



Fall 2025 House of Delegates Meeting

21-Mar-2025 7:00PM

Illinois District Association of Chapters, SPEBSQSA Inc. House of Delegates

Mar 21st 2025

Mission Statement – *The Illinois District fosters a state of close harmony by bringing the joy and excitement of music to all people.*

Vision Statement – *To keep everyone singing throughout their lives.*

Location: Brickyard 5, Doubletree Hotel, Bloomington IL

Time: 7:00 PM

Called to order: 7:05 PM

Call to Order

1. Roll Call / House of Delegates quorum – yes or no – Mike Isely
 - 19 members present, out of a potential total of 44.
 - Quorum minimum requirement of 30% (= 13). With 19 present we have 43%, quorum established
 - [See Appendix titled “Attendance” for detailed attendance record]
2. Reading of Mission & Vision Statement – Terry Ludwig
 - (see above)
3. Welcome – Ben Dirks
4. Approve Agenda – Mike Isely
 - **Motion: Approve Agenda**
 - ♦ **Offered by: Pat Claussen;, Jeff Bowyer**
 - ♦ **PASSED**
5. Minutes of previous HOD Meeting (Sep 27th, 2024) – Mike Isely
 - **Motion:**
 - ♦ **Subject: Approve Fall 2024 HOD Minutes**
 - ♦ **Offered by: Jeff Bowyer, Timothy Ferguson**
 - ♦ **PASSED**



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6. Approve Consent Calendar – Mike Isely
 - Note: No CDD report submitted
 - **Motion: Approve Consent Calendar**
 - ◆ **Offered by: Doug Finkbiner, Terry Ludwig.**
 - ◆ **PASSED**
 - Accept the following reports, CSLT else moved to Old Business:
 - ◆ President’s Report [Attachment: “02a-rpt-president.pdf”]
 - ◆ Membership Report [Attachment: “03a-rpt-membership.pdf”]
 - ◆ Marketing Report [Attachment: “04a-rpt-marketing.pdf”]
 - ◆ Contest & Judging Report [Attachment: “05a-rpt-drcj.pdf”]
 - ◆ Events Report [Attachment: “06a-rpt-events.pdf”]
 - ◆ IDEA Report [Attachment: “07a-rpt-idea.pdf”]
 - ◆ Chapter Support and Leadership Training Report [Attachment: “08a-rpt-cslt.pdf”]
 - ◆ Historian’s Report [Attachment: “09a-rpt-historian.pdf”]

TREASURER’S REPORT

7. Treasurer's Report – Leif Wildman
 - \$80126.49 cash balance
 - [Attachment: “01a-rpt-treasurer.pdf”]
 - **Motion:**
 - ◆ **Subject: Receive the Treasurer’s Report**
 - ◆ **Offered by: Jim Morgan, David Garret**
 - ◆ **PASSED**

OLD BUSINESS

8. Harmony College Midwest – Mark Servos / Nathan Gross
 - [Attachment: “10a-rpt-hcmw.pdf”]
 - “Well we’re here!”
 - Event starts tomorrow morning
 - Working on quartet and clinician for 2026, to get further ahead
 - Numbers-wise, pretty similar to last year
 - 90 registrations (46 individuals plus 11 quartets)



