

FAR WESTERN DISTRICT

Board of Director's Agenda

June 15, 2019

Holiday Inn

2932 Nutwood Avenue

Fullerton, CA

- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Craig Hughes at 9:03 AM.
- 2. The Old Songs** was led by Nick Papageorge.
- 3. The Invocation** was given by Chuck Roots.
- 4. Secretary Jim Maass called the roll.** The following board members were present.

Craig Hughes, President

Bill Rosica, EVP

Jim Maass, Secretary

Rich Owen, Treasurer

Brent Anderson, DVP Southwest

Nick Papageorge, DVP Southeast

Dick Whitten, DVP Northwest

Chuck Roots, DVP Northeast

Adam Kaufman, DVP Arizona

Brett Littlefield, VP Contest and Judging

Scott Suwabe, Music VP Music and Performance

Gordon "Mongo" Bergthold, IPP

Also in attendance was Russ Young, outgoing Music and Performance VP handing over the M & P VP duties to newly appointed Scott Suwabe.

Management Team members in attendance were Bryan Forbes, Events, David Melville, Marketing and Public Relations, Steve Salmon, Youth in Harmony, and Jeremy Loper, Membership.

- 5. Opening Remarks:** President Craig welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Scott Suwabe who he has appointed to fill the remaining term for Russ Young as VP Music and Performance. Russ will be assisting getting Scott up to speed.
- 6. Approval of the Agenda:** There were a few very minor adjustments to the agenda. It was approved by consensus.
- 7. Approval of the minutes BOD March 21, 2019.** Minutes were approved by consensus as presented.

8. Vice Presidents' Reports: (DVP full reports can be found on the FWD website.)

Division 1, Southwest. Brent Anderson mentioned a young quartet which has appeared out of nowhere and urged everyone to check them out. He also added that San Fernando Valley is excited about women with them and looking forward to the District convention this fall.

Division 2, Southeast. Nick Papageorge highlighted some of the items in his written report to the board.

Division 3, Northwest. Dick Whitten highlighted some of the items in his written report to the board.

Division 4, Northeast. Chuck Roots mentioned that Voice of California heading to SLC will be picking up Nevada tumbleweeds for stage props in their contest set. He also brought up the annual \$10 administrative fee from BHS for a dual member. There was some discussion.

Division 5, Arizona. Adam Kaufman reported that lots of good things going on. Eight chapters and 14 quartets were in the recent division contest which was well attended. They had a leadership dinner for chapter leaders which was very successful. He also mentioned that choruses need to be respectful in not scheduling shows on the same date.

Jim Maass brought up that he was aware of shows that are being performed without proper show clearance. There was discussion of the need to send a strong letter to the chapters not submitting appropriated show clearances with the district secretary. To not do this puts the chapter, district and the Society in jeopardy with BMI/ASCAP. Jim was directed to contact Janice Bane at BHS regarding this issue.

President Craig mentioned the new women's chorus forming in Arcata, CA as well as two potential ones in Arizona.

Contest and Judging. Brett Littlefield provided a spread sheet of the fall contest and those who will be competing. There was some discussion. It will be required that women and mixed quartets will need to perform two sets (two songs each) in order to win the contest. He's still working on the logistics for the flow for the contest. He brought up *Harmonia*, the new women's chorus chartered under Barbary Coast (Fog City). They chartered after the divisional contest this spring but have asked to sing/perform at Fall District contest for score and evaluation only. There was consensus that this would be OK but all women on stage must have a contest competitor registration and be a member of BHS/FWD.

Brett also mentioned that the Senior Quartet champs do not get plaques. They should and it was agreed by consensus to provide plaques at Division and District contests.

The Aloha Chapter is coming to district this fall. There was also some discussion about the afterglow at district convention and the fact that quartets were in evals during that time.

