

**CSD Spring 2025 House of Delegates Meeting
 Kansas City Airport Hilton Inn, Kansas City, MO
 Friday, April 11, 2025, 10 a.m.**



Where the Harmony Began

Delegates Present

- Brett Randolph CSD President
- Dan Bodtke CSD Executive Vice President
- Matt Suellentrop CSD Immediate Past President
- Mark Fuerniss CSD Secretary
- Jeff Arians CSD Treasurer
- Larry Hlavacek CSD Iowa State Vice President
- Stephen True CSD Missouri/Arkansas State Vice President
- Mike Shepherd CSD Kansas State Vice President
- Rick Pape CSD Nebraska State Vice President
- Cliff Huot CSD South Dakota 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
- Duane Lawson CSD Past President
- Greg Long Des Moines, IA
- R. Allan Mebus Iowa City, IA
- Thomas Gray Leavenworth, KS
- Corban Donovan South Central, KS
- Chuck Bay Columbia, MO
- Mike Schumacher Kansas City, MO
- Kate Currier St. Charles, MO
- Keith Smith St. Joseph, MO
- Andrew Nehls Fremont, NE
- Rebecca Stock Omaha, NE
- Keith Hammons Papillion, NE



District President Randolph opened the meeting with “The Old Songs”. **A quorum necessary to conduct business was confirmed.**



President Randolph recognized dignitaries in attendance: Past District President John Marshall, BHS Ambassador Bob Cox, Past Society and District President Don Fuson, Past District President Chad Schuetz, Past District President Harvey Kiser, Harmony Foundation

International President and CEO Perry Whie, Past District President Mark Erikson, Past District President Duane Lawson, and Immediate Past District President Matt Suellentrop.

Motion to approve Agenda was approved without objection.

Self introductions of those present: Mark Fuerniss, District Secretary; Brett Randolph, District President; Dan Bodtke, District Executive Vice President; Jeff Arians, District Treasurer, Matt Suellentrop, Immediate Past District President; Duane Lawson, Music and Performance V.P.; Stephen True, Missouri/Arkansas V.P.; Rick Pape, Nebraska V.P.; Mark Erikson, Past District President; Doug Brott, Events V.P.; Andrew Nehls, Fremont, NE Chapter President; Mike Schumacher, Kansas City, MO Chapter President; Greg Long, Des Moines, IA Chapter President; Keith Hammons, Papillion, NE Chapter President; Larry Hlavacek, Iowa State V.P.; Mike Shepherd, Kansas State V.P.; Tom Gray, Leavenworth, KS Chapter President; Keith Smith, St. Joseph, MO Chapter President; Chad Schuetz, Chapter Support and Leadership Training V.P. and Marketing and Public Relations V.P.; Corbin Donovan, South Central Kansas, KS President; Harvey Kiser, Past District President; Katie Currier, St. Charles, MO Chapter Delegate; Becky Stock, Omaha, NE Chapter President; Perry White, President of Harmony Foundation International; Allan Mebus, Iowa City, IA Chapter President; John Marshall, Past Past District President; Bob Cox, BHS Ambassador; Don Fuson, District Membership Development V.P.; Chuck Bay, Columbia, MO Chapter; Cliff Huot, South Dakota V.P; Also in attendance, Kevin Huot and J.P. Marshall.

Invocation and Chapter Eternal: Following a brief invocation by Immediate Past President Suellentrop, the Spring 2025 Chapter Eternal was presented. The following were inducted into the CSD Chapter Eternal.



Francis Saint	Wichita, KS
Wesley Krause	Des Moines, IA
Ronald Smith	McPherson, KS
Harry Stewart	Kansas City, MO
Audrey Monahan	St. Louis No. 1, MO
Bertram Mueller	St. Charles, MO
Robert Rod	Frank Thorne
Richard Timmerman	Beatrice, NE
Mark Poe	St. Charles, MO
Ward Nippert	Central Kansas, KS, McPherson, KS
Amos Glanz	Davenport, IA, Sioux City, IA
Martin Riese	Davenport, IA
Robert Miller, Jr.	Fremont, NE
Duane Koenig	Beatrice, NE
Allan Demorest	Fort Dodge, IA
Anthony Strub	Kansas City, MO
Thomas Knoebber	Topeka, KS
Roger Wiese	Davenport, IA, Muscatine, IA
Charles Marr	Manhattan, KS
Kelly Hodge	Winner, SD
Arthur Dercksen	Greater Ozarks, AR
Randall Weir	Des Moines, IA

Ed Bourg	Hastings, NE, Kearney, NE
Robert Brodd	Fremont, NE
John Glatter	Kearney, NE

Delegates were reminded to report deceased members to the District Secretary and/or to BHS via BHS Member Center.

