

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

February 7th, 2026

Location: Via Zoom

Date/Time: Sunday, Feb 7, 2026, 8:30pm

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		+
Jeff Bowyer	BMAL	Events		+
Terry Ludwig	BMAL	C & J	P	+
John Q. Morris	BMAL	CSLT	P	+
(Terry Ludwig)	Imm Past President	YIH		
Mark Servos		Music & Perf		
Nathan Gross			P	
Rich Hansen		Historian		
Evan Patrick		YIH		
Doug Ferrier		Awards		
Kevin O'Keefe		CDD		

Totals: 9 of 15 7 of 8

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Minutes

Called to order: 8:05 PM

OLD BUSINESS

- Approve Minutes
 - 10-Aug-2025 Meeting
 - ◆ **MOTION**
 - **Approve 10-Aug-2025 Minutes**
 - **Made by: Mike Isely**
 - **Seconded by: Leif Wildman**
 - **Result: PASSED**
 - 17-Aug-2025 Meeting
 - ◆ **MOTION**
 - **Approve 17-Aug-2025 Minutes**
 - **Made by: Mike Isely**
 - **Seconded by: Leif Wildman**
 - **Result: PASSED**
 - 16-Nov-2025 Meeting
 - ◆ **MOTION**
 - **Approve 16-Nov-2025 Minutes**
 - **Made by: Mike Isely**
 - **Seconded by: Terry Ludwig**
 - **Result: PASSED**
- Treasurer's Report
 - ◆ \$3186 positive net for the year
 - ◆ Big HCMW donation put us in the black
 - ◆ **MOTION**
 - **Receive Treasurer's Report**
 - **Made by: John Q Morris**
 - **Seconded by: Glenn Mills**
 - **Result: PASSED**
- Convention Update
 - Schedule update under discussion among Ben & Glenn, review by Terry for C&J compatibility, then review by Jeff Bowyer
 - Idea to start a short board meeting before the HOD takes place (Spring and Fall)
 - Chorus contest to start between 9:30am and 10:00am on Saturday
 - Need to have this nailed down before the Spring HOD so that everyone gets sufficient advance notice
 - Call-off potentially moved back to the BCPA
- HCMW update
 - 11 quartets signed up, 10 individuals signed up so far
 - registrations happening
 - Class info to be posted, hopefully by tomorrow (8-Feb)
- Chapter President's Council
 - A lot of information interchange took place
 - Discussion of mixed choruses – when / how to make it happening

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Minutes

- The Big Leap
 - Presentation at Midwinter about chorus identification, how a chorus can transform its operations to become more known in the community.
 - Upcoming event April 10-12 about this; chapter leadership members are encouraged to attend.
- Website update
 - Data uploader broke; being worked on
- Bagley Rule
 - Action item for Terry from last November's meeting: *Terry to write up a full description of the rule, the issue and its effects, and the proposed solution. Include the repercussions if this solution is not implemented.*
- District-wide survey
 - Skills survey sent out a few weeks ago, 46 responses so far. Those on the district board who haven't responded really should respond right away
 - We need to have a bench of knowing of potential leaders, subject matter experts within our district
 - These should be mentioned in the CPC discussions
- Chapter Liaison Assignments
 - Needs to be moving forward again
 - LOL has a checklist that liasons can use to help evaluate chapter health / help
- District President's Council
 - Last meeting – some leadership training took place whose value overall seems less than great?

NEW BUSINESS

- Next Board Meeting date
 - 1-Aug-2026 8pm via Zoom

Adjourned: 9:19pm

Respectfully submitted by Mike Isely

Balance Sheet

IL District Association of Chapters, SPEBSQSA

As of December 31, 2024

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Assets	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
1010 Checking Account	26,381.90
1015 US Bank Money Market	52,819.90
1020 Wells Fargo	0.00
Total for Bank Accounts	\$79,201.80
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	\$78,269.80
Total for Assets	\$78,269.80
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 December 31, 2024

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	4,688.24
Net Income	3,186.56
Total for Equity	\$78,269.80
Total for Liabilities and Equity	\$78,269.80

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 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



Illinois District Membership Report

January 30, 2026

The current membership in the Illinois District stands at 501, which reflects a decrease of 21 since the September report. Since last March, membership is down 51.

Illinois District Census, January 2026

Chapter	Number of Active Members	Status
Champaign Urbana	0	Charter Closed
Chicago Metro	18	Active
Chicago No. 1	0	Charter Closed
Chicago Western Suburban	45	Active
Coles County	33	Active
Collinsville	0	Charter Closed
Frank Thorn	14	Active
Danville	26	Active
Decatur	1	Active
Peoria	5	Active
Northbrook	50	Active
DuPage Valley	43	Active
Quincy	0	Charter Closed
Elgin	18	Active
Rock Island	1	Active
Rockford Metro	19	Active
Rockford	17	Active
Arlington Heights	23	Active
Aurora	14	Active
Sandoval	0	Charter Closed
Belleville	27	Active
Bloomington	88	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



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~/y-rNKinOfyJD5El9qGXfFoianom_cMPY4MIcnySgDbCON7yzuPdovBQglqCbUSEqQ8ADF_P2-SiGT7adcan6EHpBgGTgIrXEJmN8GY5w8l-NqZH9bArflRX2sSBXugjXAc13uohT_vlFhqds9hyZ54nxPOSb8K9YG1lKNmxb_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**



1/30/2026

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

Greetings,

We had a very successful Fall Contest with 10 choruses and 17 quartets. Solid numbers and we hope to build on those this year. Of course, it wasn't without a few hiccups along the way, but we dealt with them and moved forward.

Preparations are underway for Fall 2026. Registration for choruses and quartets will open sometime in August. We will send out a District wide email and post on social media when we get closer to the date.

One change for the Fall is the qualifying score for choruses. It is moving to 81 this year with a minimum score of 74. So, if we have no choruses that score above an 81 then the highest scoring chorus will represent our district at International as long as they score above a 74.

One final thing... I am in need of someone to be the Judges Hospitality Chairperson. This would entail coordinating meals and being the host in the Judges Hospitality Room, This could actually be done by a few people if there are some of you who would like to step up and help out! If you are interested please contact me at terry_ludwig67@yahoo.com

Respectfully submitted

Terry Ludwig

VP Contest and Judging



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.



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](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)