

FAR WESTERN DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
VIA ZOOM

MINUTES
MARCH 12, 2021

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by **President Bill Rosica** at 7:04 PM.

Invocation

The invocation was given by **Chuck Roots**.

Roll Call

Secretary **Jim Maass** called the roll.

Board members present were:

President Bill Rosica
Executive Vice President Nick Papageorge
Secretary Jim Maass
Treasurer Rich Owen
Immediate Past President Craig Hughes
DVP 1 SW Kathy Kileen
DVP 2 SE Kyle Williamson
DVP 3 NW Rich Postal
DVP 4 NE Chuck Roots
DVP 5 AZ Adam Kaufman
Contest and Judging VP Brent Littlefield
Music and Performance VP Rob Menaker

Management Team Members Present: Jeremy Loper, David Melville, Kenny Rios, Charles Carothers, Roe Darnell.

Guest present: Dick Whitten.

Opening Remarks—Bill Rosica.

President Bill referenced his “State of the District” report which is printed in the HOD brochure. The FWD is in good financial shape but he missed out on the 2020 special duties for this past year due to COVID cancelling all the events. Things are going well with chapters using ZOOM to keep the guys in touch with each other. He reported that BHS has cancelled the Cleveland International Convention and will be scheduling Cleveland for 2024 with the same

hotels and venues with 2021 rates. He indicated that discussions on what might happen this summer or fall will be discussed later in the meeting. Also referring to the cancelled contest at sea, it is hoped that the FWD will revisit the Convention at Sea in some future year.

Approval of the Agenda.

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as presented. All aye.

Approval of the minutes.

October 9, 2020 FWD Board Meeting. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as presented. All Aye.

January 9, 2021 Special Board Meeting. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as presented. All Aye.

February 19, 2021 Special Board Meeting. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as presented. All Aye.

Vice Presidents' Reports.

Division 1 Southwest—Kathy Kileen.

There was a meeting of the chapter leadership of the SW and SE division chapters which was not well attended. During the meeting several chapters expressed concern about their existence...they are just hanging on and need some help. Other chapters are doing really well. She mentioned the Masters of Harmony and Aloha chapters are doing well and Aloha is using ZOOM with much success. She also noted that chapters with aging membership are the ones really struggling.

Division 2 Southeast—Kyle Williamson.

He noted to the group that he is a new daddy and not getting much sleep. He did not have much to report other than Westminster is meeting every other week and that they will be doing a "virtual" swan song set this summer even though Cleveland is cancelled. The chorus will then move on with their musical plans.

Division 3 Northwest—Rich Postal.

Rich reported that he did three installations of officers. Most of his chapters are using ZOOM for meetings. He reported that most are doing well. Those that are not, he hopes to help bring them back to more activity as they represent a good deal of history for the district.

Division 4 Northeast—Chuck Roots.

Some choruses are doing well using ZOOM and others are still hanging on by a thread. His perspective: The choruses in trouble now were choruses in trouble pre COVID. Those doing well pre COVID are doing well now.

Division 5 Arizona—Adam Kaufman.

He reported that the Phoenix chapter is struggling but most of the rest are using ZOOM and doing well.

Contest and Judging—Britt Littlefield.

Brett reported that there will be a district contest in the fall, one way or the other. It will be an open contest with new prequalifications. Just sign up. He doesn't expect a lot of choruses and is not sure how many quartets will participate. There is a search on right now for a location and venues to hold the contest...hotel, high school. He is looking at dates as well. He reported BHS support for whatever the district chooses to do. John Johnson is actively looking for allocation. A decision will be made soon and announced so that perspective performers can start preparing. A virtual contest is a possibility.

Music and Performance—Rob Menaker.

He is continuing to promote ZOOM and made reference to his printed report.

**District Management Team Reports
Nick Papageorge, EVP**

Membership—Jeremy Loper.

Jeremy reported the “we have members” and presented several graphs on membership showing FWD currently at 1370 members. He expressed concern that the new BHS website data system is generally not useable. There was some discussion among several board members expressing concern over the new BHS website. Jeremy also pointed out the Westunes issue VOL 70 which has good information on ZOOM meetings—The Show Must Go On.

Chorus Director Development—Scott Suwabe.

Scott was not present at the meeting,. Nick Papageorge indicated that “Scott just needs to make it happen.” There was some discussion regarding getting the Director’s Guild back up and running. Bill Rosica set a deadline of April 24 for getting information out and something in the works to get it started up again. David Melville indicated he will assist Nick in getting the word out.

Events--

There was no report

Marketing and Public Relations—David Melville.

David reported that there are significant problems with the FWD email accounts, and he is in the process of moving all the FWD email to G Mail. There is still a problem with recipients who use Yahoo Mail as the FWD Domain name gets directed to the spam folders. He will be setting up G Mail accounts for all board and management team members.

David also made a brief presentation, “Anything is Better Than Nothing,” regarding a virtual convention for the fall using BHS software which was used for the Midwinter convention.

Youth in Harmony—Kenny Rios.

Because of COVID and schools in virtual session this past school year, Kenny had nothing to report.

Financial Development—Roe Darnell.

Roe had nothing to report other than checks from Harmony Foundation...doner program will be coming soon.

Endowment Fund—Roe Darnell.

Nothing to report.

Directors’ Guild—Scott Suwabe.

Scott was absent. Nick Papageorge will be reaching out to Russ Young to help rejuvenate the Directors’ Guild and will get something out by April 24, 2021.

Old Business

Financial Review—Rich Owen.

His report is attached to the HOD brochure posted to the FWD website. The current bank balance is about \$80,000 because there is not much in the way of expenses as the income was still coming in. There were no questions regarding the posted budget report. Rich cautioned the board about renting a hotel ball room etc. for a district fall contest because of the high expenses.

It was moved and seconded to accept the treasurer’s report. All Aye.

Leadership Academy/Harmony College West—Jeremy Loper-Scott Suwabe.

Nick reported that there was a meeting of sixty participants in the Leadership Academy in February. Various classes were ZOOM presented. It was very successful.

Community Outreach—Charles Carothers.

Due to COVID, not much is happening out in the community. Charles hopes as more are vaccinated, community activities will increase as people start getting back together later this summer or early fall. Bill Rosica mentioned that Rob and Charles will be working together on the 2022 Southern California music festival.

New Business

Westunes Editor.

Ray Rhymer will be retiring as Westunes editor later this year. David Melville will be taking over as the new editor. David is looking forward to the new (additional) assignment and said that Ray will stay on as “Editor Emeritus” to assist.

Chapter Involvement.

Kenny Rios brought up an issue regarding chapter assistance during this COVID time and what the Board might be able to do to assist...looking to chapters to see what they are doing and how the district might get involved as chapter emerge from COVID hibernation. He proposed a committee be established to plan how the FWD could assist. President Bill appointed Kenny as the chairman of the committee and directed him to gather up committee members and report back to the board.

For the Good of the Order.

President Bill led a round table calling on the board members and the management team for any additional comments. It was mentioned that maybe a “guidebook” might be developed to assist chapters in restarting as we all come back together. Jeremy and the Membership team will head up that project.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Jim Maass
Secretary
Far Western District**

