

CSD Fall 2025 House of Delegates Meeting
DoubleTree Hotel, Lawrence, KS
Friday October 10, 2025, 10 a.m.



Where the Harmony Began



President Randolph opened the meeting at 10 a.m. with “The Old Songs”. Randolph reminded those in attendance that only delegates may make motions and vote on motions. Robert’s Rules of Order for Small Boards will be used for the House of Delegates meeting.



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
- John Marshall CSD Past President
- Don Fuson CSD Past President
- Harvey Kiser CSD Past President
- Chad Schuetz CSD Past President
- Duane Lawson CSD Past President
- David Knapp Davenport, IA
- Greg Long Des Moines, IA
- Drew Peeler Des Moines Metro, IA
- Allan Mebus Iowa City, IA
- Thomas Gray Leavenworth, KS
- Darrell Parks Manhattan, KS
- Corbin Donavan South Central Kansas, KS
- Joe Silsby Topeka, KS
- Jeff Wiese Columbia, MO
- Danny Anderson Kansas City, MO
- Adam Keener Metro Kansas City, MO
- Paul Olguin Springfield, MO
- Tim Myers St. Charles, MO
- Darryl Holle Beatrice, NE
- Andrew Nehls Fremont, NE
- Bill Leslie Grand Island, NE
- Paul Kampfe Lincoln, NE
- Rebecca Stock Omaha, NE

- Keith Hammons Papillion, NE

A quorum was announced. Past District Presidents and special guests were recognized: Don Fuson, Harvey Kiser, John Marshall, Chad Schuetz, Duane Lawson, Matt Suellentrop, Harmony Foundation Director Jim Clark, Society Representative Jeff Wolff, and Society Representative Tim Myers.

Motion was made by John Marshall to accept agenda with flexibility. With no objection, **motion passed.**

Members of the Board and PAT were introduced: Don Fuson, Membership Development V.P.; Carter Combs, Contest and Judging V.P.; JP Marshall, Chorus Director Development V.P.; Chad Schuetz, Marketing and P.R. V.P.; Tim Link, Chapter Support and Leadership Training V.P.; Duane Lawson, Music and Performance V.P.; Mark Fuerniss, Secretary; Rick Pape, Nebraska State V.P.; Brett Randolph, President; Dan Bodtke, Executive V.P.; Jeff Arians, Treasurer, Matt Suellentrop, Immediate Past President, Stephen True, Missouri/Arkansas State V.P., Mike Shepherd, Kansas State V.P.; Larry Hlavacek, Iowa State V.P.. Other delegates and visitors: Joe Silsby, Topeka, KS; Drew Nehls, Fremont, NE; Tom Gray, Leavenworth, KS; Greg Long, Des Moines, IA; Jeff Wiese, Columbia, MO; Bill Leslie, Grand Island, NE; Keith Hammons, Papillion, NE; Paul Kampfe, Lincoln, NE; David Knapp, Davenport, IA; Daryl Holle, Beatrice, NE; Nate McKie, St. Charles, MO; Adam Keener, Metro Kansas City, MO; Becky Stock, Omaha, NE; Darrell Parks, Manhattan, KS; John Marshall, Iowa City, IA; Tim Myers, St. Charles, MO; Corbin Donovan, South Central Kansas, KS; Larry Warrick, Finance Committee, Des Moines, IA; Paul Olguin, Springfield, MO; Danny Anderson, Kansas City, MO; Allan Mebus, Iowa City, IA. Brett thanked delegates and guests for attending.

Past President Suellentrop offered a brief invocation and Secretary Fuerniss presented the Fall 2025 inductees to the CSD Chater Eternal.