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- Question about timing for this event in the future – Feb or Mar?
 - ◆ March is better weather-wise
 - ◆ February avoids spring break conflicts, other qualifying contests
- 9. Chapter President's Council – Mike Isely
 - [Attachment: "11a-rpt-cpc.pdf"]
 - We meet over zoom every 2 months
 - ◆ Next meeting is May 11th
 - ◆ Ask Bill Rathmann <bltjc1@sbcglobal.net> for the details (or check the google group...)
 - Google group exists as well
 - ◆ bhs-illinois-chapter-presidents-council@googlegroups.com
 - ◆ All current chapter presidents have been invited to join
 - ◆ See Mike Isely <isely@isely.net> or <isely@pobox.com> if you aren't there and wish to join.
 - Basic overview of CPC's activities summarized
 - Interchapter event coming up:
 - ◆ **When:** Saturday 12-April-2025, 1pm-4pm
 - ◆ **Where:** DuPage County Fairgrounds, Bldg #2, 2015 Manchester Road, N County Farm Rd, Wheaton, IL 60187 (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/hUeqgp8oUvyYCcaP9>)
 - ◆ **What:** Afternoon of fun, camaraderie, singing, tags – get to know barbershoppers outside of your own chapter!
 - ◆ This is on the district event calendar
 - ◆ All chapters invited – Free event!
 - ◆ Bring your own refreshments & food (NO ALCOHOL)
 - ◆ We invite all choruses to come show off their stuff!
- 10. Four year plan – Ben Dirks
 - Making strides on a lot of things – including the CPC
 - HCMW close to breaking even
 - More social events – like the interchapter event the CPC is setting up
 - Glenn and Ben are working on creating a larger following on our social media platforms
 - Should post this plan on the website, with status updates
- 11. Website update – Glenn Mills
 - Website has been cleaned up further
 - Active development going on
 - Send email to marketing@illinoisdistrict.org for additional feedback



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- Make the district a co-host on facebook when posting an event – this will generate an email which Glenn will use to help market the event.
- Question: Would it be useful for a CPC-style group of marketing leaders from each chapter to work with Glenn? Quite possibly. Talk to Glenn to follow up. John Q Morris has offered to help coordinate this.

12. CDD Report – Ben Dirks

- Nothing really to report here
- There is a short “director track” at HCMW however
- Looking for a new CDD VP

NEW BUSINESS

13. IDEA Trustee nomination – Jeff Bowyer

- Earl Meseth is stepping aside for the remainder of his term
 - ◆ He had been reappointed last Fall for a 5 year term
 - ◆ Trustees would like to appoint Terry Ludwig to complete his term
- **Motion:**
 - ◆ **Subject: Appoint Terry Ludwig as IDEA trustee to serve out remaining term from Earl Meseth’s resignation**
 - ◆ **Offered by: Jim Morgan, Timothy Ferguson**
 - ◆ **PASSED**

14. Fall Convention – Jeff Bowyer

- Nothing to add that isn’t already in the report
- Contracts signed for Fall 2025 and Fall 2026 for the hotel, BCPA similarly penciled in
- Friday night quartet contest will be at the BCPA not the church, starting this Fall 2025
- Chorus contest this Fall will offer 2 different riser configurations (7 vs 11 risers)
- Chorus competition being considered for the morning instead of the evening
 - ◆ Feedback here that this may be a negative for choruses that come from out of town
 - ◆ But there are numerous pros / cons brought up here. This needs further discussion.

15. District-wide survey – Ben Dirks

- “If you don’t know you can’t grow”
- Surveys coming up to “take the temperature”, likely focused primarily on chapter leadership.
- First survey will come out before the Fall convention.

16. Chapter Liaisons – Ben Dirks

- Board members are assigned to each chapter as a liaison.
- List will be posted on the web site.

the Illinois District
association of Chapters / Barbershop Harmony Society



a state of close harmony

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17. Dues Discussion – Ben Dirks

- It's been a long time since the dues situation was examined.
- Probably time to look at this again.
- Time for a discussion.
- Idea about raising dues and making the convention registration free.
- A more substantial discussion should be expected in the Fall HOD.

