

ILL District BOD

**the Illinois District**  
association of Chapters / Barbershop Harmony Society

*a state of close harmony*

Minutes

## Illinois District Association of Chapters Board Meeting

August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Location:** Via Zoom**Date/Time:** Sunday, Aug 10, 2025, 7:05pm**Roll Call**

| Name           | Governance Role    | Operations / Other Role   | Present | Quorum Count |
|----------------|--------------------|---------------------------|---------|--------------|
| Benjamin Dirks | President          |                           | P       | +            |
| Glenn Mills    | Exec VP            | Marketing & PR, webmaster | P       | +            |
| Mike Isely     | Secretary          |                           | P       | +            |
| Leif Wildman   | Treasurer          |                           | P       | +            |
| Doug Finkbiner | BMAL               | Membership                | P       | +            |
| Jeff Bowyer    | BMAL               | Events                    | P       | +            |
| Terry Ludwig   | BMAL               | C & J                     | P       | +            |
| John Q. Morris | BMAL               | CSLT                      | P       | +            |
| (Terry Ludwig) | Imm Past President | YIH                       | -       | -            |
| Mark Servos    |                    | Music & Perf              | P       |              |
| Nathan Gross   |                    |                           | P       |              |
| Rich Hansen    |                    | Historian                 |         |              |
| Evan Patrick   |                    | YIH                       |         |              |
| Doug Ferrier   |                    | Awards                    |         |              |
| Kevin O'Keefe  |                    | CDD                       | P       |              |

Totals: 11 of 15    8 of 8

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**Called to order:** 7:05 PM

### **ADMINISTRATION**

- Minutes
  - Minutes posted from 2-Mar-2025
    - ♦ **Motion**
      - **Subject: Approve Minutes from 2-Mar-2025**
      - **Motion: Jeff Bowyer, Glenn Mills**
      - **Result: Approved, Unanimous**
- Due to lack of submitted reports...
  - Budget discussion to take place on 8/17/2025 at 7pm

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Fall Convention Update – Jeff Bowyer
  - Pre-convention meeting took place earlier in the day
  - All contests will be at the BCPA
  - Plateau awards...
    - ♦ Consideration about tweaking / adding more meaning to the plateau awards
    - ♦ Seems that not a lot of the district really understands this
    - ♦ The plateau splits are pretty lopsided these days
    - ♦ Suggestion to move from 5 to 4 plateaus:
      - 4A – Average score of 74 or above in prior 2 years
      - 3A – 65 - 73
      - 2A – 55 - 64
      - 1A – 54 and under
    - If a chorus wins a plateau moves up to the next plateau
    - Do we do this starting this Fall?
      - It's an incremental change so perhaps
    - **Motion:**
      - **Subject: Adopt proposed plateau recalibration**
      - **Motion: Jeff Bowyer, John Q. Morris**
      - **Result: Approved, Unanimous**
- Talk moved to how do we raise the skill level rather just recalibrating the awards structure?
  - ♦ This is a much bigger topic than just a question of setting up / adjusting awards. Needs much more in-depth effort.
  - ♦ As the district leadership, we should do whatever we can to lead the way towards raising the bar.
  - ♦ Consider also that in 2028 the convention will be HERE.
  - ♦ Action item: Learn what other districts are doing to lower their average age, to improve their skill level, to generate high level performances



- HCMW update
  - A lot of positive feedback from HCMW 2025
  - There was a generous donation from an anonymous benefactor, so the budget worked out really well. But we should use the 2024 budget for planning for 2026.
  - Mar 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026 at the Doubletree for the next HCMW
  - Looking at ways to get 1-on-1 individual coaching, perhaps creating an additional track in HCMW (with an additional cost).
  - Requests for more “Joe Barbershopper” classes, more practical not as “high concept”.
- Chapter President’s Council
  - Summary from the past few months (interchapter event in April, Denver recap, meeting at Fall district in person, crashing another chapter’s rehearsal).
- Website update
  - Website material is keeping up!
  - Marketing on Facebook: Good progress here, activities appearing on Facebook and chapters are submitting material
- Phishing
  - A lot of phishing with district officers
  - Please be smart about this... Note email address, red flag if asking for payments, invoking another board member’s name, etc.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- District-wide survey – Ben Dirks
  - 114 responses
  - Notably, 50% of responses were specifically against an earlier chorus contest start time
  - No age or other demographic information gathered
- Chapter Liaison Assignments – Ben Dirks
  - These chapter visits need to be done before the convention
- District President’s Council – Ben Dirks / Glenn Mills
  - There has been, in the past, a lot of tension between the districts and the Nashville. But it’s getting better.
  - Please send a text message or email to Ben and/or Glenn for anything that should be brought to the DPC.
  - Society is now financially healthy. Covid almost killed us, but we got through it. Notably we’re healthy without even selling the HQ building in Nashville – that sale will still happen but the proceeds from that will just be gravy.
- Next Board Meeting date – Mike Isely
  - Aug 17<sup>th</sup> 2025 7pm via Zoom

**Adjourned:** 8:50pm

Respectfully submitted by Mike Isely