



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

Location: Doubletree Hotel at 10 Brickyard Dr, Bloomington, IL 61701

Date/Time: Friday, March 20th 2025 at 7pm

- 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 September 26th, 2025
3. Resignation of Terry Ludwig – Ben Dirks
4. Consent Calendar – Mike Isely
 - Note: “*” marker indicates report is in HOD Information Packet

	<u>Report</u>	<u>Source</u>	
1.	<i>President’s Report</i>	Ben Dirks	*
2.	<i>Exec VP Report</i>	Glenn Mills	*
3.	<i>Membership</i>	Doug Finkbiner	
4.	<i>Chapter President’s Council</i>	Mike Isely	*
5.	<i>Music & Performance</i>	Mark Servos / Nathan Gross	*



	<u>Report</u>	<u>Source</u>	
6.	<i>Marketing & PR</i>	Glenn Mills	*
7.	<i>Contest & Judging</i>	Ben Dirks	*
8.	<i>Events</i>	Jeff Bowyer	*
9.	<i>Illinois District Endowment Assurance</i>	Jim Waldorf	*
10.	<i>Youth In Harmony</i>	Evan Patrick	*
11.	<i>Chorus Director Development</i>	Kevin O'Keefe	*
12.	<i>Chapter Support & Leadership Training</i>	John Q. Morris	*
13.	<i>Historical</i>	Rich Hansen	*
14.	<i>Awards</i>	Doug Ferrier	

OLD BUSINESS

- 5. Treasurer's Report – Leif Wildman
- 6. Harmony College Midwest – Mark Servos / Nathan Gross
- 7. Fall Convention Update – Jeff Bowyer
- 8. District-wide survey – Ben Dirks
- 9. Website update – Glenn Mills

NEW BUSINESS

- 10. Bagley Rule – Ben Dirks
- 11. Fall 2026 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	E002	* Melanie Concklin
	Aurora	E003	* Lester Grossman
	Belleville	E005	* William Rathmann
	Bloomington	E007	David Garrett
	Macomb	E008	Craig Rigg
	Northbrook	E009	Nichelle Pajeau
	Danville	E013	!
	Decatur	E014	!
	Coles County	E017	+* Leif Wildman
	Elgin	E018	* Ralph Ferguson
	Rockford Metro	E019	* Richard Schultz
	Lake County	E021	* Timothy Ferguson
	Bureau County	E024	* John Swanson
	Chicagoland West Suburban	E030	* Anthony Emerson
	Peoria	E044	* Michael Cosner
	Chicago Metro	E045	* Bonnie Jones
	Rockford	E047	* Dan Adler
	Rock Island	E048	!
	Will-Cook	E050	* Neil DeVore
	Sterling Rock Falls	E052	Kevin O'Keefe
	Waterloo	E054	* Michael Moulds
	Springfield	E061	Patrik Claussen
	DuPage Valley	E066	* Kevin Connell
	Carbondale	E075	!
(total = 0 / 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



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)	

Balance Sheet

IL District Association of Chapters, SPEBSQSA

As of February 28, 2026

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Assets	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
1010 Checking Account	26,835.76
1015 US Bank Money Market	52,824.52
1020 Wells Fargo	0.00
Total for Bank Accounts	\$79,660.28
Other Current Assets	
1310 Convention Funding Advance	-500.00
1320 Pre-Purchased Awards	-432.00
Undeposited Funds	0.00
Total for Other Current Assets	-\$932.00
Total for Current Assets	\$78,728.28
Total for Assets	\$78,728.28
Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
2010 Operational Accts Payable	0.00
Total for Accounts Payable	\$0.00
Total for Current Liabilities	\$0.00
Total for Liabilities	\$0.00
Equity	
3000 Unrestricted Funds	
3010 Operating Fund	56,346.41
Total for 3000 Unrestricted Funds	\$56,346.41
3100 Temp. Restricted Funds	
3110 Midwinter Convention	0.00
3120 Harmony College Midwest	0.00
Total for 3100 Temp. Restricted Funds	\$0.00

Balance Sheet

IL District Association of Chapters, SPEBSQSA

As of February 28, 2026

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
3200 Permanent Restricted Funds	
3210 Grants & Contributions	\$0.00
General Operating Fund	0.00
IDAH	\$720.83
Scholarships	233.00
Total for IDAH	\$953.83
IDEA	0.00
Undesignated	9,875.09
Web Site fund	0.00
YIH	2,900.62
Total for 3210 Grants & Contributions	\$13,729.54
3220 Riser Accrual Account	0.00
Senior Chorus	319.05
Total for 3200 Permanent Restricted Funds	\$14,048.59
Opening Balance Equity	0.00
Unrestricted Net Assets	7,874.80
Net Income	458.48
Total for Equity	\$78,728.28
Total for Liabilities and Equity	\$78,728.28