- Don ‘Skip’ Anderson Fremont NE
- Stephen Kohlbray St. Louis Suburban MO
- Robert Tompson Columbia MO
- Ronald Challacombe Topeka, KS
- Bill Scott Hays, KS
- Dee Clark Overland Park, KS
- John Rolland Vaughn Kansas City, MO
- Lawrence Vitosh Beatrice, NE
- John Schlender Manhattan, KS
- Robert ‘Bob’ Tribuno Cedar Rapids, IA
- Dan Linn Wichita, KS
- Marvin Blakeman Kansas City, MO
- Albert Yanke Hays, KS
- Theodore ‘Tedd’ Inman Topeka, KS
- Richard ‘Dick’ Hartzler Olathe, KS
- Rodney Heldenbrand Hays, KS
- Omaha, NE
- McCook, NE
- Richard ‘Dick’ Sutton Kansas City, MO
- Steven Carruthers Kansas City, MO

- Richard 'Dick' Krueger Kansas City, MO

Dr. Duane Koenig, Beatrice NE was inducted into Chapter Eternal, Spring 2025.



Financial Reports by CSD Treasurer Jeff Arians

Treasurer Jeff Arians reviewed the financial reports which had been posted 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 & equity since we do not have liabilities. Our assets is our cash and CD. The middle column is as of August 31, 2024 and the left column is as of August 31, 2025. Our cash and CD is \$58,618.68, down about 20,000 from last year because of the loss we incurred last year and through August 31, 2025.
- **Statement of Activities** (Profit & Loss) Total expenses as of August 31, 2025 is \$52,312.74 whereas last year total expenses were \$53,125.99. Expenses have gone down a very small amount. Money we received from Harmony Foundation International is down a little bit, \$859, through August 31, 2025. Other Expense section includes our travel stipends that we offer our choruses and quartets for traveling to International and Mid-winter conventions which is higher this year. (CSD gives choruses \$1000 and quartets \$500 to help off-set their travel expenses if a chorus or quartet qualifies for International or Mid-winter contests.) All-in-all we’re showing a \$21,868 loss, coming mainly from the spring convention.
- **Statement of Activities by Class** Left column is the Iowa Harmony Clinic. \$1,280 income from registrations. However, total expenses were \$2,996. A large portion of the expenses was for the church where we held the event, \$1,200/day. Middle column shows the income and expenses for the Spring 2025 convention. Registrations were up. Unfortunately, we had to build a stage. Bottom line for the spring convention, we lost \$19,673. The year before, the spring convention was a \$17,000 loss.

Kiser moved to accept the financial report as presented. Motion approved with no objection.

2026 Budget

Preliminary Budget. Arians stated the District reserves are about \$58,000 and if the District continues to lose \$20,000/year, the District won’t be in a very good spot in five years even if it continues to exist. Most of the Preliminary Budget is based on three-year post pandemic averages, rather than pre-pandemic figures, as best as the financial committee could come up with. The budget includes category school, line 8410, \$8,400, \$525/judge-candidate, a once every three year expense. The Preliminary budget shows a \$20,470 loss. After the finance committee and board reviews, looking at expenses the District can cut, the **2026 Budget with Additional Cuts** shows a \$10,645 loss. Four budget items were adjusted:

- Line 8225, Food and Beverage Minimums, reduced to \$7500 from \$10,825;
- Line 8320, Travel – BOD & PAT; reduced to \$3,500 from \$7,500;

- Line 8321, Travel – C&Q Subsidy, \$5,000 reduced from \$7,000; and
- Line 8331, NextGen Chorus/Quartets, reduced to \$1,000 from \$1,500.

CSD Events V.P. negotiates **Food and Beverage Minimums** with the Hotel, what hotel expects us to pay for food and beverage to help reduce hotel expenses elsewhere. Reduced from \$10,825 to \$7,500.

Travel reimbursements for Board and PAT. Virtual PAT, Board, and House of Delegates meetings in the spring would reduce milage and hotel reimbursement expenses. Spent about \$7,500 last spring on these reimbursement expenses. Virtual/Zoom meetings may increase participation at these meetings. Quite a few other districts have been conducting their meetings virtually. Fall meetings would be in person.

