

**CSD Spring 2022 House of Delegates Meeting
Hyatt Regency, Wichita, KS
Friday, March 18, 2022, Noon**



Where the Harmony Began



President Duane Lawson opened the meeting at 12:01 p.m. Lawson reminded the delegates of the BHS Mission, “To Bring People Together in Harmony and Fellowship to Enrich Lives Through Singing”, BHS Vision “Everyone In Harmony” and led “The Old Songs”. Robert’s Rules of Order for Small Boards will be used for the House of Delegates meeting. **A quorum was announced at 12:01 pm.**

Recognition of Past Presidents: Chad Shuetz, Don Fuson, John Marshall, and Mark Erikson attending via Zoom. Society VIPs, Society Representative Dusty Schleier, Director of Conventions and Events; John Donehower, Society President; and Perry White, Harmony Foundation International president.

In Attendance, Larry Warrick, District Treasurer; Mark Fuerniss, District secretary; Chad Schuetz, Immediate Past District President, Kevin Barker, Kansas State Vice President; Jake Bartlett, Nebraska State Vice President; Jeff Arians, Iowa State Vice President; Don Fuson, District Membership Development Vice President; Mike Bass, Missouri/Arkansas State Vice President; Matt Suellentrop, Executive Vice President; Bret Randolph, District Chapter Support and Leadership and Training Vice President; Jeff Veteto, District Music and Performance Vice President; Doug Brott, District Director of Events; Carter Combs, District Contest and Judging Vice President; Michael Pommier, District Marketing and Public Relations Vice President.

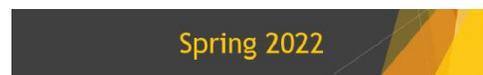


“Down Our Way” led by Jeff Veteto

Convention Report, Doug Brott, CSD Director of Events We have about 200 registered participants and expect to have a few more, especially single event registrations. We have two small high school groups singing tonight. Students received complementary registrations, but parents must purchase at least a single event registration. We have some really great quartets. Overall, it will be a great weekend. There are two choruses what will receive “Coaching Under Glass”. Quartets that don’t make the finals will have an opportunity to be coached as well.

Invocation and Chapter Eternal. Executive V.P. Matt Suellentrop offered an invocation and the following inductees into the Chapter Eternal were recognized in a power point presentation:

Lloyd Marshall, Jr.	Springfield, MO
Curtis Hallberg	Milbank, SD
Richard Pannbacker	Manhattan, KS
Charles Bale	St. Joseph, MO
Charles “Dick” Young	Kansas City, MO
Jim Dutton	Nebraska City, NE
Richard Ellis	Kansas City, MO
Michael McCormick	Sioux Falls, SD
Charles Fiser	Davenport, IA



Jerry Little
 Robert "Bob" Burdick
 Scott Barnum
 James "Jim" Malek
 James "Doc" Rea
 Mark Hopp
 Edward "Mike" Reilly

Grover Hartsuch
 Michael Joe McKim
 Brian Seydlitz
 Paul Mussack

Davenport, IA
 Kansas City, MO
 Hays, KS
 Sioux City, IA
 Wichita, KS
 Nebraska City, NE
 Leavenworth, KS and
 Kansas City, MO
 Davenport, IA
 St. Joseph and Kanas City, MO
 Kansas City, MO
 Fremont and Lincoln, NE



Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report, Larry Warrick. The Treasurer's report and 2022 Budget approved last fall have been posted on the District web site.



- **Fall District Convention 2021**, cancelled, no report.
- **Annual vs Budget.** Under Income, 5490 Miscellaneous Revenue of \$829.57, majority of which was for 75th anniversary tee-shirts. 5999 Unclassified Income of \$1000 was a refund of the deposit paid to Prairie Meadows for a convention which was cancelled. Total income of \$36,109.60. We had total expenses of 7,385.84. At the end of the year we were in the black \$28,723.76.

