

**FAR WESTERN DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Agenda  
Fall 2019**

**DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel  
1150 Ninth St, Modesto, CA 95354  
October 10, 2019 – 3:30 PM (Thursday)**

**Board Minutes**

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by President Craig Hughes at 3:30 pm.
2. **The Old Songs** was led by Brett Littlefield.
3. **The Invocation** given by Chuck Roots.
4. **Secretary Jim Maass called the roll.** Board Members Present: Craig Hughes, Bill Rosica, Jim Maass, Rich Owen, Brent Anderson (arrived later in the meeting), Nick Papageorge, Dick Whitten, Chuck Roots, Adam Kaufman, Brett Littlefield, Scott Suwabe, Gordon Berthold. Management team members present: Jeremy Loper, Roe Darnell, David Melville, Bryan Forbes, Chuck Hunter, and Steve Salmon.
5. **Opening remarks:** President Craig welcomed everyone to Modesto.
6. **The Agenda** was approved as presented.
7. **The minutes for the June 15, 2019 Board Meeting** were presented. No changes. MSA to approve the minutes.
8. **Introduction of Guests:** President Craig introduced Chad Bennett who was in attendance represented the Society International Office and Bernard Priceman, representing the Society Board of Directors. In addition, past presidents were introduced: Gordon “Mongo” Bergthold, Allan Webb, Russ Young, Bernard Priceman, Chuck Hunter, Terry Aramian, and Sam Barger.
9. **Vice Presidents’ Reports:**

**Division 1 Southwest: Brent Anderson, DVP**

Brent reported that the Masters of Harmony and Aloha chapter would be participating this weekend. He also mentioned that his daughter, who teaches choral singing will have

two quartets, one male and one mixed at this year's upcoming divisional contest. November 2 save the date for the Rincon Beach chapter show with Storm Front. He is continuing to work on members to participate and come to the district conventions in the future.

**Division 2. Nick Papageorge, DVP.**

Nick reported that his division is seeing a decline in numbers. Apple Valley has not yet turned in their charter and is expected to do so. All the other chapters are losing a couple of members a year.

**Division 3. Dick Whitten, DVP**

Dick reported that he recently attended the Napa show which featured the SAI Region 12 champion chorus Pacific Empire Chorus and quartet champion RetroActive. Sweet Harmony ladies chorus in Arcata is up and running and looking to charter with BHS.

**Division 4. Chuck Roots, DVP**

Chuck reported the Voices of California is doing great and working to achieve a higher score. They were please with their performance at International in Salt Lake City. They are planning a trip in May 2020 to England to visit the BABS convention. They are slated to perform on the Saturday night show during the convention. (It is reported that Instant Classic and Four Front will headline that show.) Golden Valley Chorus has a new director, a high school music teacher. Their member count is holding steady. Also, Fresno is coming back in membership. Jim Turnmire is back helping the chapter.

**Division 5. Adam Kaufman, DVP** as published in the Brochure.

**Contest and Judging. Brett Littlefield, C & J VP**

Brett said that it is a great idea to have the youth contest at the divisionals. He is looking forward to incorporating high school quartets into the regular contest and not having a separate contest. Barberscore has changed since the last contest cycle and has become a reach chore. He thanked David Melville for helping keep track of all those signing up for contests. He is thrilled about this weekends contest as FWD has rolled out EIH nine months before BHS. As always, the FWD leads the way. He shared his feelings as to how contests will look like in the future. He also reported that there is a form sent to competitors where they can choose the judge by category and also by judges' profile for evaluations with 20 or 40 minute time options. There would be several approaches...one

judge, one category...any options that what is currently happening during evaluations.

**Music and Performance. Scott Suwabe, M & P VP**

Scott reported that he has been getting inquiries about need to fill director positions. He will be working with choruses looking for directors. Note: Scott will be moving into the chorus director management team position in January and Rob Menaker will become Music and Performance VP.

**10. District Management Team. Bill Rosica**

Bill led the discussion and introduced his team members on several issues.

**Membership:** **Jeremy Loper** gave a brief report on FWD membership. Current members total 1950 down from 2070 last year. Sixteen chapters showed growth while 60 chapters did not. He posed the question: What are areas of opportunities and areas of concerns? He is looking at chapters by chapter support. He mentioned that two Society districts are doing well... Rocky Mountain which is growing and Evergreen which only lost 11 and is basically staying even.

**Events. Bryan Forbes.**

He mentioned that the convention manual is still a work in progress. He also discussed convention photograph using video screen shots in HD for pictures. He thanked VoCal and Richard Lund for hosting the convention in Modesto.

He listed next year's conventions. Northwest/north east divisional will be in Stockton in May. Southeast/Southwest Spring Prelims will be on Mar 19<sup>th</sup> in Ontario which is tentative. Back up will be Garden Grove. Arizona divisional in April will be in Mesa. October district contest will be "AT SEA." If the cruise convention must be cancelled due to insufficient bookings, Bakersfield is the back up venue.

