

FAR WESTERN DISTRICT

Board Meeting Minutes

Best Western Plus Heritage Inn
111 East March Lane
Stockton, CA 95207

President Craig Hughes called the meeting to order at 2:08 pm.

The Old Songs was led by Brett Littlefield.

Chuck Roots offered the Invocation.

Secretary Jim Maass called the roll. All board members were present. The following management team members (non voting) were also present. David Melville, Bryan Forbes, Steve Salmon, Daniel “Roe” Darnell, and Chuck Hunter.

President Craig welcomed the group to the meeting and gave a few brief opening remarks. He reported the FWD membership numbers. We are the second largest district with more than 2000 current members. Mid Atlantic is bigger by 400. Membership is down he commented everyone should be involved in bringing in new members. Everyone in Harmony should help. He also reported that he hasn't heard much negative input after the recent dues increase but has heard lots of positive comments. He mentioned that Rich Owen will talk more about the budget process later in the meeting.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes for the October 11, 2018 Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Introduction of Guests: President Craig introduced David Haedtler, Society Board Member and Holly Kellar, BHS Chief Marketing Officer.

Vice Presidents Reports

Division 1 Southwest

Brent Anderson

Brent had nothing to elaborate from his printed report in the HOD Brochure. He did mention that his daughter, Cortney, is the new director for the Rincon Beach Chapter.

Division 2 Southeast

Nick Papageorge

Nick had nothing to add to his printed report in the HOD Brochure. He did bring up the issue that one member in one of the division chapters has been dropped and per BHS policy because his name appeared on the Federal sex offenders list. President Craig briefly elaborated the Society's policy.

Division 3 Northwest

Dick Whitten

Dick had nothing to add to his printed HOD Brochure report. He is mention that Fog City Singers now has a female group, Fog City Harmonia, operating under the Fog City charter.

Division 4 Northeast

Chuck Roots

Chuck reported that that some of the guys in his area are concerned regarding what is happening in the Society regarding Everyone in Harmony. However, he is hearing lots of good things.

Division 5 Arizona

Adam Kaufman

Adam reported that there was more than 10% of the district membership at the recent Leadership Summit. Also, eight choruses, including one women's chorus for eval plus a mixed chorus will be at the divisional contest. Registration is up. He invited everyone to come to Arizona to see and hear the great things happening.

Contest and Judging

Brett Littlefield

Brett reported there is a double judging panel to keep expenses down. He is pleased with the number of competitors this weekend. He also mentioned that AZ has a strong contest coming up next month. This weekend will see an embracement of Everyone in Harmony. He said that he has not heard negative comments regarding EiH. Lot of good support for the new BHS direction. He is not pushing women's choruses but is there to assist. He said that qualifying contests will have a first place for mixed and women's groups and they will go to district. Additional quartets or choruses will have to qualify based upon scores.

Music and Performance

Russ Young

Russ is helping filling the vacancy in VP Music and Performance. Scott Suwabe is "shadowing" Russ and will be taking over the position soon. In addition to his article in the HOD brochure, Russ participated in the AZ Leadership Summit. He had good participation in his Music and Performance class with a lot of great exchanging of ideas. It is important to let chapters know that the Music and Performance VP is there to help and assist. Bill Rosica also echoed that fact that the District is here to help and everyone should let the chapters know that.

District Management Team

Executive Vice President

Bill Rosica

Bill reported Jeremy Loper (membership) is now on board as well as Steve Salmon and Roe Darnell who have joined the team.

Youth in Harmony

Steve Salmon

Steve reported that young men high school quartet contest next year will be a youth quartet contest with male, mixed and female groups participating. He also mentioned that Richard Lund will step in to take Bruce Sellnow's position coordinating the HS quartet contest in the North and he is looking for a South Coordinator. Steve said he will be doing further communication and outreach to music educators about the youth contest and youth camps as well as other summer events for youth. He hopes to communicate with educators three to four times a year. Harmony camp will be moving to an October date. He also reported that the boys pay \$95 but the total cost is \$210 so the FWD is heavily subsidizing the camp. There is a need to focus on the financial issues of the camp. Steve also mentioned that there is a \$500 budget item for youth events. One chapter made a request and received the funds. It was directed that this topic be referred to the Budget topic and also to the June Board Meeting for further discussion.

There was additional discussion regarding getting the word out regarding the youth camp. Steve will be addressing the issue. Question was raised...Is the camp co-ed. It is not.

Events

Bryan Forbes

Bryan reported that the dues increase allocations has brought the budge back into the black for events. He is happy with the budget process and will be monitoring the budget throughout the years.

Host chapter payments documentation has been moved from the SOP to the Convention Manual, but the numbers need to be revisited. The responsibility of running a convention has been moved to the Events team and away from host chapters. Host chapters are involved only on the convention weekend. There needs to be a discussion to move from % allocation to the host chapter to a minimum fixed amount. The numbers need to be revised.

There was some discussion regarding the fees for hosting conventions. Rich Owen had provided the board with an analysis and proposed fee amounts. There was some discussion and recommendations.

It was proposed that fixed fees for this cycle be set as Single Divisional at \$1250. Double Divisional at \$1500, Spring/Prelims at \$1750 and the Fall at \$2500. It was Moved, Seconded and Approved to be effective immediately.

President Craig appointed a committee made up of Byran Forbes , Russ Young and Rich Owen to report to the board in June regarding an incentive payment program for chapter hosting conventions.

