

**FAR WESTERN DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
OCTOBER 9, 2020
7 PM
VIA ZOOM**

AGENDA

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by President Bill Rosica.

The Old Songs: A recording was played to start off the meeting. Everyone was encouraged to “mute” and sing along.

Invocation: Chuck Roots was not in attendance but joined the meeting later so this item was skipped.

Roll Call: Secretary Jim Maass called the Roll. Attendance as follows:

Board Members Present:

Bill Rosica, President
Nick Papageorge, EVP
Jim Maass, Secretary
Rich Owen, Treasurer
Brent Anderson, VP Div 1 SW
Kyle Williamson, VP Div 2 SE
Dick Whitten, VP Div 3 NW
Chuck Roots, VP Div 4 NE
Adam Kaufman, VP Div 5 AZ
Brett Littlefield, VP Contest and Judging
Rob Menaker, VP Music and Performance
Craig Hughes, Immediate Past President

Secretary Jim Maass reported a quorum was present.

Management Team members present:

Jeremy Loper, Membership
Scott Suwabe, Chorus Director Development
Bryan Forbes, Events
David Melville, Marketing and PR
Kenny Rios, Youth in Harmony
Charles Carothers, Community Outreach

Past Presidents present:

Bernard Priceman
Gordon “Mongo” Bergthold
Russ Young

Other Guests present:

Donna Hisey, Expedia Cruise consultant

Opening Remarks: Bill Rosica gave a brief summary of things which have been happening since the Board’s last meeting. He reported on some BHS / HFI issues. He also gave some thought of what will be happening “after COVID.” Some chapter have not met at all and the DVPs need to be active with all their chapters helping them as we restart meetings in the future—whenever that is. He reported that the chapters do appreciate hearing from the district officers and DVPs need to continue using ZOOM to conduct inter chapter meetings. The October 2021 Cruise is on track and will be outlined in more detail later in this meeting.

Approval of the Agenda: There were a few minor additions to the agenda. It was moved, seconded, and approved as amended.

Approval of Previous Board Meeting minutes:

June 20, 2020 Regular Meeting
July 22, 2020 Special Board Meeting
July 31, 2020 Special Board Meeting

It was moved and seconded to approve all three meeting minutes as presented. Motion approved.

Vice Presidents Reports

Division 1, SW. Brent Anderson. Brent thanks everyone for his time on the board as this is his last year. There was nothing additional to add to his written report which is in the HOD Brochure.

Division 2, SE. Kyle Williamson. He is working on setting up ZOOM meetings with his chapters. President Bill suggested he and Brent set up a joint division ZOOM meeting before the end of the year.

Division 3, NW. Dick Whitten. There is not a lot going on to report other than a few chapter ZOOM meetings. He reported the Peninsula chapter is involved with other musical groups in the area.

Division 4, NE. Chuck Roots. Three choruses are not meeting. Some are still getting together with social distancing. He has had successful ZOOM meetings with other chapters.

Division 5, AZ. Adam Kaufman. He reports having several successes and positive chapter ZOOM meetings. There are a few chapters physically getting together with social distancing. He also mentioned that he put together a quartet to perform for Joe Salz who is recovering from a stroke. They were outside the window of his hospital room and sang to him over the phone. He is in good spirits.

Contest and Judging VP. Brett Littlefield. He reported that he had gotten a note from the BHS C & J Chairman that they are looking at ways for chapters to get evaluations from judges and to help the judges hone their judging skills by evaluating video performances. They are looking at ways to make this work. He will keep the DVPs informed. Also reported that BHS will make the decision whether or not to cancel the Cleveland International by first part of December due the fact that the cancellation deadline in the hotel contract for all the block hotel rooms needs to take place before 180 days from the convention dates.

Music and Performance VP. Rob Menaker. AIC with assistance from HFI (funding) will be doing an outreach to schools in the So. California area working with the Southern California Vocal Association. It was going to be in spring 2021 but is being postponed to 2022. Details below shared by Rob Menaker.

From: **George Davidson** <sagez@aol.com>
Date: Mon, Sep 21, 2020 at 11:31 AM
Subject: AIC - Close Harmony Festival - SCVA / AIC

Hi All...

Here's the plan developed by the group during the zoom call Sat Sep 19 .

* SCVA Festival is postponed until Feb, 2022...

* Committee will reconvene in Jan, 2021. Tim to send out invitation for meeting after first of the year.

* Promo video will be prepared for viewing during the time the 2021 Festival was scheduled to occur. The video will promote the option of having AIC quartets come to their high school in Sep/Oct 2021. Tim will get with production team to help Antone assemble the video. Will include in 2021 HFI budget for fundraising to help cover costs of the video production.

* April, 2021 will open slots to high school music educators for appointments from AIC quartets in Sep/Oct 2021. This will give music educators plenty of time to schedule plans for these visits by quartets.

* Sep/Oct... 5-6 AIC quartets (depending on the need - will budget for 5-6) will descend on LA area high schools for in person singing, training, etc. Thursday, Friday.... hoping to visit underserved communities where 50% of students are on free or reduced meals. The purpose of these visits is to promote the Feb, 2022 SCVA Festival.

