Illinois District Association of Chapters, SPEBSQSA Inc.
Fall 2026 House of Delegates Meeting
AGENDA

Location: Doubletree Hotel at 10 Brickyard Dr, Bloomington, IL 61701
Date/Time: Friday, September 25th 2026 at 12pm

Call to Order — Ben Dirks

Roll Call & Declaration of Quorum — Mike Isely

Opening Song — Kevin O'Keefe

Reading of the District Mission & Vision Statements — Brett Mulford

> 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.*

Welcome — Ben Dirks

Administration

1. Approval of Agenda – Mike Isely
2. Approve Minutes of the previous HOD – Mike Isely
   - Took place on March 20th, 2026
3. Consent Calendar – Mike Isely
   - Note: "*" marker indicates report is in HOD Information Packet

	Report	Source	
2.	*President's Report*	Ben Dirks	*
3.	*Membership*	Doug Finkbiner	*
4.	*Chapter President's Council*	Mike Isely	
5.	*Music & Performance*	Mark Servos / Nathan Gross	*
6.	*Marketing & PR & EVP*	Glenn Mills	*

	Report	Source	
7.	*Contest & Judging*	Ben Dirks	*
8.	*Events*	Jeff Bowyer	*
9.	*Illinois District Endowment Assurance*	JimWaldorf	*
10.	*Youth In Harmony*	Evan Patrick	*
11.	*Chorus Director Development*	Kevin O'Keefe	*
12.	*Chapter Support & Leadership Training*	John Q. Morris	*
13.	*Historical*	Rich Hansen	*
14.	*Awards*	Doug Ferrier	

Memorial — Rich Hansen

Old Business

4. Treasurer's Report – Leif Wildman

New Business

5. Presentation by BHS rep Christina Brewer
6. Fall Convention Update – Jeff Bowyer
7. Harmony College Midwest – Mark Servos / Nathan Gross
8. The Big Leap – Glenn Mills
9. Budget for 2027 – Leif Wildman
10. Slate Election for 2027/2028 – Ben Dirks
11. Spring 2027 HOD Date – Mike Isely

Closing Song — Kevin O'Keefe

Adjournment — Ben Dirks

HOD Attendance (P for Present, A for Absent, L for Late)

Chapter Delegates			
IF YOUR CHAPTER HAS THE WRONG DELEGATE HERE THEN YOU NEED TO FIX THIS BEFORE THE HOD MEETING TAKES PLACE. PLEASE CONTACT isely@pobox.com FOR QUESTIONS			
P/L/A	**Chapter Name**	**No.**	**Delegate**
	Arlington Heights, IL	E002	* Melanie Concklin
	Aurora, IL	E003	Mark Barone
	Belleville, IL	E005	* William Rathmann
	Bloomington, IL	E007	David Garrett
	Macomb, IL	E008	Craig Rigg
	Northbrook, IL	E009	Earl Holtz
	Danville, IL	E013	!
	Decatur, IL	E014	!
	Coles County, IL	E017	Jerry Tkachuk
	Elgin, IL	E018	* Ralph Ferguson
	Rockford Metro, IL	E019	* Richard Schultz
	Lake County, IL	E021	* Timothy Ferguson
	Bureau County, IL	E024	* John Swanson
	Chicagoland West Suburban, IL	E030	* Anthony Emerson
	Peoria, IL	E044	* Michael Cosner
	Chicago Metro, IL	E045	* Bonnie Jones
	Rockford, IL	E047	* Frederick Gahl
	Rock Island, IL	E048	!
	Will-Cook, IL	E050	* Neil DeVore
	Sterling Rock Falls, IL	E052	Kevin O'Keefe
	Waterloo, IL	E054	* Michael Moulds
	Springfield, IL	E061	Pat Claussen
	DuPage Valley, IL	E066	* Kevin Connell
	Carbondale, IL	E075	!
(total = 0 / 24)			

* Chapter did not specifically declare a delegate; substituting Chapter President
! No information provided by this chapter (missing declared chapter officers), thus no delegate

HOD Attendance (P for Present, A for Absent, L for Late)

Governance Board		
P/L/A	**Name**	**Role**
	Benjamin Dirks	President
	Glenn Mills	Executive VP
	Mike Isely	Secretary
	Leif Wildman	Treasurer
	Doug Finkbiner	At-Large (Membership)
	Jeff Bowyer	At-Large (Events)
N/A	(Benjamin Dirks)	At-Large (C & J)
	John Q. Morris	At-Large
	Brett Mulford	Imm. Past President
(total = 8)		

Operations		
P/L/A	**Name**	**Role**
	Glenn Mills	Marketing & PR
	Evan Patrick	Youth In Harmony
	Doug Finkbiner	Membership
	Mark Servos	Music & Performance
	Nathan Gross	
	Rich Hansen	Historian
	John Q Morris	CSLT
	Kevin O'Keefe	Chorus Director Development
	Doug Ferrier	Awards
(total = 9)		