Profit and Loss by Class

IL District Association of Chapters, SPEBSQSA

All Dates

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	FALL CONVENTION	2025- BLOOMINGTON	TOTAL FOR FALL CONVENTION	TOTAL
Income				
5100 Event Income				
On Line Registrations		14,254.03	14,254.03	14,254.03
On Site Registrations		4,116.00	4,116.00	4,116.00
On Site Single Tickets		1,477.40	1,477.40	1,477.40
Total for 5100 Event Income		19,847.43	19,847.43	\$19,847.43
5450 Advertising Revenue		1,245.00	1,245.00	1,245.00
Total for Income		21,092.43	21,092.43	\$21,092.43
Cost of Goods Sold				
Gross Profit		21,092.43	21,092.43	\$21,092.43
Expenses				
7500 Contract Services Expenses				
7540 Judging Expense		4,400.00	4,400.00	4,400.00
Total for 7500 Contract Services Expenses		4,400.00	4,400.00	\$4,400.00
8100 Nonpersonnel expenses				
8110 Supplies		56.29	56.29	56.29
8120 Awards, Plaques & Pins		2,013.54	2,013.54	2,013.54
8170 Printing & Copying		1,646.12	1,646.12	1,646.12
Total for 8100 Nonpersonnel expenses		3,715.95	3,715.95	\$3,715.95
8200 Facility & Equipment Exp				
8210 Rent, parking, & other		13,267.98	13,267.98	13,267.98
Total for 8200 Facility & Equipment Exp		13,267.98	13,267.98	\$13,267.98
8300 Travel & Meetings Expenses				
8320 Board Meet. & Conventions				
Comp Housing		4,189.92	4,189.92	4,189.92
Total for 8320 Board Meet. & Conventions		4,189.92	4,189.92	\$4,189.92
8330 Hospitality		1,268.38	1,268.38	1,268.38
Total for 8300 Travel & Meetings Expenses		5,458.30	5,458.30	\$5,458.30
8400 Education Programs				
8450 Recordings of Contestants		1,400.00	1,400.00	1,400.00
8480 YIH Program				
Contest Prizes		250.00	250.00	250.00
Total for 8480 YIH Program		250.00	250.00	\$250.00
Total for 8400 Education Programs		1,650.00	1,650.00	\$1,650.00
Total for Expenses		28,492.23	28,492.23	\$28,492.23
Net Operating Income		-7,399.80	-7,399.80	-\$7,399.80
Other Income				
Other Expenses				
Net Other Income				
Net Income		-7,399.80	-7,399.80	-\$7,399.80

Profit and Loss

IL District Association of Chapters, SPEBSQSA

January 1-December 31, 2025

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Income	
5100 Event Income	
Har. Found/Fest. Chorus/Brigade	1,064.15
Hotel Rebates/Comp Room Credits	1,960.00
IDEA Grant	1,430.00
On Line Registrations	21,682.70
On Site Registrations	4,256.00
On Site Single Tickets	1,577.40
Total for 5100 Event Income	\$31,970.25
5210 District Dues	17,387.54
5310 Interest Income	307.91
5450 Advertising Revenue	1,365.00
5490 Miscellaneous Revenue	5,000.00
Total for Income	\$56,030.70
Gross Profit	
\$56,030.70	
Expenses	
7500 Contract Services Expenses	
7540 Judging Expense	4,400.00
7570 Event Meals	4,094.22
Total for 7500 Contract Services Expenses	\$8,494.22
8100 Nonpersonnel expenses	
8110 Supplies	56.29
8120 Awards, Plaques & Pins	2,045.04
8140 Postage & Shipping	29.20
8150 Music	112.00
8170 Printing & Copying	1,552.00
8180 Historian	1,804.32
Total for 8100 Nonpersonnel expenses	\$5,598.85
8200 Facility & Equipment Exp	
8210 Rent, parking, & other	15,468.10
Total for 8200 Facility & Equipment Exp	\$15,468.10
8300 Travel & Meetings Expenses	
8310 Travel	3,891.03
8320 Board Meet. & Conventions	
Comp Housing	7,409.92
Total for 8320 Board Meet. & Conventions	\$7,409.92
8330 Hospitality	2,426.27
Total for 8300 Travel & Meetings Expenses	\$13,727.22