The FWD 2020 Cruise convention was discussed. After boarding the ship on Thursday afternoon, the quartet semi finals will be that evening, the chorus contest on Friday morning/afternoon with the quartet contest Friday evening. No contests on Saturday...Ensenada touring and everyone on their own. Show of Champs penciled in for Saturday night. There will be no evals on the ship.

The biggest challenge now is that competitors won't know if they qualify to go to district until they perform at their respective divisionals. It will be too late to get ship reservations at that point. After some discussion it was agreed by consensus that all quartets and choruses competing at their respective divisional (and not DSQ) will be invited to enter the FWD contest in the fall aboard the ship. This will keep the divisional contest solvent and allow competitors to plan NOW for performing on board the ship.

Music and Performance. Scott Suwabe mentioned he is excited to come onto the board for the remaining term. Russ Young talked briefly about the need to get chorus director's guild, harmony college west and leadership conferences back on track. David Melville brought up offering classes Friday afternoon at Fall Contest. There was some discussion.

Scott also brought up the Platoon program. His observation was that not many good singers are coming to participate. There was some discussion regarding the Platoon. Jim Maass brought up the issue that the platoon in Stockton (March) went out into the community (senior living/rest homes) to perform. While warming up he observed that they were not very good and asked if they should they be out in public performing.

9. District Management Team reports.

Membership. Jeremy Loper reported that there has been an increase in FWD membership.

Chorus Director Development. Scott Suwabe will be the Chorus Development Chair in 2020 (Rob Menaker is on the slate for VP M&P in 2020). Nick brought up the chorus directors guild and training classes for directors. Russ echoed the past success of the guild and the need to bring in high class directors to teach classes. Russ and Nick will support Scott in getting the Guild back up and running. Craig mentioned that Royce will continue to support the program as an instructor.

Events. Bryan Forbes is working on fees for hosting conventions and is looking at revenues tied to attendance in an effort to provide an incentive for a host chapter to get more attendance...get more money for hosting. There was some discussion as to how to approach this. President Craig asked is there a need to incentivize? Isn't the fee good enough now? For the present, the current fee structure will remain.

There was discussion at the Management Team meeting the night before and it was reported here regarding “**Convention Rotation**” which is being considered for the Fall convention. Fresno, Bakersfield, Fresno, Bakersfield, Mesa (repeat). This is because it has become very difficult to find performance venues and hotels which are reasonable in costs. These three cities provide an affordable place for district fall conventions.

Convention at Sea (2020). There was additional discussion regarding the cruise. There are lots of good cabins left. Also a question came up about “non barbershop talent” on board performing to give variety. Who the booked talent will be should be known six months out from sailing.

Marketing and Public Relations. David Melville brought up several house cleaning issues regarding plateaus needing updating on the website. Brett will assist if needed as women and mixed choruses come on board. He also mentioned marketing for the cruise contest 2020. He also shared some ideas for marketing conventions with things like tours, classes, golf tournaments etc. President Craig suggested to keep thinking outside the box. Brett mentioned increasing marketing to increase convention attendance.

Recommendations from David: Using convention videos to capture individual quartet/chorus pictures and no longer use an onsite photographer. He recommended taking down individual division Facebook pages and keep everything on the district FB page. He is shutting down the Forum as no one is using it.

David had an analysis of the hosting plans on the district server and the need to upgrade. He requested \$468 to upgrade current hosting plan to the “enhance” plan on a dedicated server. It was MSA to approve this request.

Marketing for the cruise...a half page advert in the Harmonizer will cost \$1275 for three issues. MSA by the board to approve this expenditure.

Youth in Harmony. Moving the HS Quartet contest to the spring divisional weekends was brought up. There was some discussion regarding putting the HS quartet contest into the draw for performing during the regular contest. Brett raised concern regarding the need to increase judging panel but he supports inclusion into the regular contest. After discussion it was agreed to move the HS quartet contest to the divisional. The winner for the district would be the quartet with the highest score. There would be plaques for the winners ~~and participation pins awarded.~~ There would be only one contest...mixed, boys and girls together. The winner would be invited to perform at the Fall district contest if they are available.