18. Fall 2025 HOD Date – Mike Isely

- Fri Sep 26, 2025 1pm

Adjourned: 8:12 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Isely – Secretary



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Appendix: Attendance

(taken computationally from delegate sign-in spreadsheet)

Chapter Delegates			
P/L/A	Chapter Name	No.	Delegate
P	Arlington Heights, IL	E002	* Calvin Cheng
A	Aurora, IL	E003	* Lester Grossman
P	Belleville, IL	E005	Jim Morgan
P	Bloomington, IL	E007	David Garrett
A	Macomb, IL	E008	Craig Rigg
P	Northbrook, IL	E009	Nichelle Pajeau
A	Danville, IL	E013	* Bryan Schroeder
A	Decatur, IL	E014	James Barr
A	Coles County, IL	E017	+* Leif Wildman
A	Elgin, IL	E018	* Keith Rosborough
P	Rockford Metro, IL	E019	* Richard Schultz
P	Lake County, IL	E021	* Timothy Ferguson
A	Bureau County, IL	E024	* John Swanson
P	Chicagoland West Suburban, IL	E030	Trenton Ferro
A	Peoria, IL	E044	* Michael Cosner
A	Chicago Metro, IL	E045	* Bonnie Jones
A	Rockford, IL	E047	* Dan Adler
A	Rock Island, IL	E048	!
A	Will-Cook, IL	E050	* Neil DeVore
P	Sterling Rock Falls, IL	E052	Paul McCracken
A	Waterloo, IL	E054	* James Heise
P	Springfield, IL	E061	Patrik Claussen
P	DuPage Valley, IL	E066	* Kevin Connell
A	Kishwaukee Valley, IL	E067	!
A	Carbondale, IL	E075	!

(total = 10 / 25)

* Chapter did not specifically declare a delegate; substituting Chapter President

+ Delegate appears in multiple places or is a District Governance Board officer or a Past President; thus will still only have ONE vote!

! No information provided by this chapter (missing declared chapter officers), thus no delegate



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Governance Board		
Present	Name	Role
P	Benjamin Dirks	President
P	Glenn Mills	Executive VP
P	Mike Isely	Secretary
P	Leif Wildman	Treasurer
P	Doug Finkbiner	At-Large (Membership)
P	Jeff Bowyer	At-Large (Events)
P	Terry Ludwig	At-Large (C & J)
P	John Q. Morris	At-Large
N/A	(Terry Ludwig)	Imm Past President

8 out of 8

*John Q Morris added by motion during the meeting, not part of initial quorum

Active Past Presidents (not on Gov. Board)	
Present	Name
	Mike Bagby
N/A	(Jeff Bowyer)
	Bob Cearnal
	Dave Cowin
P	Rich Hansen
	Jeff Lathom
N/A	(Terry Ludwig)
	Earl Meseth
	Brett Mulford
	Bob Squires
	Will Thorndike
	Jim Waldorf
	Syl Wetle

1 out of 11

8+1+10 = 19 present

8+11+25 = 44 total possible

IL District Association of Chapters, SPEBSQSA

Balance Sheet

As of January 31, 2025

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
1010 Checking Account	27,554.00
1015 US Bank Money Market	52,572.49
1020 Wells Fargo	0.00
Total Bank Accounts	\$80,126.49
Other Current Assets	\$ -932.00
Total Current Assets	\$79,194.49
TOTAL ASSETS	\$79,194.49
<hr/> LIABILITIES AND EQUITY <hr/>	
	\$79,194.49