Profit and Loss

IL District Association of Chapters, SPEBSQSA

January 1-December 31, 2025

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
8400 Education Programs	
8440 HCMW	1,831.25
8450 Recordings of Contestants	1,400.00
8480 YIH Program	\$4,500.00
Contest Prizes	250.00
Total for 8480 YIH Program	\$4,750.00
Total for 8400 Education Programs	\$7,981.25
8500 Other Expenses	
8505 Gov Board	
Treasurer	255.55
Total for 8505 Gov Board	\$255.55
8540 Bank Charges	70.00
8560 Outside Computer Services	1,248.95
Total for 8500 Other Expenses	\$1,574.50
Total for Expenses	\$52,844.14
Net Operating Income	\$3,186.56
Net Other Income	
Net Income	\$3,186.56

Profit and Loss

IL District Association of Chapters, SPEBSQSA

January 1-February 28, 2026

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Income	
5210 District Dues	2,747.08
5310 Interest Income	4.85
Total for Income	\$2,751.93
Gross Profit	\$2,751.93
Expenses	
8100 Nonpersonnel expenses	
8150 Music	175.00
8170 Printing & Copying	94.12
Total for 8100 Nonpersonnel expenses	\$269.12
8300 Travel & Meetings Expenses	
8310 Travel	1,666.43
Total for 8300 Travel & Meetings Expenses	\$1,666.43
8500 Other Expenses	
8560 Outside Computer Services	357.90
Total for 8500 Other Expenses	\$357.90
Total for Expenses	\$2,293.45
Net Operating Income	\$458.48
Net Other Income	
Net Income	\$458.48

**President's Report – Spring HOD 2026**

Dear Illinois District,

There's a reason the rearview mirror is small and the windshield is large: the past is important to glance at, but our focus should always be on what's ahead. While 2025 was a strong year, it wasn't without its challenges—and that's okay. What matters now is learning from our missed opportunities and moving confidently into 2026.

This year has already brought a few unexpected changes. First, I want to extend my sincere thanks to our Immediate Past President and Contest & Judging Vice President, **Terry Ludwig**, for his many years of dedicated service to the district. Due to personal circumstances, Terry has stepped down from all board positions.

In response, the board has appointed **Brett Mulford**, District President from 2019–2020, to serve as Immediate Past President for the remainder of 2026. Additionally, the board has appointed me to take on the role of **Contest & Judging Vice President**, and I have accepted that responsibility.

One area where we recognize a missed opportunity is in our convention schedule and the competitor registration process. To better support participation—both in convention programming and in chorus/quartet performances—we are proposing a revised schedule. A tentative version is included in the HOD Packet for your review.

In my New Year message, I shared that *“2026 is the Year of the Fire Horse, symbolizing passion, freedom, and innovation.”* I hope we all embrace that spirit. Let's be willing to explore new ideas, try new approaches, and offer honest feedback—positive or constructive—so we can continue to grow as a district.

Yours in Harmony,

Ben Dirks

Illinois District President



Winter 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

Visited the Arlingtones in May, and attended a concert in July.

Visited the DuPage Brat Bash in June.

Visited the Brotherhood of Harmony in November.

Will visit Rock River Valley after the schedule is confirmed with their leadership.

District Presidents' Council

I attended the in-person meetings at the January 2025 mid-winter convention in San Antonio, the international convention in Denver, and at the January 2026 mid-winter convention in Pasadena. 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. The Pasadena meeting included some leadership training.

District Leader Training

Created presentations, then served on a Zoom training panel for Marketing/PR and another for Chapter President/Leadership.

Fall 2026 Convention

Reviewed the schedule for the 2026 convention with Ben Dirks, penciling in some potential changes that will be finalized after further discussion with the board. Reviewed the changes we want to make regarding the district quartet contest and the current "Bagley rule" with Ben Dirks; this needs to be approved at the spring HOD meeting.

Website

Here are the key items done since the fall 2025 convention/HOD meeting:

- Promoted Harmony College Midwest on the website.
- Updated the Chapter Leaders/Officers, Chorus info, Quartet info, historical district leaders on the back end of the website; the importer tool is broken and as of 1/30/26 I am still working with the Magic Blue Box to get the information to appear on the website.
- Updated information on the members-only portion of the QCA section (Quartet Champions Association).
- 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

- Promoted the multi-chapter holiday concerts held in northern Illinois, internally to encourage members to participate and externally to encourage concert attendance.
- Promoted our two quartets who competed at the Midwinter Senior Quartet contest.
- Promoted Harmony College Midwest

— Glenn Mills, EVP + District Marketing



CPC Meeting 11 January, 2026 @ 8 PM

Attendees:

Mike Isely– Northbrook – President
Bill Rathmann – Sounds of Harmony, Belleville – President
Leif Wildman – Coles County – President
Rick Schultz – 2nd City Rockford
Melanie Concklin – Arlingtones

General Discussion:

- **Mike Isely** – Northbrook had 2 Christmas shows in December.
 - Educated us on what VLQ (Very Large Quartet) stands for
- **Rick Schultz** – 2nd City Rockford held a Christmas show (free will offering)
- **Bill Rathmann** – Sounds of Harmony held a Christmas show by selling sponsorships
- **Melanie Concklin** – Arlingtones held a successful Christmas concert.

