



**Far Western District
Board of Directors
March 20, 2014
Riverside, California**

Meeting was called to order by President Allan Webb at 2:10 PM

EVP Gordon Bergthold directed "The Old Songs".

Div. 4 VP Richard Lund gave the Invocation.

Roll Call was taken by Secretary Bob Gray who reported to President Webb that all members were in attendance, and that a quorum was present. Board members present: Allan Webb, Russ Young, Gordon Bergthold, Bob Gray, Max Bates, Bob Lally, Craig Hughes, Chuck Leavitt, Richard Lund, and John Bloomquist.

President Allan Webb welcomed all board members and guests. He acknowledged the Past Presidents in attendance at the meeting, and Jim Clark from Harmony Foundation.

President Webb advised the board that Shannon Elswick, President of the BHS Board, would be late because of plane trouble delaying his arrival. In his report to the Board of Directors, President Webb discussed the "Constant Contact" email system. He expressed that desire that board members use the system for more BOD communications between regular meetings. President Webb also discussed the need to get Chapter Leadership to take a more positive role in working on member retention. There was a review of the spread sheet analysis which Allan presented showing the correlation between chapters that compete in contests, or at least perform, and chapters that do not participate. In most cases, the chapters who participate have a better member retention than those that do nothing.

President Webb entertained a motion to approve the meeting agenda, with the changes in the time for Society Board Member Remarks, and Bob Lally replacing Neil Pennywitt as Division 1 Southwest VP. **Motion Carried**

President Webb entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the October 10, 2014 District Board meeting. **Motion Carried.**

President Webb advised that the Division VP reports were published in the HOD Brochure, and that he had appointed Bob Lally to fill the Division 1 position, replacing Neil Pennywitt, who was forced to resign due to health issues. There were additional reports by the Division Vice Presidents.

Division 1 Southwest VP Bob Lally presented a detailed report on his contact with the eight of nineteen Chapters in his division with fewer than 15 members. He reported that eight were in serious trouble. Bakersfield with 14 members, 4 are active. Crescenta Valley, 8 members, 4 are active. Lompoc 1 Member, Long Beach, 10 members, they have moved to Leisure World and have about 20 showing up. Los Angeles 5 members, Santa Clarita with 14 members, 10 are active and want to keep growing. Ventura 14 members, they would like to expand and want help. Whittier has 13 with 6 active members.

CSLT Don Salz, and Past President Russ Young offered input.

Division 2 VP Craig Hughes reported that 11 of 18 chapters had attended Leadership Academy. Brea was a Harold Hill award winner. He also reported that 10 of 16 Chapters had choruses competing. He reported that the Riverside Chapter was doing well, and that El Cajon had doubled membership from 14 to 29.

Division 3 Northwest VP Chuck Leavitt reported that Santa Rosa was not going to host the Prelims; however the Bay Area “Voices of Harmony” would be the host chapter.

Division 4 Northeast VP Richard Lund reported on small chapters are having Director issues.

Division 5 Arizona VP John Bloomquist addressed numbers from President Webb’s spread sheet, and reported 6 chapters would be competing.

Old Business: The HOD will be voting on two new board positions “Music and Performance, and Contest Judging”. General discussion of concerns with director help for small struggling chapters, retention of chapters, and membership.

New Business: “Harmony College West & Leadership Academy”. The Board discussed combining Harmony College West and Leadership Academy. There is a need to determine the Missions of each event. Other issues that need to be addressed are location, venue, available space, classes offered, and faculty availability.

President Allan Webb appointed a committee to study the possibilities. Committee members are: Ron Black, Craig Hughes, Russ Young, Greg Lyne, Don Salz, and Nick Papageorge.

President Webb called for a fifteen minute break at 4:00 PM. The meeting resumed at 4:18 PM.

Awards Chairman Bill Cale announced that John Jones would be the honoree at the Fall Convention in Fresno. Motion to approve the selection. **Motion Approved.**

President Allan Webb introduced Jim Clark from Harmony Foundation. Following discussion regarding more transparency about the funding, Mr. Clark explained the process. He pointed out that 20 “Youth” choruses had registered for next year’s “Mid-Winter” in New Orleans.

Mr. Clark gave the history of Harmony Foundation since 1959 until today. In 2013 16% of the members participate in donating to Harmony Foundation. There were 2695 “Ambassadors of Song” and 893 members of the “President’s Council”. Income growth was reported as \$793,806 in 2008 and \$2,629,945 in 2013. The 2013 figure could yield \$780,000 back to the Chapters and or Districts for various operations. We are currently receiving back \$350,000 meaning that we are leaving \$430,000 with the Foundation. This is a potential source of funding for youth programs. The “Donor Choice” has increased from \$135,953 in 2008 to \$349,689 in 2013.

Funding District YIH Events (Outreach Events): There was discussion about funding FWD program to distribute grants for YIH. Education of district membership will be necessary to create a program that is beneficial to YIH Outreach. Consider the Mid-Atlantic Model for YIH. Further discussion and board vote in June.

Chapter Chartering: The district will study where chapters are need or justified. The study will determine where to place new chapters, and the cost of placement. The board will vote in June to provide money in the budget for 2015.

Chapter Coaching Supplemental Program: Currently 50% of Coaching travel costs are available to Chapters. There will be discussion in June to possibly provide supplemental funds where the FWD will fund 100% of coaching three times per year for musical improvement for five mid-range choruses.

Restructuring of Convention/Contest Funding/Accounting: There was discussion of possibly restructuring the Convention operations. This could provide Host Chapters “front money” for expenses based on an approved Convention Budget. Money would come to FWD for registrations. The Host Chapter would provide proper accounting for the Convention to recoup their share of profits. Setting up the Merchant Account could provide challenging. There will be further discussion at the June meeting.

Past President Russ Young led “Keep the Whole World Singing”

President Allan Webb entertained a motion to adjourn. **Motion Approved.**

Meeting Adjourned at 5:55 PM

Next Meeting June 7, 2014
Fullerton, CA

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Gray
FWD Secretary