

# Far Western District House of Delegates Minutes

**Saturday March 28, 2020**

**7:00 PM**

**Electronic ZOOM Meeting**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM by President Bill Rosica.

**Invocation:** Chuck Roots gave the invocation.

**Welcome:** President Bill welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Roll Call:** Secretary Jim Maass called the roll. **A quorum was present.**

**Board Members Present:** Bill Rosica, Nick Papageorge, Rich Owen, Jim Maass, Brent Anderson, Kyle Williamson, Dick Whitten, Chuck Roots, Adam Kaufman, Brett Littlefield, Rob Menaker, and Craig Hughes

**Past Presidents Present:** Russ Young, Bernard Priceman and Craig Hughes.

**Others Present (non voting):** Jeremy Loper, Scot Suwabe, David Melville, Bryan Forbes, Roe Darnell and Kenny Rios.

## **Chapter Delegates Present:**

Bakersfield	Mesa	Santa Rosa
Brea	Palo Alto Mountain View	South Orange County
California Delta	Pasadena	St. George
Conejo Valley	Placerville	Stockton
Central California	Reno	Walnut Creek
Freemont Hayward	Rincon Beach	Westminster
Fullerton	San Diego	
Greater Phoenix	Santa Fe Springs	
La Jolla	Santa Monica	
Las Vegas		

**District President's Remarks:** President Bill mentioned there will be lots of changes coming this year. Stay tuned.

**Approval of the Agenda:** It was moved and seconded to accept the amended agenda. Passed.

**Approval of the Minutes:** It was moved and seconded that the minutes from the fall meeting in Modesto, October 11, 2019 be approved as presented. Motion Passed.

**Receipt of HOD Reports:** It was moved and seconded to accept the HOD reports. Motion passed.

### **Additional Officer/Committee Reports**

**\*\*Contests—Brett Littlefield.** Brett reported that all spring contests have been cancelled. He also indicated that the Fall contest “At Sea” is still scheduled. It will be an open contest and all quartets and choruses are invited to enter the competition. The deadline for entering will be September 1 2020. For qualification purposes, if you register you get one point and that is enough to make you eligible for the FWD Fall competition. Brett also mentioned how the judges make travel arrangements through the Society travel agent. All judges who were booked for the Spring Convention have cancelled their air flights without fee changes.

He reported that high school quartets would compete in divisional contests this year. But those contests have been cancelled. He also said that plaque awards were ready, but it didn’t happen. He also mentioned that Kenny Rios of Las Vegas is the new Youth in Harmony committee chair.

Brett had several questions. One was in regard to the size of the judging panel in October. There might be a 4-position panel because of the number of competitors. He will be looking to schedule a triple panel with alternatives just in case. Quartets and choruses will use Barberscore to register to compete. Deadline to register to compete will be September 1<sup>st</sup>. Every competitor will still need to register for the convention.

Regarding registrations, David Melville reported to the HOD that an e mail will be sent to everyone who have registered for spring contests. There will be an option to have a refund or to make a donation to the FWD. There will be no option to “roll over” the registration to another contest because it would be too complex to accomplish.

**\*\*Youth in Harmony: Kenny Rios.** He is looking to the future...five divisions with three contest weekends...he hopes to visit chapters to see if they need assistance. He will be helping at division contests with the high school chorus and quartets. He indicated it is important to make the kids feel important...pizza parties, ice cream socials, etc. ...a place for the kids to gather. He also proposes to reach out to high school choral teachers and will assist chapter is doing so.

President Bill also mentioned that he is asking all DVPs to set up quarterly ZOOM meeting with the division chapters. Also, Music Team members will be using ZOOM to set up help session meetings.

**\*\*Events—Bryan Forbes.** Bryan reported with all the cancellations, there has been no financial impact of the district. He said that the spring 2021 convention is under contract in Stockton next year then Mesa for the Fall 2021, and in Fall 2022 will be in Fresno...both also under contract.

**\*\*The Summer Board meeting will be in person in Fullerton or held on ZOOM. To be determined.** There was also some discussion regarding the expenses for the HOD and BOD spring and fall meetings. Meeting room costs are significant.

**\*\*The Convention “At Sea” in October is still a “GO.”** President Bill mentioned that Donna with Expedia has been getting calls from people who want to cancel. She is recommending not to

do so. Final payment is later in July and if Carnival cancels the cruise, refunds will be issued. There will be incentives given on boards...maybe vouchers. He also said the only a few ships are having issues and plans are underway to take temperatures of all who board to screen passengers before they get on board.

Bryan also mentioned the he whole job description and convention manual will be finished by Fall...everything will be set for the new person who will take over for Bryan next year. There needs to be an active search for a person to take over Events.

**Membership—Jeremy Loper.** He reported that membership is decreasing. He showed a table indicating there is an increase in new members but a loss in retention exceeding the new members. There is a need to find ways to retain members as well as to continue adding new members. He will be putting together a letter outlining things that can be done to keep the members involved.

David Melville also read a letter from Ray Rhymer announcing that the Fall 2021 edition of Westunes will be his last after 20 years as editor.

**Directors' Guild—Scott Suwabe.** Scott is getting things going. Nick Papageorge reported how it worked in the past with a directors' school. He suggested that his and Harmony College West be put together with classes. Russ Young and Scott both agree that this would be a good idea. Bill suggested Russ, Scott and Nick get together and bring back some details June board meeting. Rob Menaker will also assist.

**Harmony College West.** President Bill asked to see if Rob Menaker could contact EVG district regarding what they do. He will do that. Looking at quartet workshops, directors' school and other events. He suggested to put a budget together for the June meeting. He is looking to do workshops in Southern and Northern CA.

**Society Board Update—Bernard Priceman, Society Board Member at Large.**

He mentioned that the Society Board has been working on many things since his last report in October. The Board is the oversight and governance and the BHS Staff runs the daily operations of the Society. He brought up the Cleveland International Convention, 2021, which will have male, female and mixed competitors. He also mentioned that on January 1<sup>st</sup> Blair Brown was the first female Society Board Member to take that position. New district and chapter by laws have been adopted by the Society. He indicated that the terrible tornado which struck Nashville did not affect the BHS headquarters, but its aftermath did disrupt daily operations for a few weeks as staff had a hard time getting to the office because of the damage to the city. The Society Board supported cancelling all spring contests as well as the International convention in Los Angeles. There is talk of maybe going back to LA in a few years. The hotels will be cancelling all reservations and it looks like there is going to be no cost to BHS. The Cleveland International will be at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame with a swivel stage...180 degrees...facing a 3000-seat auditorium, swing it around to a seating capacity of 15,000. All planning and budgets are up in the air as a result of COVID 19. Regarding the MOU, the Society is ready to assist.

**Old Business--none**

**New business** -- Chapter and District Bylaws adopted by the Society will be posted to the FWD website.

**MOU Update—Bill Rosica:** President Bill reported that the three items for last year...the Cruise, The Directors Guild, and Youth in Harmony will be updated with a new topic replacing “The Cruise. He also reported that the Society assisted the district Harmonizer and International convention jumbotron ads for the Cruise as part of the MOU commitment.

**Chapter of the Year—2019**

**Nominees.** SW—Santa Fe Springs. SE—Westminster. NW—Palo Alto-Mountain View. NE—Fresno. AZ—Sedona.

Craig Hughes presented chapter of the year award for 2019 to Westminster.

**Additional Award**—Craig Hughes presented the 2019 President’s Award to Rich Owen.

**Next Meeting of the HOD** will be on October 9, 2020 “AT SEA”.

**Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM**

**Respectfully submitted**

**Jim Maass**  
**FWD Secretary**