This month we discussed

Mike Isely updated Google group President list.

Mixed Choruses: mindsets within established, (entrenched) members.

Education is the key to developing acceptance to a mixed chorus conversion.

Youth In Harmony opportunities. Starting local Barbershop programs or clubs. **Evan Patrick** is a great resource. The **inter-chapter event** maybe in February. VFW Hall in Naperville suggested as a possible venue.

District Convention venue rotation possibilities being looked into by John Q. Morris (Pres. Chicago Metro)

Leif Wildman has a group working on a Convention “checklist” to assist with Convention requirements needed to host the event.

IMEA Convention in Peoria 28 – 31 January, 2025. Possibility of setting up a booth to promote Barbershop programs. Postponed, looking to implement in 2027

Hosting Intra Chapter Shows

Upcoming Events:

- **HOD Meeting** – 20 March, 2026
- **Harmony College Midwest** – 21 March, 2026
 - Hotel Registration at the Doubletree Hilton is open now.
 - https://links.h6.hilton.com/f/a/iDdyLSD4IJOWdgzD9Z93Sg~/AAQRxRA~/v-rNKinOfyJD5E19qGXfFoianom_cMPY4MIcnySgDbCON7yzuPdovBQglqCbUSEqQ8ADF_P2-SiGT7adcan6EHpBgGTgIrXEJmN8GY5w8l-NqZH9bArflRX2sSBXugjXAc13uohT_vlFhqds9hyZ54nxPOsb8K9YG1IKNmxh_IHiMT36wsRMsa_Igs-uC8Yt
- **Arlingtones** – Spring Show in April or May, 2026
- **DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS THIS FALL**
 - (two-year term)
- **Crash a neighboring group rehearsal**
- **NEXT MEETING: 8 MARCH, 2026 @8 PM**



Illinois District Music & Performance Report Spring 2026

- Harmony College Midwest (HCM) 2026 is currently take place on Saturday, March 21st 2026 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Bloomington, IL
 - Featured Quartet is 2025 International Silver Medalists, Gimme Four
 - Head Clinician will be Will Downey
 - Melody Hine had to drop out due to an unforeseen BHS conflict.
 - Additional faculty includes Peter Cunningham, Scott Kitzmiller, Dan Krackhardt, Jake McKie, Mike Lietke, and Tim Beutel.
 - Cost-wise we will be more in-line with the 2024 HCM numbers, as there was a significant donation from an anonymous donor during 2025.

- Looking forward to HCM 2027
 - 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.
 - 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.

- 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
Co-VP Music & Performance, ILL District

**C& J Report – Spring HOD 2026**

Although it is uncommon for a sitting President to also serve as the Contest & Judging Vice President, I am confident that my recent involvement in Society initiatives, district operations, and the judging system equips me to successfully fulfill both roles for the remainder of the term.

Our current single-convention format combines the District Quartet Championship and International Qualification into one contest session. Under this structure, the Bagley Rule—originally intended for a two-convention system—no longer functions effectively.

Last year, the rule required all 13 district quartets to advance to the finals, resulting in **16 total finalists**. This created an overly long finals session and delayed judges' evaluations late into the evening.

To prevent similar issues, the board proposes **removing the Bagley Rule**.

Under the updated system:

Top 10 quartets advance to the finals

11th-place quartet serves as mic tester

Exception: Out-of-district quartets achieving the Society's minimum qualifying score must be included, even if this exceeds 10 finalists

This change modernizes our process, improves contest flow, and creates a more efficient and predictable experience for competitors, judges, and attendees.



Events Report

March 6, 2026

Jeff Bowyer VP-Events

Future dates and locations

2026 Harmony College Midwest March 20-21

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

Fall 2026 Illinois District Convention Sept. 25-26

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

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

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

Fall 2027 Illinois District Convention Sept. 24-25

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

Headquarters Hotel: Dates on hold at the DoubleTree Hotel.

Contest Location: BCPA Contract signed.