Travel subsidies for chorus and quartets qualifying for International Convention reduced as the International Convention in 2026 will be in St. Louis. Choruses would receive \$500 and quartets would receive \$250 for International in St. Louis. Subsidies for Mid-winter in Pasadena would not change. Would like to continue giving qualifiers some sort of support.

With these cuts, the bottom line for the proposed budget would be a negative \$10,645. The 2026 Budget with Additional Cuts includes the \$8,400 expense for the once every three-year category school, Line 8410. We can't control judging expenses.

Randolph clarified the 2026 Budget with Additional Cuts is the budget the Board is presenting to the House of Delegates for their approval.

John Marshall moved that we approve the 2026 Budget with Additional Cuts. Without objection the **2026 Budget with Additional Cuts was approved.** There were no objections.

Because of our “cash basis” accounting system, the Category School expense cannot be amortized over three years. It was suggested that the Society could share Category School expenses equally among all the districts as judges serve all the districts.

Past District Treasurer Warrick commended the board for taking a hard line preparing the budget.

Song Break Paul Olguin directed “Sweet and Lovely”



Approval of Minutes and Consent Calendar

The minutes of the Spring 2025 Board and House of Delegates meetings and summer 2025 Board meeting as well as the Consent Calendar have been posted on the CSD Web site, <https://singcsd.com>.

Schuetz moved to approve the 2025 Spring House of Delegates minutes. Without objection, **Spring 2025 House of Delegates minutes were approved.**

Barbershop Harmony Society updates

Society Board Member **Jeff Wolff** reported that he is here serving as the BHS Ambassador assigned to the Central States District to answer questions CSD members may have regarding BHS affairs. Wolff announced that BHS has hired a new CEO, **Robert Rund**, a 50-year member of the Society with extensive experience with non-profit fund raising, starting August 18, 2025.



Interim CEO Steve Denino took over post-pandemic and had to make difficult financial decisions regarding size of Harmony Hall staff. Consequently, along with very strong performances at recent conventions and events, BHS is ahead of budget by about \$437,000, with about \$590,000 in cash on hand as of July 31. Does not include income from the International Convention. 5,664 in attendance at International Convention in Denver, the highest attended convention since the convention in Nashville in 2016. 288 attended Harmony University, down 137 from previous year, will probably lose money. 1500 attended Mid-Winter in San Antonio, a slight increase from the previous year. 211 more non-youth in attendance. Exceeded budget by about \$36,000. The Society is looking at reinstating some of the programs in areas the Society wants to build up. After stabilizing in 2021, membership started to show growth. Society membership is about 14,000. The BHS building in Nashville is for sale. The building is a valuable asset. The Society does not need to sell the building to maintain the Society's budget. The building is much bigger than what the Society needs. The Society only uses about 30% of the space. With insurance, taxes, interest and other expenses, the Society could rent space for less than the building is costing us to use. Hard for anyone to make enough money to justify the cost of the location. The Society will probably rent space in Nashville. The Society can't move out of the space until the Society knows a deal will close which can take 12 – 18 months. Society Board Member Tim Myers added that different options are being explored regarding storage of museum type items. If and when the building sells, it will be a financial windfall for the Society which has plans to invest the money in endowments, long-term savings plans, etc., and would not go towards operations. Society adopted a long but well thought out statement regarding "[acceptable taste](https://www.barbershop.org/acceptable-taste)", which is available on the Society website <https://www.barbershop.org/acceptable-taste>. Will wait to see how the statement translates in the real world.

[Harmony Foundation International](#) representative Jim Clark. Reminded us that



the Harmony Foundation International mission is to "Enrich Lives Through Singing." HFI supports AIC Outreach to get champion quartets to chapters, districts, or schools by request, ten events a year. The Power of Harmony program is a youth anti-recidivism program, getting music education, musicians, etc., into youth incarceration facilities. Four facilities in operation including one outside Dallas, Texas supported by the *Vocal Majority*. HFI supports the BHS mission and programs,



specifically BHS Youth programs, NextGen chorus, NextGen quartet, and preservation efforts. HFI has the [Keep the Melody Ringing](#) memorial program, deceased barbershoppers are immortalized on the perpetual, virtual memorial wall and physically on a plaque in Harmony Hall. An aggregate of \$1,000 gift gets their name on the wall. Donor's Choice program allows a portion of annual gift to be returned to a chapter or district. This fall, around \$4,000 will be returned to the district and chapters in the district. As a special promotion, through the end of October, any new Ambassador of Song/President's Council donor, or any



current annual donor increasing their giving, up to 50% of their gift can be allocated to their chapter, district and/or a brigade.