IL District Association of Chapters, SPEBSQSA

Profit and Loss by Class

	FALL CONVENTION	2024-BLOOMINGTON	TOTAL FALL CONVENTION	TOTAL
Income				
5100 Event Income				\$0.00
Hotel Rebates/Comp Room Credits		1,960.00	1,960.00	\$1,960.00
On Line Registrations		14,495.06	14,495.06	\$14,495.06
On Site Registrations		1,450.00	1,450.00	\$1,450.00
Total 5100 Event Income		17,905.06	17,905.06	\$17,905.06
5450 Advertising Revenue		1,085.65	1,085.65	\$1,085.65
Total Income	\$0.00	\$18,990.71	\$18,990.71	\$18,990.71
GROSS PROFIT	\$0.00	\$18,990.71	\$18,990.71	\$18,990.71
Expenses				
7500 Contract Services Expenses				\$0.00
7510 Chapter Convention Stipend		500.00	500.00	\$500.00
7540 Judging Expense		5,344.89	5,344.89	\$5,344.89
Total 7500 Contract Services Expenses		5,844.89	5,844.89	\$5,844.89
8100 Nonpersonnel expenses				\$0.00
8110 Supplies		94.77	94.77	\$94.77
8120 Awards, Plaques & Pins		1,127.30	1,127.30	\$1,127.30
8170 Printing & Copying		1,325.50	1,325.50	\$1,325.50
Total 8100 Nonpersonnel expenses		2,547.57	2,547.57	\$2,547.57
8200 Facility & Equipment Exp				\$0.00
8210 Rent, parking, & other		12,885.85	12,885.85	\$12,885.85
Total 8200 Facility & Equipment Exp		12,885.85	12,885.85	\$12,885.85
8300 Travel & Meetings Expenses				\$0.00
8330 Hospitality		197.24	197.24	\$197.24
Total 8300 Travel & Meetings Expenses		197.24	197.24	\$197.24
8400 Education Programs				\$0.00
8450 Recordings of Contestants		1,510.32	1,510.32	\$1,510.32
Total 8400 Education Programs		1,510.32	1,510.32	\$1,510.32
Total Expenses	\$0.00	\$22,985.87	\$22,985.87	\$22,985.87
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$0.00	\$ -3,995.16	\$ -3,995.16	\$ -3,995.16
NET INCOME	\$0.00	\$ -3,995.16	\$ -3,995.16	\$ -3,995.16

IL District Association of Chapters, SPEBSQSA

Profit and Loss

January - December 2024

	TOTAL
Income	
5100 Event Income	
Comp Registrations	310.00
Har. Found/Fest. Chorus/Brigade	547.00
On Line Registrations	21,838.06
On Site Registrations	1,751.34
Total 5100 Event Income	24,446.40
5210 District Dues	18,539.57
5310 Interest Income	1,309.85
5450 Advertising Revenue	115.65
5800 Special Events Revenue	
5820 Gift Revenue	362.93
Total 5800 Special Events Revenue	362.93
Total Income	\$44,774.40
GROSS PROFIT	\$44,774.40
Expenses	
7030 Support	
Quartet Support	2,000.00
Total 7030 Support	2,000.00
7500 Contract Services Expenses	
7510 Chapter Convention Stipend	500.00
7540 Judging Expense	5,344.89
7570 Event Meals	3,719.10
Total 7500 Contract Services Expenses	9,563.99
8100 Nonpersonnel expenses	
8110 Supplies	138.16
8120 Awards, Plaques & Pins	1,127.30
8170 Printing & Copying	1,325.50
8180 Historian	90.94
8190 Publishing	-1,228.81
Total 8100 Nonpersonnel expenses	1,453.09
8200 Facility & Equipment Exp	
8210 Rent, parking, & other	13,592.65
8230 Storage Rental Charges	1,164.00
8260 Equipment Rental	200.59
Total 8200 Facility & Equipment Exp	14,957.24
8300 Travel & Meetings Expenses	
8310 Travel	5,904.81
8330 Hospitality	1,011.15
Total 8300 Travel & Meetings Expenses	6,915.96

	TOTAL
8400 Education Programs	
8440 IDAH	1,500.00
8450 Recordings of Contestants	1,510.32
8480 YIH Program	3,000.00
Total 8400 Education Programs	6,010.32
8500 Other Expenses	
8540 Bank Charges	35.00
8550 Credit Card Fees	-0.01
8560 Outside Computer Services	4,181.95
Total 8500 Other Expenses	4,216.94
Total Expenses	\$45,117.54
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$ -343.14
NET INCOME	\$ -343.14