Activity	Day/Date	Start time	End time	Location
District Board Huddle	Friday, 9/25/2026	11:00: AM	11:45: AM	DoubleTree by Hilton Bloomington
District House of Delegates	Friday, 9/25/2026	12:00: PM	2:00: AM	DoubleTree by Hilton Bloomington
Weekend Registration PICK	Friday, 9/25/2026	2:30: PM	5:30: PM	DoubleTree by Hilton Bloomington
Quartet Semi-Finals	Friday, 9/25/2026	6:00: PM	8:00: PM	Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts
Quartet Evals	Friday, 9/25/2026	8:30: PM	10:30: PM	DoubleTree by Hilton Bloomington
President's Reception	Friday, 9/25/2026	9:00: PM	11:00: PM	DoubleTree by Hilton Bloomington
QCA Meeting	Saturday, 9/26/2026	7:30: AM	8:30: AM	DoubleTree by Hilton Bloomington
Weekend Registration PICK	Saturday, 9/26/2026	8:00: AM	9:30: AM	DoubleTree by Hilton Bloomington
Chorus Finals	Saturday, 9/26/2026	10:00: AM	12:00: PM	Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts
Lunch Break	Saturday, 9/26/2026	12:00: PM	1:30: PM	Bloomington
Chorus Evals	Saturday, 9/26/2026	1:30: PM	3:30: PM	DoubleTree by Hilton Bloomington
Convention Programs	Saturday, 9/26/2026	1:00: PM	3:00: PM	DoubleTree by Hilton Bloomington
Dinner Break	Saturday, 9/26/2026	3:00: PM	5:00: PM	Bloomington
Quartet Finals	Saturday, 9/26/2026	5:30: PM	8:00: PM	Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts
Announcements/Awards	Saturday, 9/26/2026	8:30: PM	9:00: PM	Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts
QCA Show	Saturday, 9/26/2026	9:30: PM	10:30: PM	DoubleTree by Hilton Bloomington
Quartet Evals	Saturday, 9/26/2026	9:30: PM	11:30: PM	DoubleTree by Hilton Bloomington
Hospitality Rooms	Saturday, 9/26/2026	10:30: PM		DoubleTree by Hilton Bloomington

Notes

Trivia or Barbershop Bingo



The market value of the IDEA fund at the close of business on 3/6/26 fund was \$215,446.41.

The fund report for 2015 follows:

ILLINOIS DISTRICT ENDOWMENT ASSURANCE FUND					
	12/31/24		12/31/25		12 Month
	Shs/Prc	Value	Shs/Prc	Value	Change
AmCnEqInc	7423.795	\$61,988.69	8199.620	\$69,368.79	\$ 7,380.10
	\$8.35		\$8.46		
2 Janus Henderson Funds					
FortyEquity	2071.748	105,265.52	2242.836	\$119,274.02	14,008.50
	\$50.81		\$53.18		
Flex Bond	3000.864	27,547.93	3146.838	29,643.21	2,095.28
			\$9.42		
Fifth Third Bank		2,126.78		2868.67	741.89
IDEA Direct		<u>190.00</u>		0	<u>- 190.00</u>
TOTAL		\$197,118.92		\$221,154.69	\$24,035.77

The Fund grew by \$24,036 in 2025. The Fund's market performance, not including cash in bank, was up 15%. The S&P 500, including reinvested dividends, was up 18%.

Am Century returned 12% (average annual return since inception in 2002 was 8%). Janus Forty returned 18% (avg. annual return since inception in 1992 was 15%). Janus bond fund returned 8% (avg annual return since inception 2009 was 3%). \$5000 was sold from Janus Forty for cash.

At 12/31/25 the equity ratio was 86%. Guideline is 40 to 80% equity.

During 2025, contributions received totaled \$3029 including \$940 from IDEA Direct. Disbursements totaled \$7882.11 - YIH \$6000, 2026 HCMW scholarships \$850 (2025 HCMW refunded \$595), Chicago Metro contest \$500, Lake County show fundraiser \$500, & bank fees \$32.11.

Since inception in 1990, contributions to Fund have totaled \$59,332. Disbursements since inception have totaled \$53,816.54 - \$19,636 for IDAH, Jamboree, HCMW, Top Gun & quartets, \$21,146 for YIH, \$2643 for COTS, \$2500 for district website, \$4250 for chapters, and \$3656 for IDEA printing, bank fees & other admin. costs.

Receipts less disbursements over the 34 years have netted \$5,515 that has grown through investments to \$221,154.69.



SPRING 2026 YIH HOD REPORT

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

Coles County YIH Festival: Coles County

Fox Lake YIH Festival: New Tradition

Springfield YIH Festival: Land of Lincoln

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.

