

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 10th, 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 21st, 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 17th 2025 7pm via Zoom

Adjourned: 8:50pm

Respectfully submitted by Mike Isely