He also recommended that three locations will be used on a rotation basis for the fall convention: Bakersfield, Fresno and Mesa. That plan is going forward. All events are on the district calendar and are cleared from conflict through 2022. 2021 will be in Mesa and 2022 will be in Fresno.

Convention at Sea. Bill reported that there will be a need for a "go...no go" decision in January. Booking right now total about half what is need of the 500 blocked cabins with the cruise line. Bakersfield is the back-up site should the cruise be cancelled. There was

some discussion on how to let everyone know the need to get signups for the conventions.

### **Marketing and Public Relations. David Melville**

David reported that cruise advertisements is in the Harmonizer, flyers and posters are available and that there was a program insert for the Salt Lake City convention. He also discussed the need to book cabins for the cruise and to go through Donna Hisey, not the Carnival Cruise website so the FWD convention get the credit.

He also reported that moving the servers for the FWD website worked smoothly and all is going fine. The Modesto convention registration is also going fine. He brought up Zoom Conferencing as it has only been used once and needs to be used more. Trello is another communication platform. David is available to assist to show how to use them for convention planning.

### **Youth in Harmony. Steve Salmon.**

Announced that this is his last year in the position. We need to identify a replacement for 2020. He reported that the spring high school quartet contests will be held at each divisional as part of the divisional contest. There will be five divisional champs with the one scoring this highest declared the FWD High School Quartet Champ. There will be monetary donations made to the school. There will be male, female and mixed quartets from public, private, home schools...appropriate junior/high school age students. They will be judges by certified judges and be included in the contest as part of the draw. The high school champ will be invited to the district contest to perform. There was general discussion on this issue.

**SOP 8.3.2.1.2** changes was briefly discussed and will be presented to the HOD at its meeting tomorrow.

### **Financial Development. Roe Darnell**

Roe discussed the Endowment Funds...The Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund is now over 100K. Spendable amounts cannot happen until the fund exceed 200K. The District Endowment Fund now is at about \$34,000. He also discussed the Donor's Choice allocations from Harmony Foundation. District is receiving about \$7000 annually and he suggested these funds be earmarked to a specific budget item: He suggested three: Chapter Development. Youth in Harmony. Director Education Training. There was some discussion on this topic. It was suggested he develop a proposal to be discussed at

next year's summer board meeting.

A Harmony Foundation Manager as a new DMT member was suggested by Bill Rosica.

**11. Financial Update. Rich Owen.**

Rich reported that all financial reports are posted on the FWD website as a supplemental report to the HOD. Rich reviewed several of the items. There was some discussion.

**12. Society Staff Update. Chad Bennett, Community Engagement & Show Production Manager.**

He brought welcome from Marty and the Society Board. He talked about the upcoming LA International and beginning planning for events surrounding the convention. He stressed that everyone fill out the Society Survey and assured everyone that the Society Board member will be reviewing them before decisions are made.

**13. Harmony Foundation Update. Jim Clark.**

Jim was delayed in Denver due to snow and was not present at the meeting.

**14. Old Business.**

**Status of the Fremont/Hayward Chapter.** There are only five members left...three of whom are FWD board members.

**Chico** is still on the books but is no longer in existence. There is some paperwork left to do to close out the character.

**BHS Memorandum of Understanding.** President Craig brought up the three items discussed at the June board meeting: Directors Guild. The Cruise. High School Quartet Contest. He has gotten feedback from the Society on these issues and will incorporate the suggestions. Chad Bennet said there should be final feedback sometime in November. There was general discussion on this topic.

**15. New Business**

Awards. Chuck Hunter. Chuck reported that John Krizek will be the Spring 2020 Convention Dedicattee. He also reported that Bill Cale will be leaving the awards committee.

Leadership Academy. Jeremy Loper. There should be a joint effort from the DVPs in making this happen. NorCal Dick Whitten is working with Chuck Roots. The date and place are on the calendar...January 18-19. There was some discussion regarding instructors and expenses. Jeremy has reached out to Westminster for help in staffing teaching positions as they have a number with experience. Arizona will have its academy the week before NorCal. Adam reported he will follow the same model he did last year.

**Harmony College West.** Scott Suwabe reported that planning for this is just getting underway. There was some discussion. No action to report.

**Various Issues.** The Voices of California Chapter is getting new risers and their old once are available. There was some discussion that the district could use them and should consider buying them. No action taken.

**16. For the Good of the order.** There were a number of comments made from the members present.

**Message from outgoing President Craig Hughes:** This was my last shot at chairing the District Board Meeting. It has been an honor and a challenge. Think about what we've accomplished. We have implemented District run Conventions, passed a dues increase that is providing more for our active members, launched our 2020 Cruise event, and expanded with Everyone in Harmony and all the possibilities and challenges that brings. Your help and commitment have smoothed that path and our members are singing the way they want. We have new and expanded chapters and are well positioned for explosive growth if we can get the message out. Thank you for honor of leading the best District in the Society. You are truly blessed.

**17. Keep the Whole World Singing** was led by Nick Papageorge.

**18. The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Maass  
Secretary  
Far Western District