Starting this year, a new way of requesting funds from the district goes into effect. All current YIH festival coordinators have received information related to this matter. Along with the new request form each coordinator has also received a list of active district champ quartets currently available for hire. This list will be updated annually via partnership with the ILL District QCA.

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 speaking with a few chorus directors in the district about interest in setting up a coaching program with a focus on chorus directors. The idea would be to focus on improving the chorus by focusing on the director's knowledge and skills in the areas of gesture, rehearsal technique, approach to music, etc. This could lead to higher-level directing and, in turn, improved chorus performance.

Both of these projects are ongoing.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin O'Keefe

VP Chorus Director Development, IL District



Leadership and Chapter Support Report Jan 2026

The general purpose of the leadership summit is to offer new officers a forum to learn their area of responsibility as it pertains to new job title on the chapter board. Thank you to those who participated and provided their expertise.

We had attendees from the following chapters: Coles County, The Arlington's, Sterling Rock Falls, Westtown's, Chicago Metro, Northbrook, Chorus of DuPage, and the Brotherhood of Harmony. Those attending had the rare opportunity to ask any question of the Illinois district officers.

January 10 Workshops

President's Workshop

Ben Dirks Illinois District President and Glenn Mills District Exec VP

Secretary's Workshop

Mike Isely Illinois District Secretary

Treasurer's Workshop

Leif Wildman Illinois District Treasurer

Jan 11 Workshops

Marketing and Membership Workshop

William (Bill) Murschel VP Marketing COD and Glenn Mills District VP of Marketing

Music and Performance Workshop Mark Servos

District VP of Music and Performance

If you would like to review the material and videos of the workshop, please use the G drive link to view. If you want to download the material please send me an email and I will give you editor rights,

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1oCbI0W3cnf14sTqyR0szxLLq_SckLqKa?usp=drive_link

Northbrook Board Member

I have joined the Northbrook chapter. My position as VP of Marketing and Publicity is part of a desire for new ideas to help New Tradition grow. The chapter is working with an outside consultant, and their recommendations could resonate with all chapters



DISTRICT HISTORIAN REPORT – SPRING 2026

Since the last report, donations of materials have been made to the archives. They include the following:

Misc. Photos of Sterling-Rock Falls Chorus & Lyle Dirks Quartets by Ben Dirks

WestTowns history book by Tom Toftey

1940s Chicago #1 Membership Directory by Mike Schnitzler

Ben Williams (Four Renegades) Brown Derby hat & 1965 ASCAP trophy by Williams Family

Federal Reserve Notes 50th Anniversary Booklet by Mike Mueller

Misc. IDAH & District historical materials by Syl Wetle

Misc. District & Society historical materials by Gerry Conner

I have organized the Bloomington Chapter materials that were given to me by Jim Stahly over the summer. I plan on obtaining both the Decatur and Coles County Chapters' historical materials in the near future.

Because of the untimely death of photographer Bob Summit, I received only digital images of the Fall 2025 contestants from Jill Wakefield. I purchased hard copies of each from Walgreens so that the archives had a record and turned in receipts to Leif Wildman for reimbursement.

I have been looking into the possibility of restoring "Big Bertha" – the original QCA trophy that was in use from 1960-2009 in order to add to the annual QCA display at the convention. The top cup needs recoloring and the two side pieces are broken and need replaced. Fortunately, I have replacement parts for those.

I posted the fall and winter issues of "From the Vault" in November and February, respectively.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Hansen

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



Proposal to Remove the Bagley Rule for Quartet Finals Qualification

In previous years, our district held two separate conventions: one for the District Quartet Championship and one for International Quartet Qualification. Under that structure, the Bagley Rule—which allowed all district quartets to advance to the finals if 13 or fewer were registered—functioned as intended.

However, we now operate with a *single* convention where both contests take place in the same session. This change creates complications the original rule never accounted for.

Last year, we had:

- 13 non-champion quartets (District Championship)
- 2 past champion quartets (International Qualifier)
- 1 out-of-district quartet (International Qualifier)

Although the combined field totaled 16, the Bagley Rule required all 13 district quartets to advance, resulting in **16 finalists**. This significantly extended the Saturday finals and delayed the judges' evaluation sessions well into the evening.

To prevent repeat situations and ensure a fair, efficient, and manageable contest, the board is proposing to remove the Bagley Rule. Under the proposed system, **the top 10 non-champion quartets** will advance to the finals, with the **11th-place quartet serving as the mic testers**.

The only exception: If any past champion and/or out-of-district quartets score within three points of the society's target score in the semi-finals they must be included in the finals, even if this creates more than 10 finalists. (In 2026 the target score for quartets is 81, so any quartet scoring 78 or above in the semi-finals would be in the finals).