- **The Donation Fund Report** is a new report, the district has received \$11,506.68 from Harmony Foundation International and \$2,680.25 from the BHS Development; total donations of \$14,186.93.
- **Balance Sheet** of December 31, 2021, total assets of \$116,750.22, back at the level in 2011. We're in a very good financial state right now.

The Treasurer's Report was received by the board and voted on. The Treasurer's report was posted on the CSD website.



Song break "Wait 'til the Sun Shines Nelly", led by Jeff Veteto.

Approval of Minutes and Consent Calendar.

Secretary Fuerniss stated the minutes of the fall 2021 meetings have been posted on the CSD website along with the Consent Calendar. Without hearing any corrections, additions or amendments, Fuerniss asked that the minutes of last fall's meeting be approved. Minutes approved by a voice vote. Moved and seconded that the Consent Calendar be accepted. Motion approved.

Program Administration Team Reports

- Brett Randolph, **Chapter Support and Leadership Training**. Virtual Leadership Academy was held February 26, 2022. About 60 people participated. So that chapters can be as prepared as possible heading into the new year, plan is to have the Leadership Academy in November, 2022, before Thanksgiving in the St. Joe area. The plan is to have a hybrid version, virtual as well as in person. Leadership Academy is not just for training chapter officers but also future leadership replacements. Will be asking state vice presidents what they need for their chapters to be successful.
- Carter Combs, **Contest and Judging**. Not enough choruses to compete this spring, all district level chorus contests, including VLQ contest, will take place in the fall. International contests are now completely gender neutral. CSD will continue to have gendered categories for chorus and quartet contests in addition to having overall champions. Fall convention date is October 7 & 8, 2022, at the Lied Center in Lawrence, KS. Central States District has five choruses qualified and are going to Charlotte in July, the Ambassadors of Harmony, Smorgaschorus, Central Standard Chorus, Fremont Pathfinders chorus, and the Recruits Chorus.
- Michael Pommier, **Marketing and P.R.** Working to get information out more frequently and efficiently. Looking at restructuring our web site to make it more reflective of what the district has to offer the chapters and members, activities and events in the district as opposed to the contest stage. A process we were starting when everything shut down and events in the district were no longer happening. Please let us know what awesome activities are happening in your communities so we can share with the district that people outside your community may not know about.
- Jeff Veteto, **Music and Performance**. For the last two years, we have had our HEP school virtual. This year we had intentions of going live but got completely priced out by Missouri Western. There was a hesitancy by churches to bring in an outside group. We had about a half dozen

quartets virtually. We are decoupling HEP and LA next year. They were combined to bolster attendance but it was a conflict for attendees that wanted to do both. We're looking at mid to late February, 2023, for live HEP, in the St. Joseph area. Perhaps a virtual HEP later in the year, perhaps July, 2023. Exploring ways of getting coaching to choruses that need it the most. Would like to get scholarships to Harmony U for directors.

- Regarding **Harmony U scholarships** President Lawson followed up, Steve Scott, Director of Harmony University, ask the district for money for five directors and three leadership, full scholarships for Harmony University, \$825 – 850 each. This money is not in our budget. We're going to form a committee and an application process in the next couple weeks. Respond to Steve Scott mid-May as to how many we could send, with full or partial registrations.
- Don Fuson, **Membership Development**. Trying to contact all the chapters. There are some chapters without chapter leaders and directors listed on Member Center as of March 2022. Attempt to communicate with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd year members for retention.

President Lawson thanked the Program Administrative Team for their hard work.