IL District Association of Chapters, SPEBSQSA

Profit and Loss

January 2025

	TOTAL
Income	
5210 District Dues	3,533.75
5310 Interest Income	59.08
5450 Advertising Revenue	850.00
Total Income	\$4,442.83
GROSS PROFIT	\$4,442.83
Expenses	
8100 Nonpersonnel expenses	
8180 Historian	152.63
Total 8100 Nonpersonnel expenses	152.63
8500 Other Expenses	
8560 Outside Computer Services	178.95
Total 8500 Other Expenses	178.95
Total Expenses	\$331.58
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$4,111.25
NET INCOME	\$4,111.25



Fellow Barbershoppers,

It is an absolute honor to stand before you today as the President of the Illinois District. As a third-generation member of this district, I have had the privilege of witnessing both the highs and the challenges we've faced over the years. I have seen the power of this organization to bring people together, create lifelong friendships, and make a lasting impact through the music we love. That history is what makes me so passionate about serving in this role and ensuring a bright future for our district.

As your president, I want to make one thing very clear: I am here to listen. The success of our district depends on understanding the needs of our members, and I promise to keep an open line of communication with all of you. Our 2025-2026 district board is committed to strengthening and growing our district while ensuring that we uphold the traditions and values that have made Illinois such a strong barbershop community.

You will hear me say this time and time again—if we don't know, we can't do anything about it. That's why we will be actively reaching out to you, our members, for your feedback and opinions on the improvements we are considering. Whether it's enhancing our events, increasing membership engagement, or finding new ways to support our chapters, your input will be the driving force behind the decisions we make.

Our goal is simple: to make this district better for everyone, whether you've been a member for decades or just joined last week. Together, we will find ways to grow, adapt, and ensure that barbershop in Illinois thrives for years to come.

Thank you for your time, your dedication, and your passion for this great district. I look forward to working alongside all of you to make the next two years a success.

In Harmony,

Ben Dirks

Illinois District President



Membership Report, Spring 2025

The current membership of the Illinois District is 552. Three chapters have official memberships under 10:

Bureau County currently has nine members. President John Swanson says the chapter is active in the community and has been invited to hold their rehearsal in a new youth center soon to open in Princeton. The goal is to get more community involvement and interaction with young people.

Macomb has an official membership of eight and remains active in the community. President Craig Rigg said they have 12 active singers, including four women who are unlikely to join the society.

Peoria has a listed membership of six. Calls to the president have not been returned.

I have had a chance to stay in touch with two chapters as a liaison.

Carbondale has a 13 members and has discussed holding a joint performance with another chapter. They held their annual show last September.

The **Waterloo** Chapter has 17 members. They remain quite consistent in their membership and activity. I caught their annual show last Fall and they had a nice turnout.



Illinois District Chapter Census

March 20, 2025

Chapter	Number of Active Members	Status
Champaign Urbana	0	Voluntary Dissolution of Charter
Chicago Metro	14	Active
Chicago No. 1	0	Charter Closed
Chicago Western Suburban	48	Active
Coles County	33	Active
Collinsville	0	Charter Closed
Frank Thorn	15	Active
Danville	30	Active
Decatur	2	Active
Peoria	6	Active
Northbrook	61	Active
DuPage Valley	49	Active
Quincy	0	Charter Closed
Elgin	19	Active
Rock Island	1	Active
Rockford Metro	19	Active
Rockford	17	Active
Arlington Heights	23	Active
Aurora	12	Active
Sandoval	0	Charter Closed
Belleville	26	Active
Bloomington	74	Active
Kankakee	1	Voluntary Dissolution pending
Kishwaukee Valley	1	Active
Bureau County	9	Active
Lake County	26	Active
Springfield	29	Active
Carbondale	13	Active
Macomb	8	Active
Sterling Rock Falls	17	Active
Waterloo	17	Active
Will-Cook	16	Active
Total	552 Active Members	26 Active Charters



Spring 2025 IL District Marketing Report

Mission Statement – The Illinois District fosters a state of close harmony by bringing the joy and excitement of music to all people.