This change aligns our process with the modern contest structure and provides a smoother, more predictable experience for competitors, judges, and attendees.



Fall 2025 House of Delegates Meeting

26-Sep-2025 1:00PM

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

Sep 26th 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: Brookridge, Doubletree Hotel, Bloomington IL

Time: 1:00 PM

Called to order: 1:05 PM

Call to Order

1. Roll Call / House of Delegates quorum – yes or no – Mike Isely
 - 26 members present, out of a potential total of 8+11+24=43.
 - Quorum minimum requirement of 30% (= 13). With 26 present we have 60%, 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: William Rathmann, Jim Waldorf**
 - ♦ **PASSED**
5. Minutes of previous HOD Meeting (Mar 21st, 2025) – Mike Isely
 - **Motion:**
 - ♦ **Subject: Approve Spring 2025 HOD Minutes**
 - ♦ **Offered by: Pat Claussen, Jeff Bowyer**
 - ♦ **PASSED**



Fall 2025 House of Delegates Meeting

26-Sep-2025 1:00PM

6. Approve Consent Calendar – Mike Isely
 - Note: No CSLT report, but CSLT VP expresses that there isn't anything substantial there to report.
 - **Motion: Approve Consent Calendar**
 - ◆ **Offered by: Jim Waldorf, John Q. Morris**
 - ◆ **PASSED**
 - IDEA and C&J reports pulled for further discussion
 - Accept the following reports
 - ◆ President's Report [Attachment: "02a-rpt-president.pdf"]
 - ◆ Membership Report [Attachment: "03a-rpt-membership.pdf"]
 - ◆ Music & Performance Report [Attachment: "04a-rpt-mp.pdf"]
 - ◆ Marketing Report [Attachment: "05a-rpt-marketing.pdf"]
 - ◆ Events Report [Attachment: "07a-rpt-events.pdf"]
 - ◆ Youth In Harmony Report [Attachment: "09a-rpt-yih.pdf"]
 - ◆ Chorus Director Development Report [Attachment: "10a-rpt-cdd.pdf"]
 - ◆ Historian's Report [Attachment: "12a-rpt-historian.pdf"]
 - ◆ Awards Report [Attachment: "13a-rpt-awards.pdf"]

TREASURER'S REPORT

7. Treasurer's Report – Leif Wildman
 - \$84K in the bank at the end of August
 - +\$8400 P&L for this year
 - -\$84 P&L for HCMW this year (there was an individual donor that donated \$5K)
 - [Attachment: "01a-rpt-treasurer.pdf"]
 - **Motion:**
 - ◆ **Subject: Receive the Treasurer's Report**
 - ◆ **Offered by: Will Rathmann, Tim Ferguson**
 - ◆ **PASSED**

MEMORIAL

(Presented by Rich Hansen; see appendix)

OLD BUSINESS

8. Four year plan – Ben Dirks



Fall 2025 House of Delegates Meeting

26-Sep-2025 1:00PM

- Looking to get more district members in the judging community
- No other updates for the four year plan
- 9. Harmony College Midwest – Mark Servos / Nathan Gross (Ben Dirks presented)
 - [Attachment: “14a-hcmw_flyer.pdf”]
 - It is in the program, clinician and quartet set up.
 - Date: 3/21/2026 – 3/22/2026
- 10. Fall Convention Update – Jeff Bowyer
 - Date: 9/25/2026 – 9/26/2026
 - BCPA for sessions
 - Doubletree for the hotel
 - Future location questions
 - ◆ Question – how about a convention in Springfield? Answer – last time this was researched, five bids were submitted with costs significantly larger than Bloomington
 - ◆ Cost should not be the only consideration. Moving around may get more people to show up.
 - ◆ Can we get sponsorships now to enable more flexibility in venue choices?
 - ◆ Survey was done this summer about potential changes. We got pretty decent feedback, and definitely want to make improvements.
- 11. C&J Report – Terry Ludwig
 - Chorus plateaus are adjusted effective with this weekend. One less plateau and scoring boundaries are updated. C&J report has the details.
 - If your chorus wins the plateau, we would like your chorus to sing at the reception Saturday night.
 - Bagley rule: Would like to drop this due to quartets also competing for qualification at the same time.
 - Contest & Judging Report [Attachment: “06a-rpt-cj.pdf”]
 - **Motion:**
 - ◆ **In the case of the district contest there are 13 or fewer quartets entered, then only 8 would carry forward**
 - ◆ **Offered by Glenn Mills, Rich Hansen**
 - ◆ **After substantial additional discussion, and a lot confusion, agreement for formal writeup of the proposal at the Spring HOD.**
 - ◆ **Withdrawn**
- 12. Chapter President’s Council – Bill Rathmann
 - Credit and thanks for those attending our CPC meetings