Election of District Officers.

As chair of the **Nominating Committee**, Immediate Past District President Suellentrop announced the results of the election of Iowa and Kansas State Vice Presidents, by Iowa and Kansas chapter presidents, respectively. Mike Shepherd will serve two more years as Kansas State V.P. for his second 2-year term, and Allan Mebus from Iowa City was elected Iowa State V.P. succeeding Larry Hlavacek, beginning in January, 2026. Jeff Ariens has agreed to be the nominee for District Treasurer. District Secretary Fuerniss will be stepping down. The Committee's nominee for District Secretary is Larry Hlavacek. **Motion by Mike Shepherd was received to accept nominations of Larry Hlavacek as District Secretary and Jeff Ariens as District Treasurer.** With no objections they will be voted in as District Secretary and District Treasurer respectively. **With no objections Larry Hlavacek and Jeff Ariens were elected as District Secretary and District Treasurer respectively.** President Randolph thanked Secretary Fuerniss for his time, effort and dedication to members and chapters of the Central States District.



State Vice President Reports

Nebraska. State Vice President Rick Pape reported not much is changing in Nebraska. Membership numbers are pretty steady. Things in central Nebraska are kind of static. Omaha, NE chapter is growing, Lincoln and Beatrice are growing slightly. Had a wonderful barbershop representation at the Nebraska State Fair. Kearney, Hastings, and Grand Island with Ord, Fremont, and Papillion chapters participating in an open air concert with about seven different a cappella groups, exposing State Fair goers to barbershop harmony. Fran Wilson, director of Kearney Area 1773 chorus, and his team had a booth educating folks as to what barbershop is all about. Fremont will be doing a corporate gig in the Denver area.



Iowa. State President Larry Hlavacek. Des Moines, IA chapter had a Youth In Harmony event in the spring tied to a show with *Fleet Street* as their guest quartet. With the passing of Randy Wier, Assistant Director Larry Warrick has been acting director, but as of August 11, Mike Williams, from Macomb, Illinois, will be directing the *Harmony Delegation*. Carl Johnson from Sioux City chapter wants to thank everybody participating in the platoon this weekend. The Dubuque chapter is having their fall show November 1 with *Vocal Spectrum* as their guest quartet. Hlavacek thanked the board for allowing him to go to Harmony University in Denver. HU had a track for district presidents and executive vice presidents, on ways to enhance communication between Society, districts and chapters. There will be on-going follow up focus groups to promote communications.



Kansas. State Vice President Mike Shepherd. "Welcome to Kansas" Not only the center of the contiguous United States but the center of the Central States District. The Hays chapter show is a treat to enjoy. South Central Kansas and SmorgasChorus had an amazing youth festival. The Manhattan Chapter is going to have a youth festival next weekend. The director of the Central Kansas chapter had a [Brigade on the Range](https://brigadeontherange.org/) (https://brigadeontherange.org/) last summer, and is planning another one in June 2026. Shepherd reminded delegates to update their chapter leaders and chapter information on [BHS Member Center](https://members.barbershop.org) https://members.barbershop.org, before the end of the year.



Missouri/Arkansas. State Vice President Stephen True. A lot of chapters are still recovering from Covid losses, but some are exceeding their pre-Covid numbers such as Columbia with a large number of collegiate members. We were represented at the [British Association of Barbershop Singers \(BABS\)](#) (<https://singbarbershop.com/pages/sing-2025>) by *Vocal Spectrum* and the *Ambassadors of Harmony* in May. St. Joseph, *Voices of America* is searching for a director.



