skills	CDD