Active Past Presidents (and not currently on Gov. Board)	
P/L/A	**Name**
	Mike Bagby
N/A	(Jeff Bowyer)
	Bob Cearnal
	Dave Cowin
	Rich Hansen
	Jeff Lathom
	Terry Ludwig
	Earl Meseth
N/A	(Brett Mulford)
	Bob Squires
	Will Thorndike
	Jim Waldorf
	Syl Wetle
(total = 11)	

IL District Association of Chapters, SPEBSQSA

Balance Sheet

As of Aug 31, 2026

	Total
Assets	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
1010 Checking Account	23,242.68
1015 US Bank Money Market	52,837.58
Total for Bank Accounts	**$76,080.26**
Other Current Assets	
1310 Convention Funding Advance	-500.00
1320 Pre-Purchased Awards	-432.00
Total for Other Current Assets	**-$932.00**
Total for Current Assets	**$75,148.26**
Total for Assets	**$75,148.26**
Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities	
Total for Liabilities	
Equity	
3000 Unrestricted Funds	
3010 Operating Fund	56,346.41
Total for 3000 Unrestricted Funds	**$56,346.41**
3200 Permanent Restricted Funds	
3210 Grants & Contributions	$0.00
IDAH	$720.83
Scholarships	233.00
Total for IDAH	**$953.83**
Undesignated	9,875.09
YIH	2,900.62
Total for 3210 Grants & Contributions	**$13,729.54**
Senior Chorus	319.05
Total for 3200 Permanent Restricted Funds	**$14,048.59**
Unrestricted Net Assets	7,874.80
Net Income	-3,121.54
Total for Equity	**$75,148.26**
Total for Liabilities and Equity	**$75,148.26**

IL District Association of Chapters, SPEBSQSA

Profit and Loss

January-August, 2026

	Total
Income	
5100 Event Income	
Har. Found/Fest. Chorus/Brigade	479.50
On Line Registrations	5,672.71
On Site Registrations	85.00
On Site Single Tickets	45.00
Total for 5100 Event Income	**$6,282.21**
5210 District Dues	10,684.53
5310 Interest Income	18.54
Total for Income	**$16,985.28**
Gross Profit	**$16,985.28**
Expenses	
7020 Donations to Other Orgs	
IDEA	680.00
Total for 7020 Donations to Other Orgs	**$680.00**
7030 Support	
Quartet Support	500.00
Total for 7030 Support	**$500.00**
7500 Contract Services Expenses	
7540 Judging Expense	433.44
7570 Event Meals	3,323.03
Total for 7500 Contract Services Expenses	**$3,756.47**
8100 Nonpersonnel expenses	
8150 Music	175.00
8170 Printing & Copying	94.12
8180 Historian	49.79
Total for 8100 Nonpersonnel expenses	**$318.91**
8200 Facility & Equipment Exp	
8210 Rent, parking, & other	2,317.51
8230 Storage Rental Charges	900.00
Total for 8200 Facility & Equipment Exp	**$3,217.51**
8300 Travel & Meetings Expenses	
8310 Travel	5,211.62
8320 Board Meet. & Conventions	
Comp Housing	3,153.92
Total for 8320 Board Meet. & Conventions	**$3,153.92**
8330 Hospitality	712.49
Total for 8300 Travel & Meetings Expenses	**$9,078.03**
8400 Education Programs	
8440 HCMW	1,510.00
Total for 8400 Education Programs	**$1,510.00**

IL District Association of Chapters, SPEBSQSA

Profit and Loss

January-August, 2026

	Total
8500 Other Expenses	
8560 Outside Computer Services	1,031.90
Total for 8500 Other Expenses	**$1,031.90**
8600 Business Expenses	
8610 - Corporation Filing Fees	14.00
Total for 8600 Business Expenses	**$14.00**
Total for Expenses	**$20,106.82**
Net Operating Income	**-$3,121.54**
Net Income	**-$3,121.54**

IL District Association of Chapters, SPEBSQSA

Profit and Loss by Class

All Dates

	HCMW	2026 BLOOMINGTON	TOTAL FOR HCMW	TOTAL
Income				
5100 Event Income				
IDEA Grant		850.00	850.00	850.00
On Line Registrations		5,672.71	5,672.71	5,672.71
On Site Registrations		85.00	85.00	85.00
On Site Single Tickets		45.00	45.00	45.00
Total for 5100 Event Income		**6,652.71**	**6,652.71**	**$6,652.71**
Total for Income		**6,652.71**	**6,652.71**	**$6,652.71**
Gross Profit		**6,652.71**	**6,652.71**	**$6,652.71**
Expenses				
7020 Donations to Other Orgs				
IDEA		680.00	680.00	680.00
Total for 7020 Donations to Other Orgs		**680.00**	**680.00**	**$680.00**
7500 Contract Services Expenses				
7570 Event Meals		3,323.03	3,323.03	3,323.03
Total for 7500 Contract Services Expenses		**3,323.03**	**3,323.03**	**$3,323.03**
8100 Nonpersonnel expenses				
8150 Music		175.00	175.00	175.00
Total for 8100 Nonpersonnel expenses		**175.00**	**175.00**	**$175.00**
8200 Facility & Equipment Exp				
8210 Rent, parking, & other		1,057.51	1,057.51	1,057.51
Total for 8200 Facility & Equipment Exp		**1,057.51**	**1,057.51**	**$1,057.51**
8300 Travel & Meetings Expenses				
8310 Travel		3,197.72	3,197.72	3,197.72
8320 Board Meet. & Conventions				
Comp Housing		3,153.92	3,153.92	3,153.92
Total for 8320 Board Meet. & Conventions		**3,153.92**	**3,153.92**	**$3,153.92**
8330 Hospitality		712.49	712.49	712.49
Total for 8300 Travel & Meetings Expenses		**7,064.13**	**7,064.13**	**$7,064.13**
8400 Education Programs				
8440 HCMW		2,260.00	2,260.00	2,260.00
Total for 8400 Education Programs		**2,260.00**	**2,260.00**	**$2,260.00**
Total for Expenses		**14,559.67**	**14,559.67**	**$14,559.67**
Net Operating Income		**-7,906.96**	**-7,906.96**	**-$7,906.96**
Net Income		**-7,906.96**	**-7,906.96**	**-$7,906.96**