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. Our total assets decreased about \$13,944 when compared to 2023.
- **Statement of Activities (Profit and Loss)** Total income and expenses are very comparable to 2023. Actually had \$480 more income in 2024 than in 2023. Total expenses actually went down \$471 from 2023. Other Income and Other Expense category went down because of Harmony Foundation Inc, income decreased from \$5,809.27 to just under \$2,000 in 2024. We didn't give as much to quartet and choruses qualifying to International because we had fewer groups going to International last year. As shown on the balance sheet we did lose a bit more money in 2024, mainly attributed to the Spring Convention in Ames where we lost about \$17,000. Hopefully this spring convention will be different.
- **Statement of Activities by Class** is a snapshot of the Fall 2024 convention. The bottom line shows we were very close to breaking even. Hopefully we will be in the black after next fall's convention.
- **Budget vs Actual.** \$110,000 was budgeted for revenue. Working with Events V.P. Brott on ways to get income closer to budget and into six figures. Expenses are actually a little under budget, just over \$90,000. We're doing what we can to cut down on expenses.
- **Amended Budget.** Original budget was amended and approved by the Board at a Board Meeting in January 2025, by adding a single line in Expenses, Line 8590, Outside Computer Services, \$750, for someone to handle the district website.

Motion to receive the financial report made by Mike Schumacher. Without objection, the financial report was received.

Arians is cautiously optimistic that we will stay close to budget with all three choruses from St. Charles attending in the fall and District dues was increased slightly beginning 2025. Events V.P. Brott stated we have received two grants for the fall convention in Lawrence.

Song Break. Contest and Judging V.P. Combs directed “Sweet and Lovely”.



Minutes of Fall 2024 House of Delegates meeting have been posted on the [District website](#). Secretary Fuerniss mentioned a few errors, mostly typographical, in the minutes as posted. 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 to approve the House of Delegates minutes for Spring 2025 as amended made by Past President Chad Schuetz. **Without objection the minutes were approved as amended.**

The Consent Calendar is also posted on the [District website](#). **Motion** made by Past President Kiser **to receive the Consent Calendar**. Without objection the **Consent Calendar was approved**. President Randolph thanked those that submitted reports.

Program Administrative Team Reports were summarized by Executive Vice President Bodtke.

Events, Doug Brott, we have an increased attendance at this spring convention from last spring with 245 paid registrations; total of 293 attendees. About 48 complimentary registrations for first time convention attendees and volunteers. The Columbia, MO Boonslick Chordbusters are in attendance and intend to come in the fall as well. Will be using a paid live stream by AcaVille; \$10 a stream. Will give us a little more revenue. Brott added that we are adding leadership classes and coaching sessions to our convention to try to increase convention attendance. Send feedback to events@singcsd.com. After hotel bars are set up about 7 p.m. no outside beverages, including water, may be taken into Shawnee Room. No alcohol in any of the public spaces after 1 a.m.



Contest and Judging, Carter Combs. We had amazing district representation at Mid-Winter this year, including *12th Street Rag*, senior quartet champions, *Vintage Vibe* and *Jazz*, 6th & 7th place respectively in the senior quartet contest; *Ozark Overtones* getting second in the Seniors Chorus; two NextGen Junior choruses: *Columbus*, *NE High School Captain’s Choral* and *Blue Valley High School Chorale*, earning superior and highest overall score; two in the top ten of the NextGen Junior Quartet Contest: *Zenith* (Wichita Northwest High School) and *Starlettes* (Agusta, KS High School). We have four BHS candidate judges, two in musicality, Matt Webber and Keegan Eich, and two in the administrative category, Kelby Cluck and Brett Randolph. BHS and SCJC



published a new [Statement Regarding Acceptable Taste](#) which can be found on BHS website. (See also, *Harmonizer*, March/April 2025 issue.)

