

**Far Western District
Board of Directors
June 7, 2014
Fullerton, California**

The meeting was called to order by President Gordon Bergthold at 9:06 AM

IPP Allan Webb directed "The Old Songs."

Div. 4 VP Richard Lund gave the Invocation.

Roll Call was taken by Acting Secretary Jerry McElfresh who reported that two members, Charles Feltman and Bob Gray, were absent. A quorum was present.

Board members present: Gordon Bergthold, Craig Hughes, Allan Webb, Max Bates, Brent Anderson, Nick Papageorge, Richard Lund, John Bloomquist, Ron Black and Craig Ewing.

Also in attendance DMT Members Steve Salmon, Royce Ferguson, Bryan Forbes, Jerry McElfresh, Bill Rosica and Ryan Collins.

President Gordon Bergthold

In his opening remarks President Bergthold welcomed all in attendance, including DMT members. He thanked all who supported him during his recent surgery and recovery, especially EVP Hughes, who filled in for him at the Spring Board Meeting.

President Bergthold entertained a motion to approve the meeting agenda.

Motion Approved.

President Bergthold entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the March 17, 2016, District Board meeting. **Motion Approved.**

Division Vice Presidents reported on recent activities in their areas including comments on chapters that were basically inactive and others in need of assistance. Most of the reports were made verbally although **Northeast DVP Richard Lund** had presented his in writing. He also verbally added comments about absent DVP Feltman's Division. **Southwest DVP Brent Anderson** said the Ventura and Conejo chapters may merge. **Arizona DVP John Bloomquist** said there is a new chorus that may join the Society, Sounds of the Mouth, a youth group that scored highly in the Midwinter competition.

C&J Vice President Ron Black presented a detailed 12-step proposal for revision of the District Conventions SOP to provide a more consistent and manageable environment and eliminating pitfalls of managing all conventions.

Under the proposal a District Convention Management team would run conventions and would solicit convention-area chapters to staff conventions for a dollar amount negotiated for their participation. Semi-permanent convention sites

would be selected for each Division and contracts for venue and other needs would be negotiated far in advance.

Ron Black, Bryan Forbes, Nick Papageorge and Russ Young, with information from others, will prepare a report for a proposed motion to the Board on amendments or edits to the FWD SOP document by Aug. 15. The convention manual is being revised, which will be reflected in the SOP.

IPP Allan Webb said he is reviewing the District SOP for needed updates and revisions.

Ron also said some contest participants have complained about the scheduling of after-contest evaluations on Saturday nights. Some Districts are trying different methods that we might try in the future.

Past President Russ Young discussed requests from some choruses that a choral shell be available for FWD contests but he said the cost for rental would vary to a great degree across the district and the cost to purchase and transport a shell from contest to contest would be prohibitive. This issue will be addressed in the revised convention manual.

Music and Performance Vice President Craig Ewing said he and **CSLT Chairman Steve Salmon** are working on curricula and locations and timing for the three combined Harmony College West/Leadership Academy programs to be held this fall and early in 2017.

The Northeast/Northwest school will be on Nov. 19, DVP Lund advised, and the Southeast/Southwest school will likely be in November and the one in Arizona in January. President Bergthold asked DVPs to obtain dates and locations for each event as soon as possible.

DMT Meeting

Most Board members attended the previous evening's District Management Team meeting and are aware of their various accomplishments and goals.

New DMT member **Ryan Collins, Youth in Harmony Chairman**, was introduced and welcomed by the DMT and Board. Because Ryan is considerably younger than our average membership it's expected that he will be able to communicate well with singers in the youth age group.

CSLT Steve Salmon asked for more interaction with Chapters in the District through the DVPs. He and **M&P VP Craig Ewing** are working on setting up the three LA/HCW Programs later this year.

Chapter Director Development- Royce Ferguson is working on new programs for director development and exploring opportunities for new directors in the district.

Events Chairman Bryan Forbes recommended that two permanent sites be found for that would alternate from year to year in each of the combined Division contests in Northeast/Northwest and Southeast/Southwest Divisions and that two or three permanent locations be found for Spring and Fall contests. That discussion is to be part of the overall Convention Manual revision under study.

Bryan said he and **Webmaster David Melville** are working on the ability for members to register for convention hotel rooms in addition to the new program now in use that allows registrants to select their auditorium seating for contests.

Membership- Bill Rosica has come up with a slogan that will motivated chapter members; it's EACH ONE, BRING ONE, WE WON! This will be on a pin/button available to everyone. Bill said he plans to be involved in chapter growth throughout the FWD.

Marketing & Public Relations- Jerry McElfresh said Westags is now published monthly and sent to all of our members. It is a good way for District leadership to get messages of interest to all. Jerry also said that sample press releases for use by our chapters to publicize the good things they are doing have been posted to the District website under Media > Leadership Academy > VP Marketing.

Old Business

The District has been asked to report to BHS about failing chapters in FWD. President Bergthold said he would do so within the week. They include Elko, Crescenta Valley, Lompoc, Los Angeles and Redding.

New Business

Russ Young reported for the Nomination Committee. The nominees and several prospective nominees for election to the 2017 Board of Directors include President, **Gordon Bergthold**; Executive Vice President, **Craig Hughes**; Immediate Past President, **Allan Webb**; Secretary, **Bob Gray** Treasurer, **Bernie Esberner**; VP Div.1, **Brent Anderson**; VP Div. 2, **Nick Papageorge**; VP Div.3, **David Haedtler**; VP Div. 4, **pending**; VP Div. 5, **John Bloomquist**; VP Contest and Judging, **Ron Black**; and VP Music & Performance, **Craig Ewing**. A motion to accept the report **was approved**.

President Bergthold said that **Steve Kirch** and **Randy Finger** will represent the District in the BHS leadership facilitation program and **Steve Salmon** and **Bill Rosica** will attend the BHS Leadership Forum in Nashville this July.

Russ Young, Nick Papageorge and **Ron Black** will be the Production Team for all District and some Division contests, where they are willing to help.

C&J Chairman Black conducted a drawing for performance order in the Fall District contest for 29 quartets and another drawing for performance order for 22 choruses.

Div. 5 DVP John Bloomquist suggested that the Arizona Division host the Fall District convention in 2019 rather than 2021. The proposal may be considered as part of the overall revision of the Convention Manual.

Treasurer Max Bates asked for a review of the 2016 District Budget to look for areas that could be reduced to help offset a \$27,370 deficit incurred in the Spring Prelims contest and other expected deficits. Board members responsible for various areas of the budget found items that could be reduced in cost for a savings of \$31,000, reducing the expected overall deficit to \$7,356.

A suggestion was made earlier by **Events Chairman Forbes** that commemorative polo and T-shirts embroidered with the district's 70th Anniversary logo be sold in connection with this fall's District Convention with half the proceeds going to the District. The Board endorsed the plan and a number of members ordered shirts.

For the good of the Order

Div. 1 VP Anderson reported on a study that he made for attracting members of Generation Y -- age 18 to 36 -- that by 2025 will represent 75% of people who are working. He said there are 80 million of them, more than Baby Boomers, and they are 43 percent non-white, nontraditional and that family and community mean different things for them.

He said these are the people we all need to attract to our chapters. Most all the problems our chapters now have can be solved with these new, energetic, younger members. VP Anderson made his detailed report available to Board and DMT members and others who may be interested.

Past President Russ Young led the group in singing "Keep the Whole World Singing"

Meeting adjourned at 4:17 PM

Respectfully Submitted
Jerry McElfresh, Acting Secretary
Far Western District