President’s Report
2026 Fall HOD

President’s Report

It is hard to believe that this is my final House of Delegates meeting as President of the Illinois District. In many ways, it feels like I just started this journey, and yet here we are. The time has gone incredibly fast.

Serving as your President has been one of the most incredible—and challenging—experiences of my life. It has given me an even deeper appreciation for the Illinois District, the work that goes into making it successful, and most importantly, the people who make this organization what it is. I am proud to be a fellow member of this district and grateful for the opportunity you gave me to serve.

Throughout my term, one of my goals has been to make sure our members have a voice in the direction of our district. I believe we have made meaningful progress in improving communication between the board and our members, creating more opportunities to hear your ideas, concerns, and suggestions, and then—perhaps most importantly—putting those ideas into action. Many of the changes and improvements we have made during my presidency came directly from you.

My hope is that, as your President, I have helped make our district—and its future—just a little bit better. I know there is still work to be done, but I am proud of the progress we have made together.

And while this is my final HOD meeting as President, my work with the district is certainly not finished. As your DRCJ, I will continue to serve the Illinois District and work to make our conventions and competitions even better than they already are. I look forward to continuing to listen, learn, and find ways we can improve the experience for every member and competitor.

When I first began this journey, I introduced a simple motto that I hope will continue beyond my presidency:

“If we don’t know, we can’t grow!”

I encourage all of us to keep asking questions, keep listening to our members, and keep being willing to make changes when we discover a better way forward. The strength of our district depends on our willingness to learn from one another.

Thank you for your trust, your support, your honesty, and your willingness to work alongside me. Most of all, thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve an organization and a district that I care so deeply about.

It has been an honor.

Harmoniously,

Ben Dirks
President, Illinois District

Membership Report for the Illinois District

September 4, 2026

The current membership of the Illinois District is 494, which reflects a decline of seven members since January of this year. There are currently 25 chapters listed as active by the BHS, two of which have only one member and are not currently meeting.

Three chapters have fewer than 10 members. They are Macomb, Bureau County, and Peoria. Long time Macomb member and current President Craig Rigg reports the chapter remains active despite low turnout. They usually sing with around 10 members. Despite losing a co-director, the Prairieland Chorus has sung as guests with the local choral society. They fundraised with their lemon shakeup stand and donated the proceeds to three high school groups who volunteered to help them.

Craig said the future of the chapter is in doubt, even though they are hanging on for now.

Calls and texts to the presidents of Bureau County and Peoria were not returned. Two of the chapters with which I liase, Carbondale and Waterloo, remain active in their communities and their numbers are holding steady.

Illinois District Census, September 2026

Chapter	Number of Active Members	Status
Champaign Urbana	0	Charter Closed
Chicago Metro	20	Active
Chicago No. 1	0	Charter Closed
Chicago Western Suburban	46	Active
Coles County	32	Active
Collinsville	0	Charter Closed
Frank Thorn	13	Active
Danville	25	Active
Decatur	1	Active
Peoria	5	Active
Northbrook	48	Active
DuPage Valley	48	Active
Quincy	0	Charter Closed
Elgin	19	Active
Rock Island	1	Active
Rockford Metro	20	Active
Rockford	15	Active
Arlington Heights	20	Active
Aurora	16	Active
Sandoval	0	Charter Closed
Belleville	25	Active
Bloomington	90	Active
Kankakee	0	Voluntary Dissolution pending
Kishwaukee Valley	0	Voluntary Dissolution pending
Bureau County	7	Active
Lake County	22	Active
Springfield	24	Active
Carbondale	12	Active
Macomb	7	Active
Sterling Rock Falls	18	Active
Waterloo	18	Active
Will-Cook	14	Active
Total	**501 Active Members**	**25 Active Charters**

