

Westags

**The Far Western District Fall Board Meeting
Fresno, California, October 13, 2011**

Board Meeting Highlights

Your Board of Directors met in Fresno on Thursday, October 12, 2011. All board members were present.

Also present at the meeting was Society board member John Miller who began the meeting by updating the board on Society matters:

Membership 24,688 as of a few days ago, 798 chapters, 23 license packages out

Operation Harold Hill (new membership program) starting in 2012.

Our Society is in relatively good financial shape, but not great. Situation has improved over the past year. Better communication is now taking place between the Society and Harmony Foundation.

Attendance at the next two International conventions (Tucson and Portland) is important to the finances of Society. FWD members are strongly encouraged to attend.

CEO Search Update: 12 applications received, 8 from inside BHS, 4 from outside.

Chapter Visitation Program: FWD doing a little better than most. Preliminary results seem to be that music director with strong musical and leadership skills seems to be key. Also, a spark plug other than director is helpful as well.

Barbershop videos on Comcast On-Demand: 56,000 unique users, which is a lift when considering the percentage of households in BHS, SAI, and HI.

The board approved the selection of Joe Palmquist as the 2012 Spring Convention Honoree (to be held in Ontario, CA). Congratulations to Joe!

The Division Vice Presidents augmented their written reports included in the HOD Brochure. Included in these updates:

Review of convention management documents is well underway by Bill Rosica and John Jones. Work is started to merge all into one official document.

Jim Turnmire is concerned that five choruses dropping from contest will affect the bottom line of the convention.

Bernard Priceman read a letter he received from director of Conejo Valley Chapter regarding contests. One of the reasons that they elected to stop competing was because the

evaluations did not provide instruction on how to improve. The solution they propose is to have a program that will entice choruses back into competition by improving chorus performance.

Learn To Sing Program –Three chapters partaking: Fresno (7-9 people, 2-3 interested in membership), Santa Cruz (12-15 people, 5-6 interested in membership), San Fernando Valley (total not available, 3 of their students are very interested). Palo Alto Mountain View ran its own program (30-35 people, 4-5 new members to date).

The board considered recommending to the HOD at the Spring meeting that it add two board members to the Board of Directors. (District Representative for Contest and Judging and Music and Performance). A motion was made to do so, but it did not pass.

The board decided to phase out the print version of Westunes. The phasing out of the printed version will be announced in the first edition of 2012. The second and third editions of the year will be both printed and electronic and the final edition will be electronic only.

The board discussed the issue of women singing in our chapter choruses. Should the District encourage or discourage allowing women to sing in the chapter chorus? The discussion was suspended with no resolution. John Miller will refer the issue to the Society Board for their information.

President Priceman initiated discussion of proactively offering coaching to chapters. Chapter Service Reps and music coaches need to be considered to serve as coaches.

Richard Lund reported to the board on the very successful Youth Harmony Camp. The board expressed appreciation to Richard and all who helped make the camp so successful.

Every chapter who needs assistance shall be visited once a quarter for assistance either in music or administration.

DVPs were asked to encourage all chapters to enter their 2012 officers in EBIZ so they can be contacted by the District to encourage them to go to Leadership Academy (November 19, 2011). Officers for 2012 should be contacted and encouraged to attend.

--Peter Feeney, District Secretary