There was additional information regarding registrations. It was mentioned a rotation of convention sites between Fresno, Bakersfield and Mesa as these are the three locations with the highest attendance and revenue. Further discussion set for the June meeting in Fullerton.

Bryan reported he is still working on the convention manual update. It is a major project.

Marketing and Public Relations

David Melville

David reported the need to use project management and will be discussing this more at the June meeting.

Westunes is out and it looks great. He also reported that the website is getting too “full” and the size needs to be addressed. Convention programs are being printed in Sacramento with the help of Keith Slater. David produces the program and sends it to Keith for printing.

He also mentioned the need for chapters to get their shows properly cleared for performance in accordance with SOP rules and regulations. He is aware of a number of shows being performed with out clearance.

He has produced logos for the conventions and are ready to be used in appropriated publicity. Marketing is also looking at attendance at conventions. There is a general decline. Also, need to check badges to assure all performers are registered as “competitor” as there have been some issues of guys performing without such registrations or with no registration at all.

Awards

Chuck Hunter

Chuck reported that with additional contest categories, there needs to be away to handle all the awards involving mixed and women quartets and choruses.

The Fall Convention dedicatee is David Melville.

Membership

Jeremy was not in attendance at the meeting

Jeremy Loper

Financial Development

Daniel “Roe” Darnell

Roe reported that the Donor Choice Program with Harmony Foundation is “low hanging fruit.” He has set a goal getting 220 of the 440 donors who only donate to HF to designate chapter/district. He is working with Jim Clark to identify these people and contact them taking into account their privacy. He will also work to increase the numbers giving to HF with a designation to chapter/district.

He also would like the board to consider designation donor choice funds to a specific budget area. With that, one could tell a prospective donor where the funds are earmarked to be spent. He suggested three areas...at risk chapters, chapter development and youth programs. There was some discussion. The topic was put over to the June board meeting.

Craig brought up endowment funds. More discussion at June’s board meeting.

Finance Update

Rich Owen

Rich had nothing to add to his printed report. President Craig will set up a budget committee, solicit input and have the committee prepare a draft budget to review at the June board meeting. The committee appointed will be Bill Rosica, Rich Owen, Nice Papageoge, Brett Littlefield and Bryan Forbes.

Bank of America signature card update. There needs to be a new signature card update. Need to delete Max Bates and Bob Gray and to add Jim Maass, Craig Hughes as President, and Bill Rosica and Treasurer Rich Owen Motion was seconded and approved.

BHS Staff Update

Holly Kellar, Chief Marketing Officer

Holly observed that there are four issues: Engaging youth education, Struggling chapters, Hobby Quartets and Non-competitors who want to sing. She sees it as all having to do with Everyone in Harmony. There needs to be a way to find out how to engage people—men and women in singing. She is looking to welcoming not only women...but all to the barbershop hobby. She shared ideas about spreading the love of barbershop music. She is looking forward to the conversation.

Society Board Update

David Haedtler, Board Member

David reported in the Everyone in Harmony that change is hard to make whether it is good or bad. He indicated that 60-65% would like to keep things the same. The rest are mixed with women inclusion. He said it’s “all over the map.”

He discussed sex offenders list and the position of the society. It’s tough to deal with but the new rule, it is the right thing to do.

Transparency issue with the board was brought up regarding EIH. There was feedback from members that there is need for more communication from the board to the members. The board has discussed the issue. Board meetings are open except executive sessions, but they need to address the transparency issues he reported.

He said that the board gives general direction to CEO and then let's him run the Society within the guidelines. He took several questions from the group.

Old Business

Status of Ferment Hayward Chapter.

Rich Owen said there is nothing new to report and is still working on getting this finished up so the charter can be transferred to the FWD for future use with a proposed chapter.

Fall 2020 Convention at Sea

Bill Rosica

Bill reported that more than 100 cabins have been sold to date representing more than 200 attendees. Donna Hisey from Expedia will be on site at the convention this weekend. There was some discussion. Need to get deposits in which are fully refundable until February 2020.

District Donors Choice Dollars

Roe Darnell

This was discussed above under his Financial Report.

New Business

New Bylaws

Craig Hughes

President Craig reported that nothing needs to be done. The Society adopts the Bylaws and chapters add their names and location. There was no action needed on this topic.

Leadership Summit

Bill Rosica

Bill gave a brief report on the Summits which were held. One didn't go so well, and the others were fine. He is evaluating the positive and what needs to be improved and how to best approach the summits. There needs to be a plan going forward.

Harmony College West

Russ Young

Russ discussed the history of HCW and Directors Guild and what has happened over the years. Do we want to revisit HCW? Also is there a desire to rekindle the Chorus Directors Guild? General Discussion.

Additional Business

Craig Hughes

President Craig reported that Peter Finney has stepped down as longer Laws and Regulations chairman. Craig has eliminated this appointed position from the flow chart of positions.

From the floor: Keith Eckhart reported to the Board that has established a new group-- Barbershoppers Helping Barbershoppers. This new group which he is forming is just looking to help barbershoppers and small chapters.

For the Good of the Order

ALL

Brett did a drawing for order of appearance for quartet contest and chorus contest for AZ divisional. Board and MT members did the drawing as Brett moved around the room. The list will appear on the FWD website.

A go around the table and everyone shared a though or two.

Keep the Whole World Singing

Russ Young

The meeting was adjourned at 6 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Maass
Secretary
Far Western District