State Vice Presidents

- Mike Bass, **Missouri/Arkansas**. All the chapters he has spoken to are back meeting in person. Hopes to get out and visit chapters. Hopefully to put on a festival or two.
- Kevin Barker, **Kansas**. Hopes to see all the chapters. About 40% are participating on monthly calls.
- Jeff Arians, **Iowa**. Hopes to get out to chapters. Sent out an introductory email to chapters and heard back from about 50% – 75%. There are two or three chapters that have not returned to in-person meetings. Would like to have an all-Iowa festival.
- Jake Bartlett, **Nebraska**. 60% - 75% response rate from chapters in Nebraska for specific requests. Has received requests for youth outreach. Need to move forward with youth retention of 1st and 2nd year members. Work with chapters on their social media/website presence. Hopes to get a monthly newsletter for Nebraska chapters. Chapters in eastern Nebraska are singing at the Nebraska Spring football game, and an all-Nebraska chorus for the Nebraska – Southern Georgia football game in September.
- Dave Stephenson, **South Dakota**. Attending via Zoom.



South Central Kansas delegate Kindy asked if a Zoom call for chapter presidents across state borders has ever been considered. Barker responded that some of the state vice presidents have discussed this and hope to get something worked out in the next couple months.



Song break, "Hello Mary Lou", led by Jeff Veteto.

Unfinished Business

Chapter Festivals. Chad Schuetz, Immediate Past President, stated a couple years ago \$5,000 was included in the district budget for inter-chapter activities, singing for each other and for the public, to supports the arts. Chapters should work through their state vice presidents.

District Bylaws, committee of Duane Lawson, Chad Schuetz, Mark Erikson, and Mark Fuerniss. Proposal was sent to Skipp Kropp, BHS Governance. Committee is reviewing Kropp's suggestions and hope to bring proposal to a vote next fall. There is also **BHS Standard Chapter Bylaws** that chapters may wish to review.

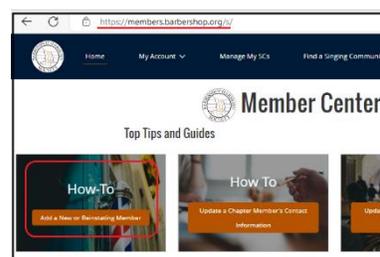
President Lawson recognized Chad Schuetz with a plaque "Covid sucks! In appreciation to Chad Schuetz, 2019 – 2020. Thank you for your leadership and contributions to the goals of the Association of Central States Chapters and the Barbershop Harmony Society. Presented on March 18, 2022."

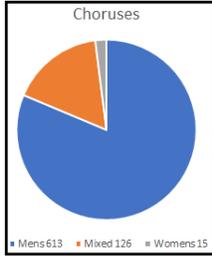


Dusty Schleier Society Representative, BHS Director for Meetings and Conventions.

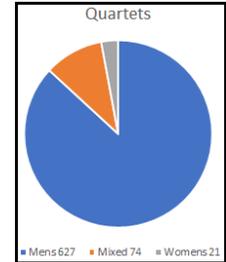
Wants to make a connection between chapters and Harmony Hall. Highlights:

- Getting back to doing BHS programs in person. **International Convention** taking place this summer in Charlotte, "Grand Reunion" theme. CSD has five choruses competing. Mid-Western district also has five choruses competing. 45 choruses will be competing at International. 37 have already qualified, 8 pending. Attendance is out-pacing some of the previous conventions. Charlotte is the American Airlines hub. Pricing is the same as pre-pandemic. Headquarters hotel rooms are about \$160/night.
- **Harmony University** will be at Loyola University in New Orleans. Perhaps a future long-term home for Harmony U. Early bird registration was extended to May 2. There is also a virtual Harmony U presented simultaneously with access to all the classes taking place in New Orleans and access any class through August.
- In 2021 over \$300,000 donated to the Society directly from our members through **BHS Development**. 85% of your donation can go back to your chapter or district. Donations can be unrestricted or designated to youth, music education, preservation, or our singing communities. <https://www.barbershop.org/donate>.
- **Member Center**. <https://members.barbershop.org>. Things are constantly changing on Member Center. It's been a challenge responding to phone calls and emails. There is a new search bar that allows you to search for any member or tutorial. Because of privacy issues and industry standards for large corporations only information the member has made available is obtainable. Fuson pointed out that the new member form allows the new member to release information they wish to share. Schleier explained how chapter leaders can renew/add members to their chapter using BHS Member Center. "BarberScore" has been integrated into Member Center.
- **Next Generation**, will go back to 26 year age limit after this year's contests; this summer's Varsity competition will be open to all genders. If a person was age wise eligible in 2020, they are allowed to compete this summer in any quartet. MidWinter will be in Daytona Beach, FL and 2023 International convention in Louisville.
- The **Ambassador** program, a Society wide initiative, Society Leadership Operations Team members goal is to make contact with every chapter in the Society. Contact the Leadership Operations Project Team, LOPT, leadershipopt@barbershop.org, if you have questions.