Vision Statement – To keep everyone singing throughout their lives.

Website

Here are the key items done since the HOD meeting at the September convention:

- Updated the site with convention-related information: award winners & contest winners. A big thank-you to Doug Ferrier, who also captured a lot of excellent backstage convention photos.
- Published fall and winter issues of “From the Vault.” A big thank-you to Rich Hansen.
- Updated the site with new data for 2025, downloaded from the BHS members-only database:
 - Chapter officers, chapter/chorus contact information, and chorus rehearsal sites.
 - District officer and operations team information.
 - Active quartets.

Note: if a chapter or quartet notices that their info is incorrect on the website, please do two things:

1. Fill out a change form from the website (or just email marketing@illinoisdistrict.org.) AND
2. Update the info with BHS member center; otherwise the next BHS data download will override any manual changes made based on their change request to the district.

- Worked with the IDEA trustees and revamped their page on the website.

Moved the QCA board info and member listing to a password-protected, members-only place.

Updated the QCA facts & trivia to reflect the 2024 contest results and moved it to the QCA “about” page.

- Periodically updated the messages on the yellow banner, the news events, and the calendar events to keep things current and make it convenient for site visitors to quickly find the latest information.

**Social Media**

- Began posting on Instagram, and started building followers there. Continued posting on Facebook for both the IL District page and the page for Harmony College Midwest.
- Highlighted all chapter shows and key public performances I was aware of. I continue to ask chapters to make IL District a co-host of Facebook events so we can promote them.
- Engaged with many posts by chapters and quartets (likes, comments, sharing posts). I worked to highlight all chapter and quartet performances, guest nights, social events that I was aware of.

Leadership Development & Planning

- Participated in the online Leadership Development training, attending all sessions and leading a class on marketing & music with Mitch Greenberg, New Tradition's director, and John Q. Morris.
- Traveled with Ben Dirks to the District President's meeting in San Antonio, participated in those sessions, and worked with Ben on reviewing our 4-year plan as well as some potential improvements for the fall 2025 district convention.

— Glenn Mills, EVP + District Marketing



3/1/25

To: Benjamin Dirks, President Illinois District
Illinois District Board of Directors
Illinois District House of Delegates

This report is going to be fairly short as I am still in the process of learning/figuring out my new position as C&J for the District. I am excited to serve in this new capacity and look forward to making the contest an enjoyable and rewarding experience for all competitors.

My goal is to open the registration process for choruses and quartets on or about August 1st. This is a little earlier than normal and should give all ensembles plenty of time to get registered.

For choruses, I am looking at going back to something we used to do in the “old days.” I would like to offer a choice of riser configuration. This will allow our smaller choruses the chance to get farther downstage and not look so small. We are working with the BCPA as I write this to see if that is going to be possible.

That is all for now. I look forward to seeing many groups cross the stage at our fall convention!!

Terry Ludwig
C&J



Events Report

March 2, 2025

Jeff Bowyer VP-Events

Future dates and locations

Harmony College Midwest 2025

March 21-23, 2025

DoubleTree Hotel: All classes will be in the DoubleTree Hotel Convention area. Contracts signed.

Fall 2025 Illinois District Convention

Sept. 26 - 27 2025

Headquarters Hotel: DoubleTree Hotel Bloomington: Contract signed. Room block of 120 rooms per night.

Contest locations:

Friday: BCPA: will be the location for the Quartet semi-finals Friday evening.

Saturday: BCPA: will be the location for the Chorus Finals and Quartet Finals.

Harmony College Midwest 2026

Date and location not set.

Fall 2026 Illinois District Convention

Sept. 25-26, 2026

Headquarters Hotel: DoubleTree Hotel Bloomington: Contract signed. Room block of 120 rooms per night.

Contest locations:

Friday: BCPA: will be the location for the Quartet semi-finals Friday evening.