Illinois District Music & Performance Report Fall 2026

- Harmony College Midwest (HCM) 2026 took place on Saturday, March 21st 2026 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Bloomington, IL
    - Overall a successful event. Positive feedback received from individual attendees as well as quartets.
- Budget concerns
    - 2026 event was considerably over budget.
        - Cost of travel and goods has increased.
        - Venue/food costs have increased as well.
    - We are aware of the deficit and are making considerations for the 2027 budget accordingly.
        - Adjustment of cost of attendance for individuals and quartets, within reason.
        - Limit number of clinicians traveling extended distance.
        - Improved advertising to try and attract more out of district participants.
- Looking forward to HCM 2027 and beyond
    - Official date will be Saturday, March 20th 2027
    - Locking in contracts for head clinician and featured quartet. Currently Drew Wheaton and Sunday Night Social, respectively.
    - We have received feedback about interest in more personalized vocal coaching for individual attendees
        - Looking into establishing a “Vocal Pedagogy" track at HCM 2027 to offer individuals more one-on-one opportunities to work with coaches/clinicians aside from normal classroom settings. May be pushed into 2028 depending on budget availability.
        - Track size may be limited due to time slot availability.
    - Looking into establishing a directors track for current or prospective chorus directors to work with established, veteran directing clinicians. May be pushed into 2028 depending on budget availability.
- Please send additional ideas or suggestions to mark.servos@gmail.com. We are EXTREMELY interested to hear your feedback and want to try to accommodate as many needs/wants as possible!

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Servos & Nathan Gross
Co-VP Music & Performance, ILL District

Fall 2026 IL District Marketing and EVP 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.

EVP chapter visits

Along with the New Tradition chorus, I visited the Chorus of DuPage, the West Towns Chorus, and had fun at the Visited the Brat Bash.

International Convention

I attended the international convention in St. Louis, sang in the mic-tester chorus, and on behalf of the district wished Sound of Illinois well at a joint rehearsal they had on site with the Alexandria Harmonizers just prior to their fabulous performance in the contest. I was able to track down some members of our past district champion quartets who sang during the international festivities: Triple Threat, Onset, and Linc 182; they were all great and made our district proud.

District Presidents' Council

I attended the meetings at the mid-winter convention in Pasadena (in person) and at the international convention (via Zoom). District EVPs join the district presidents to get up to speed on what is transpiring in other districts, share ideas, and also represent the districts' wishes to BHS leaders.

CEO Robert Rund has also started a monthly informal lunch-and-chat with district presidents and EVPs, and I've attended those.

The society has a new process and structure for handling potential violations of the code of ethics, and I participated in its review prior to publication.

All-District Marketing Group

BHS started an online chat group to help districts share marketing success stories and opportunities, and I have participated in those discussions regularly.

Website

Here are the key items done since the HOD meeting in spring 2026:

- The site experienced some technical issues and I worked with the developers to identify the problems and address them. A couple problems have yet to be fixed and I continue to be the squeaky wheel.

- Promoted the international convention, encouraged members to go, and recognized our district representatives, Sound of Illinois, Linc 182, and sing-in participant Onset.
- Updated the site with information to promote the fall convention. I will add the registration link as soon as it is available after our board meeting.
- Published spring and summer issues of "From the Vault." A big thank-you to Rich Hansen.
- Mike Isely recently sent the current data, downloaded from the BHS members-only database, and in August I will push it onto our website:
    - Chapter officers, chapter/chorus contact information, and chorus rehearsal sites.
    - District officer and operations team information.
    - Active quartets.

Social Media

Continued to post and add followers on Instagram and Facebook, highlighting all the district and chapter goings-on that I became aware of.

Planning for the Future: 2027 Big Leap and chapter revitalization

- I am working with leaders from BHS, LO'L district, and Pioneer district to potentially hold a Big Leap leadership training event in the midwest.Big Leap events have been held in Dallas, DC, and Springfield, MA. Many chapters that attended have begun to transform themselves and become successful community arts organizations. Should the Board authorize a Big Leap, it will likely be in the Chicago area in spring 2027. Bill Stauffer and Joe Cerutti from BHS are looking into the availability of the faculty members. Roger Menard, president of the Northeastern district, which hosted a Big Leap last April, met with us via Zoom and gave us great information about what he did, how he recommends we organize and market the event, and why he feels there isn't much risk involved.
    - Chapters would pay a flat $400 registration fee (or whatever rate we set) + their travel expenses. For that, they could have up to 5 chapter members attend – and it is essential that a given chapter have multiple attendees so they don't return home and run into resistance from other members.
    - The event runs Friday, Saturday and part of Sunday – and BHS is not able or willing to split it up into more than one event; in fact, they believe that much of the value of the program stems from a weekend-long immersion. And, the logistics are much simpler when the event takes place on one weekend.
    - BHS is polling the faculty members regarding availability, but we would be sure not to conflict with Harmony College Midwest or district spring conventions.
    - We would have attendees pay for their hotels and meals, so the costs we would need to offset via registration fees would be renting a meeting room and travel expenses for the faculty (5 or 6 teachers coming from out of town). We would also need to reserve a block of rooms at the hotel, and would thus need to forecast attendance well enough to avoid any penalty charges.

- We could consider scholarship programs that a chapter could qualify for, perhaps partnering with IDEA to help fund this and increase the % of chapters who send strong delegations to the event.