- **Community statistics**, as of March, 2022, we have 754 choruses, of which 613 are men’s choruses, 15 are women’s choruses, and 126 mixed choruses. Since the beginning of the pandemic, 16 new choruses, four new chapters, and 3 clubs were created. We have 722 registered quartets, of which 627 are men’s, 21 women’s, and 74 mixed quartets.



John Donehower, Society President



Wanted to attend our District Convention. Past director of the Dubuque, IA chorus. Although a member of other districts, considers the Central States District as home since 1986. Thanked the district and chapter leaders and chapters for taking care of our members during the pandemic. Barbershop is more than just singing in contests.

State V.P.s Lawson thanked the state V.P.s, delegates who have taken the time to attend, and those attending via Zoom.

Perry White, Harmony Foundation International President & CEO, Daily Planet, editor-in-chief.



The last two years have been problematic for a lot of folks in a lot of ways.

- Met with leaders of AIC (**Association of International Champions**) in January of 2019 regarding AIC **Outreach** program, to send quartets to underserved communities, to promote the very best in barbershop singing. Send quartets to chapters and district programs as well as schools and communities as part of the AIC outreach program. In summer of 2021 were able to actually get some of the quartets into schools, in front of about 3,500 high school students and their teachers. Visit <https://www.harmonyfoundation.org>. to apply for an outreach quartet, must include an outreach program.
- Independence, Ohio Chapter in the Cleveland area wanted to make inroads with a youth incarceration facility. HFI adopted the “**Power of Harmony**” youth anti-recidivism program, aimed at getting music/singing/barbershop into local youth incarceration facilities, <https://www.harmonyfoundation.org/power-of-harmony>, an anti-recidivism program, with four components performances, education, participation, and mentorship. (See Spring 2021 House of Delegates minutes.) Program was piloted in Ohio, with enquiries from chapters in Florida, Texas, Utah, and Hawaii. When we sing our subjective side becomes vulnerable and we are able to connect soul to soul with another person.
- **District Direct Program.** <https://www.harmonyfoundation.org/district-direct>. HFI will be sending a check for \$5,600 to the district and will be sending out \$6,800 in checks to chapters whose members designated their chapter with their donations to Harmony Foundation.
- **National granting pool** opened in February, chapters can apply for grants. 22 chapters replied and were awarded grants. BHS chapters were the focus of the first round of grants. The granting program is separate from the donor’s choice program. Make Direct application to HFI.



Hopefully second cycle of grant awards will go out in September, 2022. Grant application window to open in mid-July. Perry White's contact information can be found on Member Center.

- Harmony Foundation is working on improving communications with district leadership. Fuson asked how districts know what is happening in other districts. White said that most chapters are interested in what is happening in their communities and not in other districts.

Lawson reminded delegates that they can donate to BHS Development, Harmony International Foundation, or directly to the District.

With no other business, motion was made by Suellentrop and seconded Schuetz to adjourn at 1:30 p.m. Meeting adjourned.



“Keep the Whole World Singing”, led by Jeff Veteto.

Mark Fuerniss, Secretary
Central States District

Editor's note: According to the Spring 2022 Financial Report posted on CSD website, Total Income was \$21,082.72; Total Other Income was \$14,186.93; Total Expenses were \$6,055.84; Total Other Expenses were \$1,330.00; Net income was \$27,883.81.