Saturday: BCPA: will be the location for the Chorus Finals and Quartet Finals.

Future Convention Dates:

2027: 9/24 - 9/26

2028: 9/22 - 9/24



The fund's value after the market close on 3/7/25 was \$197,900.94 as compared to \$197,118.92 on 12/31/24 and \$169,065.52 on 12/31/23. During 2024 the fund's investment performance was 17%. The IDEA trustees approved disbursements during 2024 of \$5660 for four YIH programs, two Ready-Set-Sing programs, Harmony College Midwest, Linc 182 quartet, & Chicago Metro contest. Contributions in 2024 to the fund were \$2535 including \$730 from IDEA Direct and contributions year-to-date in 2025 have been \$839 including \$140 from IDEA Direct. Since inception of IDEA in 1990, fund disbursements have totaled \$47,529 and contributions to the fund have been \$57,142. The difference between total contributions and disbursements have been invested and have grown to the current fund balance of \$197,900.

Earl Holtz
IDEA Trustee and Treasurer



CSLT 2025 Report

The 2025 leadership summit was held virtually on Saturday Feb 1 and Sunday Feb 2. The Saturday event started at 10 AM and concluding at 4 PM. The Sunday event started at 1 PM and concluded at 4 PM on. My job was to create communication notices for the event and then facilitate the online workshops via zoom. We sent three communication notices through the Illinois District mail service thanks to Mark Leverett. Each day we kicked off the workshops with a message from Kevin Keller to the Illinois District that was recorded at the 2025 Midwinter Convention in San An ono thanks to Glenn Mills and Ben Dirks.

The subject matter experts for the president's workshop, the first of three held on Saturday were Ben Dirks and Glen Mills. The subject matter expert for secretary, workshop was Mike Isely. After an overview of the secretary's responsibility, Mike conducted a breakout session where he reviewed the BHS member center webpage. The third workshop on Saturday was for the treasurers and was conducted in collaboration with Leif Wildman as the subject matter expert. Each workshop was designed to present information and allow chapter officers to ask questions throughout the presentations. At the end of each presentation, contact information was provided for each of the district officers who participated in the workshops. On Saturday we had 15 participants and 4 subject matter experts. A total of 11 chapters were represented.

On day two Sunday, February 2 the topics included marketing membership and music. Ben Dirks, Glenn Mills and Mike Isely were district officers who help present and answered questions from the participants Special guest. Mitch Greenberg, the director of the New Tradition chorus covered the music portion Sunday's workshop. His material was very well received. The Sunday workshop had a total of 22 participants and 4 subject matter experts from 12 different chapters.

Feedback from the post workshop survey all participants marked likely or very likely for recommending the workshop to others. Two areas of improvement for future workshops suggested by participants were more focus on retention and gaining of new members and cross chapter collaboration. Overall, the 2025 summit, which was the second one I have facilitated showed a much-improved participation rate compared to 2024. I want to thank everyone who participated and was part of the subject matter expert team, I have recordings of the workshops and the slide decks used for the presentations available in a pdf format on the g drive link below.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10YRmbALROZyhO3j_SlZ_VmaCUzHZP64r?usp=sharing



DISTRICT HISTORIAN REPORT – SPRING 2025

- Since the last report, donations of materials have been made to the archives. They include the following:
 - **SPEBSQSA Clock Wood Piece by Mark Byzstknski (George Zima Collection)**
 - **Info/Photos of “The Uncalled Four” Quartet by Kathy Young**
 - **Aurora Chapter Historical Materials by Jim Fourmont**
 - **Misc. Pieces/Awards/Records/Plaques/Medals & Trophies by Terry Foley (Jim Foley Collection)**
 - **Don Barnick’s Grandma’s Boys Sweater & Toy Soldier Hat/Gloves by Anonymous (Dan Jordan Collection)**
 - **Misc. Photos/Items from Earl Meseth (Dick Johnson Collection)**
 - **Music Educator Guide Songbook by Mike Lockett**
 - **Misc. Barbershop LPs by Bev Friese**
 - **Misc. SPEBSQSA Finalist Pins & Old Logo Block Press by Anonymous**
 - **Barbershop Ballad Songbook/George Coulsen Membership Certificate by the Alan Kershner family (Richard Hise Collection)**