Membership, Don Fuson. Fuson had a successful Zoom meeting with 12 – 15 participants discussing membership and ways to grow chapter and district members. Fuson plans to have another Zoom meeting in the coming months. Contact Fuson at membership@csd.com if you would like to participate. (Bodtke said the district board members and PAT members now have “@singcsd.com” email addresses.) Fuson continues to work with BHS to understand how we can best support our membership. Fuson will work with Ambassador Bob Cox this weekend to see what programs we can provide so we can continue to grow our membership. One of those programs being “[The Big Leap](#)”, which helps chapters understand how they can interact with their communities. Fuson added suggested ideas must be acceptable and supported by the chapter members to be fruitful.



Marketing and Public Relations, Chad Schuetz. How can we best reach out to chapters. Member feedback is necessary. Have been focusing on getting the *Serenade* out on a regular schedule. Have had good success with Facebook. Rick Ziegler is doing a fantastic job. Over 47,000 views the last month. Looking at some demographics: majority of viewers are 65 & over, then 18 – 24 greatest demographics. Trying to find ways to interact with other age groups. Possibly starting an Instagram page for the younger age groups. Our email system, IContact, allows us to set up different groups for targeted audiences. 80% of our emails are opened on a desktop. Younger individuals use cell phones. 50% of emails are opened. Schuetz is working on a way to get email addresses for complimentary registrations. Schuetz added that a survey will be sent following the convention for feedback which will be taken into consideration. Actively looking at ways to have a contact per chapter to get information to the chapter. Randolph encouraged delegates to take photos or videos of weekend experiences so we can share them on Facebook/Instagram. Share chapter events with Rick Ziegler (rick.ziegler71@gmail.com) and Mike Pommier (gorillaphotog@gmail.com) for *Serenade* and Facebook. Share the great things that are happening in your communities. Bodtke thanked Schuetz for being our interim Marketing V.P.



Chapter Support and Leadership Training, Chad Schuetz. Leadership Academy had minimal but usual attendance. Classes were directed to first time leaders. Refresher classes are being held at this convention. Schuetz added that we are using feedback from surveys to enhance future leadership sessions.

Music and Performance, Duane Lawson. Pretty good turnout for HEP School, four quartets, one chorus and two high schools. Trying to incorporate some of the coaching classes at this convention. Lot of quartets and choruses getting coaching this weekend. Fuson suggested get three of four chapters together, with a CSD leader, and some coaches to have a mini HEP in their own back yard. Bodtke said we’re are



looking at the possibility of having some smaller more regionally based events. A director focused workshop is planned for August 23 in Des Moines. Darrin Drown will be there and *Vox Infinitus* will be the guest chorus. This will set the blue print for more regional events. Lawson added he would love to help you set up a joint rehearsal day with a couple chapters, bring in some coaches/judges, invite some quartets.

Immediate Past President Suellentrop presented Lawson with an appreciation plaque for his leadership efforts in the District while Suellentrop was executive vice president and president.

Chorus Director Development, Larry Monson. Monson is reaching out to chorus directors to see what is working and how he can best serve them. Taking a picture of the delegates, Monson invited delegates to be part of the mic testing chorus before the chorus competition. You're dealing with egos with Chorus Director Development. Important to continue your education; study the art form regardless if it is barbershop. Monson's job is to mentor chorus directors. Tell your chapters and encourage your directors that Monson is available for assistance. Looking forward to working with Lawson and Darrin Drown in August in Des Moines. Bodtke added that a mass sing is scheduled for Saturday afternoon at Zona Rosa.



Historian, James Gwaltney. Gwaltney is working through our district history boards and various historical documents to get them digitized. When he's finished, we'll see what gaps there are and how they can be filled. Then hope to have these accessible on the web site. We're thinking of ways to present this history at conventions.



Board Meeting Updates

Randolph. **Updates from the Board meeting.** Review District goals for the remainder of the year. Where do state vice presidents need assistance? Goals board approved last night.