Fall 2025 House of Delegates Meeting

26-Sep-2025 1:00PM

- I encourage everybody to get involved in this committee, as we will have a stronger voice together.
- Room 101 tomorrow (Saturday) will be an in-person CPC meeting
- 13. District-wide survey – Ben Dirks
 - 114 responses out of 500+ members
 - Not sad about the response, but not thrilled
 - “If we don’t know we can’t grow”
 - A lot of great idea came back from the survey results
- 14. Chapter Liaisons – Ben Dirks
 - Some chapters have been visited, still more to go
- 15. Website update – Glenn Mills
 - Nothing huge. Well a lot of it broke over the summer, but we’ve been keeping up.
 - A lot of the site now is data driven from spreadsheet data that we can provide.
 - The site will be updated as contest scores are determined, theoretically in real time but certainly by Monday.
- 16. IDEA – Jim Waldorf
 - Thank you to Glenn Mills for helping with the IDEA portion of the web site.
 - Nomination needed for new trustee, replacing Bob Cearnal (who is resigning and retiring to Florida)
 - ◆ Bob has been an IDEA trustee for 35 years!
 - Recommend to appoint Rich Hansen to fill 5 year term
 - ◆ **Motion:**
 - **Subject: Appoint Rich Hansen as IDEA trustee**
 - **Offered by: Tim Ferguson, John Q Morris**
 - **PASSED**
 - IDEA Report [Attachment: “08a-rpt-idea.pdf”]
- 17. Awards – Doug Ferrier
 - Reinstatement of chorus award pins
 - ◆ This has been done and they will be awarded at this contest

NEW BUSINESS

- 18. Approval of the 2026 District Budget – Leif Wildman
 - [Attachment: “15a-budget2026.pdf”]
 - Budget is a deficit setup, but the projected loss is about \$4K and that is a worst case

the Illinois District
association of Chapters / Barbershop Harmony Society



a state of close harmony

Fall 2025 House of Delegates Meeting

26-Sep-2025 1:00PM

→ **Motion:**

- ◆ **Subject: Approve 2026 budget**
- ◆ **Offered by: Jim Waldorf, Tony Emerson**
- ◆ **PASSED**

19. Presentation by BHS CEO Robert Rund

→ Just finished “week 5” of his term; this is the first district visited and plans to be on the road for the next 6-7 weeks visiting districts.

20. Spring 2026 HOD Date – Mike Isely

→ Mar 20th, 2026, 7PM, at the DoubleTree (at the beginning of HCMW)

Adjourned: 2:31 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Isely – Secretary



Fall 2025 House of Delegates Meeting

26-Sep-2025 1:00PM

Appendix: Attendance

(taken computationally from delegate sign-in spreadsheet)

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

(total = 14 / 24)

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

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



Fall 2025 House of Delegates Meeting

26-Sep-2025 1:00PM

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)
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
P	Mike Bagby
N/A	(Jeff Bowyer)
P	Bob Cearnal
	Dave Cowin
P	Rich Hansen
	Jeff Lathom
N/A	(Terry Ludwig)
	Earl Meseth
	Brett Mulford
	Bob Squires
	Will Thorndike
P	Jim Waldorf
	Syl Wetle

4 out of 11

8+4+14 = 26 present

8+11+24 = 43 total possible



Appendix: Chapter Eternal

[Conducted by Rich Hansen]

Memorial Service for Deceased Members

Heavenly Father, we come together in your presence today to honor and recognize our brother barbershoppers who have passed on during this last year. Those men include:

<u>Chapter Eternal 2025</u>	
<u>Name</u>	<u>Chapter</u>
Gary Mikel	Coles County
Harold Heeren	Rockford Metro
Robert Rich	Springfield
Walter Bainbridge	Rockford
Earl Fuhrmann	DuPage Valley & Chicagoland West Suburban
Herbert Edwards	Macomb
Jake Gilmore	Peoria
Marvin Jedicker	Elgin
John Cain	Northbrook
Walt Moyer	Arlington Heights

If there are any other members who have deceased in the past year that have not been mentioned, please state their name and the chapter they represent.

I ask that we observe a moment of silence in remembrance of these men.

Father, we thank you for your gift of music and song so our hearts can be lifted up to you. We thank you for these ties that bind us together with the old songs and fellowship. We give thanks to You for these departed men who have enriched our lives and who have left us all with a song in our hearts.

In your holy name, we pray – Amen.