— Glenn Mills, EVP + District Marketing VP

DRCJ Report
2026 Fall HOD

District Representative of Contest and Judging Report

This is my first convention as your District Representative of Contest and Judging, and I'll admit—it's been quite a learning experience! There are a lot of moving pieces that go into making a contest successful.

Thankfully, I've had a lot of great people helping along the way. With their help, I feel really good about where we are heading into this weekend, and I'm confident we're set up for a successful convention and competition.

Looking ahead, our next five convention and contest weekends have been penciled in so the Society can better forecast judging availability. They're also limiting the number of districts sharing a contest weekend to no more than five, because it's simply becoming impossible to fully staff contests when too many districts are competing at once.

We'll also be one of the first districts to beta test electronic, or paperless, scoring. There's still some work to figure out, and everything will also be manually submitted during the testing to ensure accuracy.

And finally, the 2028 International Convention and Competition is coming to Chicago. We don't have many details yet, but it's going to take a village of volunteers to pull off an event of that size. When we know more, you'll know more!

I'm grateful for everyone who has helped me navigate my first year in this role, and I'm looking forward to a great weekend of competition.

Ben Dirks

Events Report

August 1, 2026

Jeff Bowyer VP-Events

Future dates and locations

Fall 2026 Illinois District Convention Sept. 25-26, 2026
Headquarters Hotel: DoubleTree Hotel Bloomington: **contract signed.**
Room block of 120 rooms per night. **Make reservations before room block ends 9/4,2026**.
Contest locations: BCPA contract signed.
Friday - BCPA: Quartet semi-finals Friday evening.
Saturday - BCPA: Chorus Finals and Quartet Finals.

2027 Harmony College Midwest March 19-20, 2027
DoubleTree Hotel: All classes will be in the DoubleTree Hotel Convention area.
contract signed.

Fall 2027 Illinois District Convention Sept. 24-25, 2027
Headquarters Hotel: DoubleTree Hotel Bloomington: **contract signed.**
Contest locations: BCPA **contract signed.**
Friday - BCPA: Quartet semi-finals Friday evening.
Saturday - BCPA: Chorus Finals and Quartet Finals.

Fall 2028 Illinois District Convention Sept. 22-24, 2028
Headquarters Hotel: DoubleTree Hotel Bloomington: **dates on hold.**
Contest Location: **BCPA contract signed.**

Future Convention Dates on hold at the DoubleTree Hotel and BCPA
Sept 20-23, 2029
Sept 26-29, 2030
Sept 25-28, 2031

The IDEA fund's value as of 9/8/26 was $237,530.44 as compared to $221,154.69 at 12/31/25 and $197,530.04 at 12/31/24. Market gains for this year have been $17,170.59. During the last 12 months, IDEA has awarded grants totaling $5000 for the four Youth In Harmony programs and $2170 for a chapter sponsored quartet contest, quartet competing at international and Harmony College Midwest scholarships. Donations to the fund during the last 12 months were $1520 from Sound of Illinois chorus and district members including IDEA Direct contributions from members.

Earl Holtz

Trustee & Treasurer

YIH REPORT: HOD 2026

The ILL District has four active Youth in Harmony Festivals that all take place annually in the Fall. Those four festivals are hosted by the following choruses.

Central IL YIH Festival: Sound of Illinois - (10/29/2026)

Coles County YIH Festival: Coles County - (10/19/2026)

Fox Lake YIH Festival: New Tradition - (10/24/2026)

Springfield YIH Festival: Land of Lincoln - (11/04/2026)

These festivals play a major role in exposing the next generation to the joys of barbershop. Each year hundreds of high school students from all over IL attend these four festivals and spend a day learning the fundamentals of the craft. Led by chapter music leaders or by highly qualified and talented staff brought in by the chapters themselves. Our District takes pride in each festival and has support ready should a chapter need any financial assistance. Should any chapter not currently running/operating its own festival like to discuss how to get one started, please contact Evan Patrick directly.

CONTACT INFORMATION BELOW

Any chapter that wishes to request any financial aid for their festival should have a full budget available to share with Evan via email.

Evan Patrick: ILL District VP of YIH Operations

Cell Phone – 309-660-1865

Email – illinoisdistrictyih@gmail.com

Illinois District Chorus Director Development Report

Spring 2026

I have been working on putting together a list of chorus directors in the Illinois District. This has been a little difficult because there are a few chapters that do not list their chorus directors as an officer in Member Center. I would encourage all chapters to add the chorus director as an officer in Member Center.

I plan to contact all the chorus directors in the Illinois District to get an idea of 1) what support, assistance, and/or learning they might benefit from, and 2) which more experienced directors would be interested in helping/mentoring the more novice directors in the district. Since several choruses, and their directors, are focused on their contest performances and other aspects of the Convention, I will wait until October to make those contacts.

This project are ongoing.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin O'Keefe

VP Chorus Director Development, IL District

Chapter Support and Leadership Report

The chapter support and leadership responsibilites tend to slow down after the Leadership Summit. Follow up responsibilites of the 2026 Leadership Summit held on January 10 and 11 included posting videos and course materials from the summit. They were made available to those who did not attend the two-day event.

Contributed to a couple events involving the New Tradition chorus, the Chorus of DuPage and the West Town chorus.