- With the passing of Joe Sullivan, and taking into consideration the ages of current historical committee members, I have appointed two new members to the district historical committee effective January 1, 2025 - **Mr. Dale Jarvis** and **Mr. Tom Kentish**. Both men bring a wealth of barbershop knowledge and experience and will be helpful in preserving our district history.

- In the fall, I received an email from Mr. Jim Gammon in Florida requesting a copy of the Mid-States 4 History & Songbook. I sent him a copy of what we have in our archives and in appreciation, he sent IDEA a donation.

- I purchased an 8 x 10 PR photo of “The Four Statesmen” off of ebay that fills a missing gap in our archival collection of champ photos. Also purchased were a mannequin torso that can be used for displays at the district fall convention and an additional 5 shelf utility shelving unit. Our collection keeps growing and space is needed for more artifacts. Receipts have been given to Leif Wildman, treasurer, for reimbursement.

- I posted the fall and winter issues of “From the Vault” in November and January respectively.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Hansen

Illinois District Historian (2019-present) & Past District President (2015-2016)



Here is my board report for the status of HCM:

For HCM 2025:

- Clinicians are all confirmed and lodging is booked, rooms assigned.
- Hotel banquet event contract has been approved and signed.
- Quartet grid and schedule for the day have been created and distributed to the patrons, as well as the music and tracks for the HCM chorus.
- All quartet slots (11/11) have been filled for the event. One quartet applied for the QCA scholarship and was approved.
- Only two (out of 10) IDEA scholarships have been claimed so far. Will be doing additional scholarship plugs at reasonable intervals as we get closer to the event.
- Attendance for the individuals is only at 26 so far, but Tim and Dan reported that the numbers are always low until a couple weeks before the event and they pick up significantly.
- Planning joint afterglow rooms for clinicians hospitality suite and presidents hospitality suite(were able to secure rooms next to each other).

Considerations for 2026:

- Will book featured quartet immediately after we secure 2026 dates. Considering Three and a Half Men, Gimmie Four, First Take, Quorum, and others.
- We will pursue securing the head clinician at the same as the quartet. The difficulties in securing the head clinician were why things were so backed up this year for advertising. Goal will be to have secured by no later than the beginning of August so we have time to get promotional material made and sent at the Fall Convention.
- May consider increasing the number of quartet coaches by 1 or 2 to add additional quartet slots.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks!

Mark



Illinois District Chapter Presidents' Council Report

The Chapter Presidents' Council held its initial meeting in June, 2024.

The intent is to provide a mechanism through which individual Chapters can communicate and collaborate amongst each other directly. Hopefully, by getting together and relaying our local concerns and or suggestions, we can assist the District in its decision making process involving Barbershop Harmony's policies and its future direction. *(there is strength in numbers)*

Topics that have been discussed include: Conventions, upcoming Chapter activities, developing inter-chapter activities like Jamborees, membership retention, youth-in-harmony and community outreach, etc...

Last meeting, we had approximately 8 participants. Mike Isely has conducted an "audit" of Chapter Presidents and has reached out to them in an attempt to "draw in" more participants throughout the District.

Any and all representative voices from the Chapters in our District are invited and encouraged to participate.

CPC meetings are held every two months via Zoom on the second Sunday evening of the month. The next meeting will be held on 11 May at 8 PM. There is also an email group for online communication, bhs-illinois-chapter-presidents-council@googlegroups.com – see Mike Isely to be invited to it if not already subscribed.

Respectfully Submitted,

William B. Rathmann
President
Sounds of Harmony Chorus
Belleville, Illinois