- Have recruitment and retainment materials more available. What recruitment efforts do you do in your chapter?
- Marketing resources being available on the website.
- Develop a coaching cadre for chapters, resources repository.
- District sponsored learning tracks for smaller chapters, e.g., barbershoptracks.com has a lot of learning tracks available.
- One contact per chapter for marketing and media purposes as mentioned in Schuetz's Marketing and Public Relations report.
- Develop some regional chorus director workshops as Lawson and Monson reported.
- Board is directing the financial advisory committee to look at items, specifically reimbursing policies and registration categories as ways of lowering expenses and increasing revenue.
- A report on the status of District goals will be given at the fall convention.

BHS Ambassador to Central States District, Bob Cox was introduced and shared a slide presentation regarding the new BHS Ambassador program.



Currently there are ten barbershop leaders with a variety of experiences whose goal is to reach out to districts, chapters, and individuals barbershop encouraging dialogue regarding challenges and how they 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 and Robert.Cox@barbershop.org.

Harmony Foundation International President and CEO Perry White spoke briefly about Harmony Foundation International, its programs, **AIC Outreach, Harmony University, NextGen, and Power of Harmony** programs and ways HFI can "Help Us Help You", through HFI **Presidents Council** and **Ambassadors of Song** donor's choice programs. White mentioned **Legacy of Harmony** program and **Endowment Giving. Keep the Melody Ringing** program allows a deceased to be recognized in perpetuity, with their name on a plaque at Harmony Hall.



State Vice President Reports

South Dakota. Cliff Huot. Viborg had a show last weekend, *Midtown* was guest quartet. About 300 in attendance. There are members participating in *Harmony in the Hill*, with the Rocky Mountain District in Rapid City. Same weekend as HEP-CCDI in Iowa, August 23.



Kansas, Mike Shepherd. Kansas is brown, slowly turning to green with a little black. All of the chapters in Kansas are extremely busy. **Hays** just had their show. **Manhattan** Chapter show is coming up the first weekend in May. **Leavenworth** Chapter is getting ready to have their show the end of June. A Brigade is being planned this summer in July by the **Central Kansas** Chapter. Details can be found on website: <http://www.BrigadeOnTheRange.org>. **South Central Kansas/Smorgaschorus** getting ready to go the International Convention in Denver.



Iowa. Larry Hlavacek. Cedar Rapid had a show last weekend; **Iowa City** several coming up, **Des Moines**, We have a chapter forming in Humboldt, Iowa, combining some smaller chapter and different location, looking for a director. Randy Wier was directing the **Harmony Delegation**. Greg Long and the **Des Moines** Chapter went to Dalles for the Big Leap workshop and came back with nothing but very positive comments.



Nebraska, Rick Pape. Nebraska has 10 chapters, six in the eastern part of the state and four in the center. Six in the eastern part are very active, doing well, maintaining their numbers or growing a little. The four in the middle are maintaining/struggling a bit, they share members. Have attended five chapter shows. **Fremont Pathfinders** put on a heck of a show. **Papillion Sarpy Serenaders** brought in a couple airmen from Offit Air Force base to sing with them. **Beatrice**



Homesteaders had *Storm Front* as their guest quartet. **Omaha** mixed chorus, **Heartland Harmonizers**, is trying to grow with new director Mathan Mrkvicka. The **Kearney 1733 Chorus** show featured the *Columbus High School Captain's Chorale* under the direction of Jake Ritter and NextGen junior quartet *Discovering Harmony* from Columbus, NE. Both competed at Midwinter..

Missouri-Arkansas. Stephen True. Have been in contact with eleven chapters in Missouri-Arkansas. They have goals set. **Columbia Boonslick Chordbusters** are here for the first time in over 20 years and plan to come to the fall convention. Trying to get ahold of John Reynolds. Lots of shows coming up. **Chordbusters** have a show on May 10. **St. Joseph** Chapter has plans to grow. They're planning an alumni night to celebrate the history of the chapter.



Randolph announced that, without objection, we will be adjourned after singing "Keep the Whole World Singing."

Closing Song **Columbia, MO Boonslick Chordbusters'** director, Topher Otake, directed "Keep the Whole World Singing".



Minutes recorded and compiled by Mark Fuerniss
CSD Secretary