Co emceed the dual rehearsal on May 26 with the Northbrook chapter and the DuPage chapter. along with the VP of Marketing from the Chorus of DuPage,

Although I was not directly involved in planning of the June 8 visit to West Towns, I shot, edited and posted a video from Meetup with Westown on Facebook Page https://www.facebook.com/reel/978735621860608

Produced a video of the 46th Brat Bash on June 16 https://youtu.be/QrrzrFxSplY

Produced the 2026 Chicago Metro Quartet contest which was held on August 8 2026. The event brought together 7 regional quartets from both the SingUnited Inc aka Sweet Adelines, a Land of Lakes quartet, and 4 Illinois district quartets of which two were novice foursomes.

On September the 8th, sent an e-mail reminder to all listed chapter leaders to have their 2027 leadership team in place by October 15, plus a reminder of who should be the delegates for the House of Delegates meeting on September 25.

Currently working on gettng a proposal for a possible 2028 Harmony College Midwest nearer to the Chicagoland area.

DISTRICT HISTORIAN REPORT – FALL 2026

- Since the last report, donations of materials have been made to the archives. They include the following:
  - → Misc. items from the Standing Ovation Program, IDAH, Chapter Histories (Arlingtones/Woodale/Lake Co./Northbrook) from Syl Wetle
  - → AIC material (badges, replica medals) from anonymous
  - → 1940s era Society dies/stamps for medals from anonymous
  - → 1975 International Convention Indiana license plate from anonymous
  - → Misc. materials related to Leo Sisk/Town & Country 4 Quartet (medals, ring, ashtray, candle - Leo Sisk Collection) from anonymous
  - → 2026 St. Louis convention program from Rich Hansen
  - → Autographed Vocal Spectrum 20th Anniversary Album from Rich Hansen
  - → 1956 International Chorus LP, Four Rascals LP, Grandma's Boys LP & 1976 Saturday Evening Post article on barbershop featuring Grandma's Boys from Dale Jarvis
- I plan on obtaining both the Decatur and Coles County Chapters' historical materials in the near future.
- I purchased a 1951 program of a Belleville Chapter Show from ebay, misc. supplies, and a Vocal Spectrum 20th anniversary LP for the archives. I will be turning in receipts to Leif Wildman for reimbursement.
- After receiving an updated championship photo of the Improv quartet from Paul Schulte, I added it to the files and submitted it to Glenn Mills to update on the website.
- I received several digital images of the Sundowners from Doug Smith. One of which, their 1971 BHS official photo, has been duplicated and will be part of a special display of medalists planned for 2028 in Chicago.
- I posted the spring and summer issues of "From the Vault" in May and July, respectively.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Hansen
Illinois District Historian (2019-present) & Past District President (2015-2016)

Company name: IL District Association of Chapters, SPEBSQSA

Budget name: Budget_FY27_P&L

Budget type: Profit and loss

Period: FY 2027 (Jan 2027 - Dec 2027)

Consolidated

Accounts	Budget totals
Comp Registrations	$0.00
Har. Found/Fest. Chorus/Brigade	$1000.00
Hotel Rebates/Comp Room Credits	$1900.00
IDEA Grant	$1430.00
Mail Registrations	$1000.00
Misc - Vendors & Program Ads	$1000.00
On Line Registrations	$29000.00
On Site Registrations	$0.00
On Site Single Tickets	$2000.00
Total 5100 Event Income	**$37330.00**
5210 District Dues	$18000.00
5310 Interest Income	$500.00
5450 Advertising Revenue	$1000.00
Total 5491 Merchandise	**$0.00**
Total 5490 Miscellaneous Revenue	**$0.00**
Total 5810 Non-gift revenue	**$0.00**
5820 Gift Revenue	$0.00
Total 5800 Special Events Revenue	**$0.00**
Total Income	**$56830.00**
IDEA	$0.00
Total 7020 Donations to Other Orgs	**$0.00**
7540 Judging Expense	$5000.00
7550 Temp Help - Contract	$0.00
7510 Chapter Convention Stipend	$500.00
7560 Ticket Processing Fees	$0.00
7570 Event Meals	$4000.00
7580 Other Contract Expenses	$2000.00
Total 7500 Contract Services Expenses	**$11500.00**
8110 Supplies	$150.00
8120 Awards, Plaques & Pins	$950.00
8140 Postage & Shipping	$50.00
8170 Printing & Copying	$1500.00
8180 Historian	$300.00
8150 Music	$160.00
Total 8100 Nonpersonnel expenses	**$3110.00**
8210 Rent, parking, & other	$15000.00
8260 Equipment Rental	$700.00
8220 Equipment Purchase & Maint	$148.36
8230 Storage Rental Charges	$1200.00
Total 8200 Facility & Equipment Exp	**$17048.36**
8310 Travel	$7000.00
Total 8310 Travel	**$7000.00**
8320 Board Meet. & Conventions	$0.00
Comp Housing	$8000.00
President Meetings	$2000.00
VP C&J Meetings	$2000.00
Total 8320 Board Meet. & Conventions	**$12000.00**
8330 Hospitality	$2500.00
Total 8300 Travel & Meetings Expenses	**$21500.00**
8450 Recordings of Contestants	$1500.00
8480 YIH Program	$5000.00

