

CSD Board Meeting

Virtual Zoom meeting

Sunday, August 22, 2021, 7:00 pm



Where the Harmony Began

Meeting opened by President Lawson at 7:02 p.m. with a quorum, nine of ten board members present: President, Duane Lawson; Executive President, Matt Suellentrop; Treasurer, Larry Warrick; Secretary Mark Fuerniss; South Dakota State V.P., David Stephenson; Immediate Past President and no longer the president, Chad Schuetz; Iowa State V.P., Lyle Schwery; Nebraska State V.P., Jacob Bartlett; and Kansas State V.P., Leonard Kinzie. Absent, Missouri State V.P., Michael Bass



PAT members present: Music and Performance V.P., Jeff Veteto; Contest and Judging V.P., Carter Combs, Membership Development V.P., Don Fuson; Events V.P., Doug Brott; Chapter Support and Leadership V.P., Brett Randolph; Convention Assistant Chairman, Tim Myers. Special guest, Des Moines District Delegate, Eldon Cross.

Agenda: Fall 2021 CSD Convention in Lawrence, KS'

Events V.P. Doug Brott open with an update on the Covid situation in Lawrence Kansas.

Brott reported: the Convention Team has been preparing for our first live convention in two years and also the 75th anniversary of Central States District. The Convention Team were hoping for wonderful attendance and a big celebration on Saturday night. Preparations were going well. We were going to open the chorus and quartet contests up to all comers, an opportunity to sing to an appreciative crowd, with or without evaluations. Attempt to encourage more people to attend the convention. However, things have not been going well in the realm of the pandemic in the last month or two. Most recently, Kansas University issued a mask mandate for all University facilities which includes the Lied Center of Performing Arts. Lawrence Convention and Visitors Bureau said that the Health Department is going to meet and probably issue a city-wide mask mandate for schools, and if the situation doesn't improve, could issue a city-wide mask mandate for everyone in a building. From contacts with chapters, we've received positive replies from 15 choruses, some dependent on the pandemic situation. Fairly robust response from quartets, but again dependent on the pandemic. Would having to wear masks in the Lied Center and possibly the hotel cut down on attendance to the point that we would lose money on the Convention? According to the budget, we need at least 420 registrants to break even. Even with compulsory vaccinations for all attendees, someone unknowingly could bring in the virus and we could end up with a major spreader event. No one on the Convention Team wanted to take that chance.

Recommendation of the Convention Team is to cancel the Convention in Lawrence for this fall, 2021.

Hopefully, the situation will turn around by next spring, 2022, so that we can have a convention as scheduled in Wichita, with contests open to all choruses and quartets.

Brott answered Veteto's question, performers on stage could remove their masks while performing but would have to maintain social distancing and replace masks after performing. A different venue and date would have to be used for a quartet only type event. Cost of the Lied Center and hotels would make such an event prohibitive.

Both the Lied Center and the Double Tree Hotel have waived any fees or penalties in the contracts associated with the event because of the pandemic. The reason they are making these concessions is partly due to the fact that the Lied Center would like for us to use their facilities in the Fall of 2022, Fall of 2023 and Fall of 2024. Our dates would work for them. The Lied Center has us penciled in for these dates and the Double Tree will work with us. Although we are scheduled for Altoona, IA in the Fall of 2022, Prairie Meadows said that if we let them know before the end of August, 2021, they will let us out of our contract with them without penalties. Another proposal by the Convention Team is to use Lied Center in Lawrence for Fall of 2022, Fall of 2023 and Fall of 2024. Host Chapter for the Altoona Convention, Des Moines, have not been in the discussions, until tonight. Brott suggested that perhaps Metro Kansas City and Des Moines could be co-chairs for the convention in Lawrence in Fall of 2022. Keeping the Convention in one place does not preclude other chapters from being hosts.

Fall 2021 Convention registrations could be reimbursed. Suellentrop will send out instructions to those that have registered. Registrants would have the option of donating their registration fee to the District. Double Tree Hotel will cancel reservations and issue refunds. President Lawton stated that over half the Districts will not be having their fall convention. C&J V.P. Combs said senior quartets attempt to qualify for International by submitting a video, competing in a district that is having a contest. CSD already has four choruses that have already qualified for a previous International contest, as well as the Recruits mixed chorus. Other choruses could qualify by submitting a video, competing in the Spring, or travel to a neighboring district to compete. No word for senior chorus. Membership Development V.P. Fuson encouraged the board to get input/feedback from chapters. Suellentrop answered that we have received feedback from thirty-four chapters.

EVP Matt Suellentrop moved that the District cancel the Fall 2021 Convention/Contest scheduled to be held in Lawrence, Kansas in October 2021. Motion seconded by Leonard Kinzie. Motion passed 9 – 0, (one voting board member absent).

Treasurer Warrick will start putting together a **budget** for 2022.

Immediate Past President Schuetz is putting together slate of **nominees for Kansas and Iowa State Vice President positions**. He has one confirmed candidate for Iowa and one confirmed and one potential candidate for Kansas. Difficult to get contact information from BHS Member Center.

If we can **withdraw from Altoona, IA** in the next nine day, by the end of August, 2021, we will have no penalty. Schuetz pointed out that to date, there has been no conversation with representatives from Des Moines Chapter. Warrick and Schwery, speaking for Des Moines, stated Des Moines Board, while looking forward to hosting the convention in Altoona, has not begun putting together a convention

team. Assistant director Wheeldon Cross said that although Prairie Meadows have been good to work with, they do not offer the caveats the Lied Center in Lawrence has to offer. Cross didn't think the Des Moines Board would object to having the convention in Lawrence. Lawson, speaking for the Metro Kansas City Board, supports the plan to have next three fall conventions in Lawrence, at least see how the first couple go. Will recommend to the Metro Kansas City Board to offer to share hosting responsibilities with Des Moines for the next one or two conventions in Lawrence.

Brott proposed the District have the next three fall conventions, Fall 2022, Fall 2023, and Fall 2024, in Lawrence, Kansas using the Lied Center as venue, the Double Tree as Headquarters, along with other hotels in Lawrence as needed.

(Wichita in Spring 2022, Iowa City in Spring 2023 and Spring 2025)

Motion made by Warrick to cancel the Fall 2022 CSD Convention in Altoona, IA and select Lawrence, Kansas for the years 2022, 2023, and 2024 for the Fall Convention. Motion seconded by Chad Schuetz. Motion passed 9 – 0, (one voting board member absent).

It was decided to continue with the 75th anniversary tee-shirt orders. Tee-shirts ordered will be distributed at the Spring 2022 convention.

Fuson received confirmation that the dates for future CSD conventions have not changed. Kudos to the Event team for lining up future conventions.

Veteto inquired as to future plans for HEP School and Leadership Academy. Brott responded by stating that a college in Cedar Rapids, IA is being considered as a possible site. Brott will visit with Veteto and Randolph.

Saturday, October 9, 2021 was the preference for virtual CSD Board and House of Delegates meetings.

President Lawson thanked everyone for attending and accepted a **motion to adjourn from Suellentrop, seconded by Schwery. Motion passed 9 – 0, (one voting board member absent). Meeting adjourned about 7:58 p.m.**

Mark Fuerniss

Mark Fuerniss, Secretary
Central States District