

Far Western District Board Meeting Minutes

Friday March 27, 2020
7:00 PM
Electronic ZOOM Meeting

Call to Order: President Bill Rosica called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

The Roll was called by Secretary Jim Maass. Board members present: Bill Rosica, Nick Papageorge, Rich Owen, Jim Maass, Brent Anderson, Kyle Williamson, Dick Whitten, Chuck Roots, Adam Kaufman, Brett Littlefield, Rob Menaker, and Craig Hughes.

Others present: Scott Suwabe, David Melville, Kenny Rois, Jeremy Loper, Bernard Priceman, Gordon “Mongo” Bergthold, and Roe Darnell.

Opening Remarks: President Bill gave some brief opening remarks mentioning that things didn’t work out quite as planned with the convention being cancelled, but with this new technology for holding a meeting, he indicated it was a nice time to try it out. Bill would like to see board members and management team members submit articles and reports to Westunes and to the district secretary when requested. He said there are lots of good things happening out there which we all need to share.

Approval of the Agenda: Jim Maass requested that the electronic minutes for March 12 and March 13, 2020 be added to the agenda for approval. Also, discussion of the division contests to be added to the agenda. It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda. Motion adopted.

Approval of the minutes.

Minutes of October 10, 2019. MSA to approve the minutes

Electronic meeting minutes, March 12 and March 13, 2020. MSA to approve these minutes.

Introduction of guests: President Bill recognized Bernard Priceman FWD past president and Society Board Member and Gordon “Mongo” Bergthold, past FWD president.

Vice President Reports: The prepared reports can be found in the HOD Brochure. No additional information was presented at the meeting from the division VPs.

****Contest and Judging VP:** Brett Littlefield reported that all spring contests have been cancelled. He indicated that there was no need for any spring qualifying contests. All quartets and choruses who entered the spring contests would be invited to the Fall District Convention and contest in October. In essence it would be an “open contest” because of these unique circumstances this spring. There was general discussion by the board. The deadline for signing up for the FWD fall contest will be September 1, 2020. Brett’s assessment is that if there is no cruise because of the virus, there will most likely be no fall contest.

It was moved and seconded, since all spring contests have been cancelled, any quartet or chorus which wants to compete in the FWD fall contest, can sign up and receive one point which will qualify them to compete. It will be an “open contest.” The deadline for sign up will be September 1, 2020. Brett will notify all potential competitors. It was moved and seconded. The motion passed without objection.

****Treasurer, Rich Owen:** Rich did not have any additional information to add to his written report. However, there was some discussion regarding refunding registrations. Brent Anderson suggested we follow the Society refunding policy of the cancelled LA International...refund, roll it over to next contest, or donate to FWD. David Melville indicated rolling it over would be too complex and suggested either refund or donate as the two options. There was some discussion regarding this approach. President Bill directed Brent Anderson to help draft a letter to all the FWD members regarding either the refund or donate options.

District Management Team Reports—Nick Papageorge

****Youth in Harmony—Kenny Rios.** Kenny said he’s glad to be a part of the team and is excited to get going. He’s been waiting to see how the spring competition scheduled panned out and now will be getting together with Brett Littlefield to see how to approach the high school quartets regarding district contests. There are five divisions with three contest weekends. In the past there was a “pass the hat” to help support high school contests, but Kenny suggested that there will be a need for more specific funding to make the expanded contest schedule work. He indicated the need for something for the kids...pizza party, ice cream social, etc. He will be visiting chapters to help get the kids involved. He is looking for support from the board in developing a budget to assist in the program. Rich Owen suggested he bring back a budget proposal to the June board meeting.

****Events—Bryan Forbes.** No Report as Bryan was absent from the meeting.

****Marketing and Public Relations—David Melville.** He reminded the board of the publication dates for Westunes. He mentioned that John Krizek was to be the Spring 2020 Convention Honoree and suggested this honor be carried over to Spring 2021. There was some discussion regarding badges for the cruise as well as the program for the Fall contest. No action was taken on either suggestion.

**** Directors’ Guild—Scott Suwabe.** There are no gatherings as a result of the Coronavirus but his will be getting ideas put together for the Guild. He reported that he assisted an AZ chapter in locating a new director from a local college. He will be developing a program to assist chapter in finding new directors when needed. Nick Papageorge mentioned a source is high school choral directors. Also, President Bill mentioned that the Society is a source of help as The Directors’ Guild is one of the FWD three items in the MOU.

****Awards—Chuck Hunter.** No report as Chuck was not present. Brett Littlefield did report that plaques were made for this spring contest for high school participants which were not used.

****Membership—Jeremy Loper.** He shared membership numbers for the FWD from 2015 to the present showing a continued decrease in membership. He will be reaching out to the chapters to give support in increasing membership. There was discussion of using ZOOM in the chapters. President Bill encouraged the Divisional VPs to have quarterly ZOOM meeting with their chapters. There was general discussion of the membership statistics. No Action to report.

****Financial Development—Roe Darnell.** Roe reported he has not checked the financial statements what with the downturn in the stock market but “it will come back” he said. He also mentioned the need to continue to focus on the Harmony Foundation donor choice program and to encourage members to designate the FWD as part of their giving.

Finance Update—Rich Owen. We have money in the bank, he reported. \$19649 in the black. There was \$13k in registrations and should be no problem with refunding. He brought up the Midwinter quartets who qualified and performed and past practice was to support them from the quartet fund. There was some discussion on this topic. Rich will research past amounts to determine what support would be given to the quartets who participated at Midwinter. He will put this topic on the agenda for the June board meeting for review and possible SOP revisions. He also suggested an electronic vote regarding the amount to give the Midwinter quartets when he gets the numbers put together.

Society Board Update—Bernard Priceman, Society Board Member at Large. He mentioned that the Society Board has been working on many things since his last report in October. The Board is the oversight and governance and the BHS Staff runs the daily operations of the Society. He brought up the Cleveland International Convention, 2021, which will have male, female and mixed competitors. He also mentioned that on January 1st Blair Brown was the first female Society Board Member to take that position. New district and chapter by laws have been adopted by the Society. He indicated that the terrible tornado which struck Nashville did not affect the BHS headquarters, but its aftermath did disrupt daily operations for a few weeks as staff had a hard time getting to the office because of the damage to the city. The Society Board supported cancelling all spring contests as well as the International convention in Los Angeles. There is talk of maybe going back to LA in a few years. The hotels will be cancelling all reservations and it looks like there is going to be no cost to BHS. The Cleveland International will be at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame with a swivel stage...180 degrees...facing a 3000-seat auditorium, swing it around to a seating capacity of 15,000. All planning and budgets are up in the air as a result of COVID 19. Regarding the MOU, the Society is ready to assist.

Old Business—none.

New Business

****By Laws.** President Bill directed that the FWD website be updated with the new bylaws. It has been done.

**** MOU—Bill Rosica.** The three items from last year, The Cruise, Directors’ Guild, Youth in Harmony were all approved. The FWD is looking for 2020-21 replacing the Cruise with another topic and keeping the other two in place. The MOU is like a business plan so money can come

from BHS based on the MOU topics. Bill asked for notes from Board Members for ideas. BHS wants the updated MOU request submitted by April 1st.

**** Harmony College West.** Russ Young, Nick Papageorge and Scott Suwabe heading up this project. Rob Menaker to be added to the group.

June Board Meeting. Discussion regarding holding the June Board meeting via ZOOM.

There was also some discussion regarding the HOD and whether there would be a quorum. We shall see. (note: there was a quorum)

Meeting was adjourned at 9:47 PM

Respectfully submitted

**Jim Maass
FWD Secretary**