Accounts	Budget totals
Contest Prizes	$500.00
Total 8480 YIH Program	**$5500.00**
Total 8400 Education Programs	**$7000.00**
8560 Outside Computer Services	$1200.00
8570 Advertising & Publicity	$0.00
8590 Miscellaneous	$0.00
President	$350.00
Treasurer	$300.00
Total 8505 Gov Board	**$650.00**
VP Mkt & PR	$100.00
Total 8510 VPs & Committees	**$100.00**
Total 8500 Other Expenses	**$1950.00**
8610 - Corporation Filing Fees	$10.00
Total 8600 Business Expenses	**$10.00**
Chorus Support	$500.00
Quartet Support	$1500.00
Total 7030 Support	**$2000.00**
Total Expense	**$64118.36**
Total Other Income	**$0.00**
Total Net Income	**$-7288.36**

Monday, September 7, 2026 at 11:53 AM CDT

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

Proposed Slate for 2027 / 2028

Governance Board of Directors	
Role	**Candidate**
President	Glenn Mills
EVP	Mark Servos
Secretary	Mike Isely
Treasurer	Leif Wildman
At-Large	John Q. Morris
At-Large (Events)	Jeff Bowyer
At-Large (C&J)	Ben Dirks
At-Large (Membership)	Doug Finkbiner
Imm. Past President	Benjamin Dirks

The Nominating Committee is normally composed of the Immediate Past President and the 2 previous District Presidents.

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

Proposed Operations Team for 2027 / 2028

Operations Team	
Role	**Candidate**
VP Events	Jeff Bowyer
VP C&J	Ben Dirks
VP Membership	Doug Finkbiner
VP Music & Performance	Mark Servos
	Nathan Gross
VP Youth In Harmony	Evan Patrick
Marketing & PR	John Q Morris (VP)
	Calvin Cheng (website)
	Doug Ferrier
	Ben Dirks
	Glenn Mills (social media)
	Mark Leverett (emails)
VP Chorus Director Development	Kevin O'Keefe
VP Chapter Support & Leadership Training	Bill Rathmann
Historian	Rich Hansen
Ethics Committee	Earl Meseth
	Jim Waldorf
Bylaws	Mike Isely
	Rich Hansen
VP Awards	Doug Ferrier

The non-voting Operations Team is appointed by the District President and serves at the pleasure of the District President. If the proposed Governance Board Slate is elected by the HOD, these will be the OT appointments

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

Mar 20th 2026

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: 7:01 PM

Call to Order

1. Roll Call / House of Delegates quorum – yes or no – Mike Isely
   → 17 members present, out of a potential total of 8+11+24=43.
   → Quorum minimum requirement of 30% (= 13). With 17 present we have 40%, quorum established
   → [See Appendix titled "Attendance" for detailed attendance record]
2. Reading of Mission & Vision Statement – Brett Mulford
   → (see above)
3. Welcome – Ben Dirks
4. Approve Agenda – Mike Isely
   → **Motion: Approve Agenda**
   - **Offered by: Jeff Bowyer, Kevin O'Keefe**
   - **PASSED**
5. Minutes of previous HOD Meeting (Sep 26th, 2025) – Mike Isely
   → **Motion:**
   - **Subject: Approve Fall 2025 HOD Minutes**
   - **Offered by: Tim Ferguson, Mark Servos**
   - **PASSED**

6. Resignation of Terry Ludwig
   - → Resignation letter
     - [Attachment: “01-resignation.pdf”]
   - → Online motion to appoint Brett Mulford as Immediate Past President to fulfill remaining term
     - [Attachment: “02-vote-mulford.pdf”]
   - → Online motion to appoint Ben Dirks as Contest & Judging VP to fulfill remaining term
     - [Attachment: “03-vote-dirks.pdf”]
7. Approve Consent Calendar – Mike Isely
   - → **Motion: Approve Consent Calendar**
     - **Offered by: Bill Rathman, John Q Morris**
     - **PASSED**
   - → Accept the following reports
     - President’s Report
       - [Attachment: “04-rpt-pres.pdf”]
     - EVP & Marketing Report
       - [Attachment: “05-rpt-evp-mktg.pdf”]
     - Chapter President’s Council Report
       - [Attachment: “06-rpt-cpc.pdf”]
     - Music & Performance Report
       - [Attachment: “07-rpt-mus.pdf”]
     - Events Report
       - [Attachment: “08-rpt-events.pdf”]
     - Youth In Harmony
       - [Attachment: “09-rpt-yih.pdf”]
     - Chorus Director Development Report
       - [Attachment: “10-rpt-cdd.pdf”]
     - Chapter Support, Leadership, and Trainging Report
       - [Attachment: “11-rpt-cslt.pdf”]
     - Historian Report
       - [Attachment: “12-rpt-historian.pdf”]
     - Contest and Judging
       - [Attachment: “13a-rpt-cj.pdf”] [Attachment: “13b-schedule-tentative.pdf”]
     - IDEA
       - [Attachment: “14-rpt-idea.pdf”]