They are having regular meetings. Greater Ozarks in Bella Vista, AR recently had a youth event, engaged with over 80 students. *Ozark Overtones* from Springfield has qualified again for International Senior Chorus contest at Mid Winter. Trying to get booths at [MCDA](#) and [MMEA](#) for barbershop exposure. Out of 18 choruses competing this weekend, nine are from Missouri. A great Missouri representation this weekend.

Highlights of yesterday's Program Administration Team meeting. Executive Vice President Dan Bodtke reported:



Membership. Don Fuson has been hosting a lot of Zoom calls regarding recruitment and retention activities. Will attempt to make more resources available on our web site. BHS has material we could link.

Marketing. Chad Schuetz. Using mass emails, Serenade, social media engagement; 30,000 views on Facebook over the last 28 days. Working on creating a marketing community. Working to identify a marketing contact for each chapter, usually the chapter president. We want to share your accomplishments on our Facebook page and in the Serenade. Who would be a good contact person in your chapter?

Music and Performance and Chorus Director Development. Duane Lawson. JP Marshall will be taking over the Chorus Director Development program. Working to develop a coaching list within our district. There is a problem getting this information on the web site for security reasons. For the time being, reach out to Lawson and Combs for your coaching requests. Looking at ways to provide learning tracks to chapters. Want to add links to learning tracks resources to the CSD web site.

How can we best serve our directors. Iowa Harmony Clinic was successful with six quartets, two directors, *Vox Infinitus* was the director/coaching chorus. Darin Drown, Rick Knight, Rik Johnson were coaches. The Iowa Harmony Clinic will be a model for future Harmony Clinics, the next one in South Dakota, perhaps in June. Hopefully to include quartet coaching, chorus director coaching, and possible chorus coaching. Would like to get the South Dakota chapters more engaged in district activities. Because of clinics and coaching at spring convention, there will be no HEP school this year. Plan to have a booth at the [Missouri Music Educators Association](#) meeting.

Events. Doug Brott. We have 37 quartets, 18 choruses, here this weekend. Largest number of competitors in 30 years. 686 attendees. Looking at spring convention locations in the central part of the District. Brott would like some assistance with a registrar position, checking registrations, etc.

Contest and Judging. Carter Combs. We have added International Prelim contests for quartets to this fall's convention. The spring conventions dates were moved to April 10 & 11, 2026 based on Sweet Adeline conventions scheduled for same weekend. Auto-qualification score for quartets is now 81. Quartets scoring 78 – 80 get invited to a "sing-in" contest before the quartet quarter-finals at International. Top two quartets will be added to quartet quarter-finals.

Chapter Support and Leadership Training. Tim Link took on CSLT V.P. recently. Leadership Academy is planned for January 10, 2026 in Shawnee, KS at the Shawnee Presbyterian Church. Looking to provide other educational sessions in addition to usual classes for chapter presidents, secretaries, and treasurers. How can we better prepare our chapters for succession plans.

Other Business

The District is looking at ways to make more money e.g., District corporate sponsorship opportunities. We're livestreaming our convention, \$10 for the entire weekend. Livestreaming information can be found on [CSD web site](#) as well as [Facebook](#).

Randolph said that Suellentrop has been working on **digitizing our VHS tapes** of past conventions, shows, etc. and making these available on [our You Tube Page](#). (<https://www.youtube.com/@centralstatesdistrict7705/live>). BHS has offered to digitize remaining materials and do all the post production work for free. BHS will then return digital files so we will be able to house and post on our You Tube pages. CSD Historian Gwaltney is working on digitizing our history boards and other items he has access to. The Board will be meeting in January 2026, in person and virtually, to solidify district goals for 2026.

With no objection, the **Fall 2025 House of Delegates meeting was adjourned** following the singing of "Keep the Whole World Singing" under direction of Paul Olguin.



Minutes compiled by

Mark Fuerniss

Mark Fuerniss
CSD Secretary



Where the Harmony Began