Financial Development.

Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund. It is now up to \$90K and doing well. The District Endowment Fund is now at \$34036 up from the \$30K seed money.

10. Old Business.

Directors Guild. Discussed previously. See minute notes above.

11. New Business.

BHS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) ..Bill reported that we have been tasked to sign and implement a MOU/MOC with the BHS and come up with specific activities. This all ties in with the Everyone in Harmony Mission. The focus on 2020 for a number of ideas we can approach BHS for assistance. It was cautioned that we not go beyond our means and keep the focus realistic. Russ Young brought up the issue that there is no “music staff” left at BHS like we use to have visiting chapters. When did this disappear, he asked? There was general discussion.

Three suggested activities to be entered on the 2020 MOU:

Improve skills of directors. Find and train potential directors. Reinvigorate the Chorus Director’s Guild and Seminars. Ask BHS for a grant to help develop it. Nick will help get the ball rolling. He has much info from past years to share. Measure success by the increase in attendance.

The Cruise. Ask BHS for assistance on the convention. BHS could provide and AIC quartet for the cruise. Also could assist in marketing. Measure success by increasing convention attendance.

High School Quartet Contest. Ask BHS for grant to assist in the program.

Awards Management. Russ Young has made a list of all trophies, pins etc. of what the FWD awards. It has become complex and needs management. President Craig will take a look at how to address this issue. Division VPs need to keep track of awards for each division. There was general discussion re additional awards, participation pins for example for mixed and women champs.

Financial Review. Rich Owen mentioned \$25K in the checking account not getting interest. He is looking into accounts where some interest is earned. He also brought up district support to the choruses and quartets going to International in SLS. He passed out checks to DVPs to be delivered to quartets and choruses.

Leadership Academy / Harmony College West. Looking for this to resume next Jan/Feb 2020 . There was general discussion. Loper and Suwabe to develop a proposal. This will be brought back to the board in October.

Nominating Committee Report.

FWD 2020 Nomination Slate

President – Bill Rosica
EVP – Nick Papageorge
Treasurer - Rich Owen
Secretary - Jim Maass
C&J – Brett Littlefield
M&P – Rob Menaker

DVP's

NorCal West – Dick Whitten
NorCal East – Chuck Roots
SoCal West – Brent Anderson
SoCal East – Kyle Williamson
Arizona--Adam Kaufman

IPP Craig Hughes

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon Bergthold
Nomination's Chair

It was MSA to forward the slate to the HOD in October.

Various Issues:

Bill Rosica has met with Judy Steinkamp and Jill Steinkamp-Henderson and they are putting together a group called "Survivors." When a barbershop passes, the surviving spouse/partner is "cut out" so the desire is to keep them in the loop of what is going on so they are able to continue to be informed of what is going and can continue to participate.

Russ Young brought up the need for additional microphones for contests. Russ suggested it be put into next year's budget.

12. 2020 Budget Planning.

Rich Owen presented the budget worksheets for discussion and review. He and his committee have been working to put together this draft in an effort to make the board discussion productive.

There was discussion regarding the CJ category school and what would be the line numbers. Also microphones mentioned above. It was suggested that Masters, Westminster and Harbor Lights be approached to buy each mic (approximate \$300) as these three choruses use the current mics the most during a given year.

Additional discussion regarding budgeted amounts for awards. There appears to be enough in the budget to cover the expense of additional awards for new categories.

There was no additional input and general consensus that Rich and his committee did an excellent job putting together the draft budget.

It was Moved, Seconded and Adopted to send the 2020 proposed budget to the HOD in October for approval.

13. For the Good of the Order.

Comments from the board and management team members.

14. Keep the Whole World Singing was led by Brett Littlefield.

15. Meeting was adjourned at 3:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Jim Maass
Secretary**