Treasurer's Report

8. Treasurer's Report – Leif Wildman
   - → $79K currently in bank assets
   - → Fall 2025 convention: $21K revenue, $28K expenses
     - But we planned for this, as this is a district function
   - → [Attachment: "15-rpt-treasurer.pdf"]
   - → **Motion:**
     - **Subject: Receive the Treasurer's Report**
     - **Offered by: Kevin O'Keefe, Mark Servos**
     - **PASSED**

Old Business

9. Harmony College Midwest – Mark Servos / Nathan Gross
   - → We made it! We're here!
   - → Looking into "The Big Leap" program for next year
   - → Looking into 1:1 vocal coaching for next year
10. Fall Convention Update – Jeff Bowyer
    - → Report stands
    - → Changes to the Fall Convention (Ben Dirks)
      - Registration:
        - Registration has a hard 2 week deadline – no on-site registrations
        - Single-event passes will still be available through the convention
        - CJ-20 for quartets will not be processed until the full quartet has been registered
        - Chorus members who are NOT registered prior to the 2 week deadline will not be allowed to be on stage with the rest of the chorus
      - Schedule:
        - Biggest adjustment – chorus contest starts at 10am
        - Rationale – This frees up more time for actual convention activities / programs. Make this actually a convention as opposed to a pair of contests with some other stuff going on.
        - Call-off will be held back at the BCPA again, instead of the hotel.
11. District-wide survey – Ben Dirks
    - → Recent survey: What are your talents? Everybody has a gift, a skill. We want to know about it so we can share those skills across chapters.

12. Website update – Glenn Mills
    - → Nothing new
13. Membership – Doug Finkbiner
    - → 501 district members, another reduction
    - → Waterloo chapter is very active
    - → Carbondale is down to 11 members

New Business

14. BHS Ambassador – Joe Gurreri
    - → Introduction of Joe
    - → Is a new "BHS Ambassador", a complete volunteer role
    - → Here to be listeners, learn what can also be shared with others
    - → Will take questions and find answers
    - → "Connect Nashville to the field"
15. Bagley Rule – Ben Dirks
    - → [Attachment: "16-proposal-rules-change.pdf"]
    - → Note: This does not completely "solve" the issue because there are other forces at work that can push up the number of quartets that advance to Saturday. For example, out-of-district quartets that we allow to compete.
    - → Guessing that had this proposal been in effect last Fall, then the 16 quartets that advanced on Saturday would have been reduced to 13. (Not 11 = 10 competitors + 1 mic tester)
    - → This helps to get quartets to the hospitality rooms sooner.
    - → **Motion:**
      - **Subject: Remove the Bagley Rule from the bylaws, and accept the proposal**
      - **Offered by: Kevin O'Keefe, Doug Finkbiner**
      - **PASSED (1 nay)**
16. Fall 2026 HOD Date – Mike Isely
    - → 25-Sep-2026, Noon (not 1pm)

Adjourned: 7:52 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Isely – Secretary

Appendix: Attendance

(taken computationally from delegate sign-in spreadsheet)

Chapter Delegates			
P/L/A	**Chapter Name**	**No.**	**Delegate**
P	Arlington Heights	E002	* Melanie Concklin
A	Aurora	E003	* Lester Grossman
P	Belleville	E005	* William Rathmann
A	Bloomington	E007	David Garrett
A	Macomb	E008	Craig Rigg
P	Northbrook	E009	Nichelle Pajeau
A	Danville	E013	!
A	Decatur	E014	!
A	Coles County	E017	+* Leif Wildman
P	Elgin	E018	John Schultz
P	Rockford Metro	E019	* Richard Schultz
P	Lake County	E021	* Timothy Ferguson
A	Bureau County	E024	* John Swanson
P	Chicagoland West Suburban	E030	Mark Servos
A	Peoria	E044	* Michael Cosner
A	Chicago Metro	E045	* Bonnie Jones
A	Rockford	E047	* Dan Adler
A	Rock Island	E048	!
A	Will-Cook	E050	* Neil DeVore
P	Sterling Rock Falls	E052	Kevin O'Keefe
A	Waterloo	E054	* Michael Moulds
A	Springfield	E061	Patrik Claussen
P	DuPage Valley	E066	Jim Anderson
A	Carbondale	E075	!

(total = 9 / 24)

* 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

the Illinois District
association of Chapters / Barbershop Harmony Society



a state of close harmony

Spring 2026 House of Delegates Meeting 20-Mar-2026 7:00PM

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)
N/A	(Benjamin Dirks)	At-Large (C & J)
P	John Q. Morris	At-Large
P	Brett Mulford	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**
A	Mike Bagby
N/A	(Jeff Bowyer)
A	Bob Cearnal
A	Dave Cowin
A	Rich Hansen
A	Jeff Lathom
A	Terry Ludwig
A	Earl Meseth
N/A	(Brett Mulford)
A	Bob Squires
A	Will Thorndike
A	Jim Waldorf
A	Syl Wetle

0 out of 11

8+0+9 = 17 present
8+11+24 = 43 total possible