* Sep/Oct... On Saturday, LA area chapters will produce a show featuring AIC quartets, and local choruses singing 2 songs each (presumably their contest set)

* Feb, 2022.... SCVA Festival and show. with AIC quartets and possibly the entire AIC and all its members to reprise the LA, 2020 show with charts and plans already designed.

Funding:

HFI will seek funds from donors to underwrite all aspects of the plan..... In this case this program touches on three (3) of AIC/HFI initiatives.... a) SCVA Close Harmony Festival.... b) Underserved Communities.... c) providing AIC quartets for shows with struggling chapters

District Management Team Reports: Nick Papageorge

Executive VP Nick Papageorge introduced each of his team members to give their status updates.

Membership, Jeremy Loper. Jeremy shared membership numbers. All the districts are down in membership. FWD is down as expected with COVID. Current membership is 1548 down from 1996 a year ago. He is encouraging chapters to “mix things up” on ZOOM and give the guys an interest in showing up.

Chorus Director Development. Scott Suwabe. Not much to report. He is getting all director/assistant director contact info and will be setting up a ZOOM meeting. Also looking to get all of them back involved with a reestablished Directors Guild.

Convention Manual. Bryan Forbes. Bryan had left the meeting early. No report.

Convention Venue Rotation. Bryan Forbes. No Report.

Convention at Sea. Carnival Cruise Update. Bill Rosica/Donna Hisey. Bill mentioned that we are planning for the positive. Donna gave an update status. CDC requirements for cruise lines to submit sanitation plans before resuming operations. Cruise lines are working on regulations with health experts and the CDC. A 64-page plan has been submitted and they are waiting for approval of the new health protocols. She

reported that the new ship the FWD will be on is being upgraded with CDC protocols for COVID safety (\$200M) and will be on the West Coast by April 2021. Also, there will be a \$300 on board credit for each cabin as well as cabin upgrades at no additional cost for those who have had their reservations transferred over to the new ship. (Ex., an inside cabin upgraded to an outside cabin, an outside cabin upgraded to an outside balcony cabin, etc.) There are 345 cabins booked. There are approximately 15 canceled cabins and Donna is holding them to resell to District Members at the 2019 price. She will have to release them to Carnival by the end of November. The ship will sail at ½ capacity so she expects the ship to sell out by January 1st. The dates have changed (Oct. 15 to Oct. 18) -- a Friday afternoon departure returning 7 AM the following Monday morning instead of the previous Thursday to Sunday schedule. This would allow locals to not miss work on Monday.

Marketing and Public Relations. David Melville. David asked if additional cruise advertisements should be prepared. He will let the board decide on that question. There was no direction given. He is working on new web calendar software. Also, a new version of the reservation software will be available in November. Regarding the convention venue schedule, David expressed hope that the schedule would be pushed out a year so Mesa AZ would not have to wait five years for the next contest in the cycle. Bryan Forbes was not in attendance to confirm the schedule. Bill Rosica indicated that the contest should be pushed out a year and will contact Bryan to check it out.

Youth in Harmony. Kenny Rios. Since there is no activity at the high schools with music programs, there is nothing to report. There will be no HS quartet contest until the divisional contests resume.

Financial Development, Endowment Funds. Roe Darnell. Roe was not in attendance. No Report.

Directors Guild. Scott Suwabe/Nick Papageorge. Nick has found the folder with the information on the early beginning of the Guild. Scott will be meeting with the directors to see where it goes from there. Looking to set up an initial meeting before Thanksgiving. President Bill asked that it occur before November 14th.

Old Business

Financial Review. Rich Owen. He reported that there have been very little expenses (\$8286) this past year due to inactivity of events and in person board meetings. The district is in the black -- \$45,352. He has also been busy with grant applications for his chapter and will be doing the tax filing information later this year. There was some discussion on how to address the extra funds the district has. No action was taken.

Leadership Academy/Harmony College West. Jeremy Loper/Scott Suwabe. Everything is on hold. There was discussion about doing the Leadership Academy “online” and making it free to participants. President Bill suggested that a plan be

developed by November 15th. He would join Jeremy and Scott in developing that plan. If there are any expenses, there are funds available.

Nominating Committee Report. Craig Hughes. Chairman Craig presented the slate of officers for 2021 which will be presented to the HOD for approval. Members of the committee are: Mongo Bergthold, Allan Webb, and Russ Young.

Board Position	2021
President	Bill Rosica
Executive Vice President	Nick Papageorge
Immediate Past President	Craig Hughes
Secretary	Jim Maass
Treasurer	Rich Owen
VP Div.1 SW	Kathy Kileen
VP Div. 2 SE	Kyle Williamson
VP Div.3 NW	Rich Postal
VP Div. 4 NE	Chuck Roots
VP Div. 5 AZ	Adam Kaufman
VP Contest and Judging	Brett Littlefield
VP Music & Performance	Rob Menaker

President Bill introduced nominee Kathy Kileen who gave a brief bio of her barbershop background.

Various Issues.

BHS/HFI Issues. President Bill has put together a spread sheet with HFI projections of monies coming to the chapters. He has not heard anything from the BHS donations program and monies to be earmarked for chapters. This is still a work in progress.

Community Outreach. Charles Carothers is excited about his new management team position and what he will be doing for the district. However, like everything else with COVID, everything is “on hold.” He will be looking to work with Rob Menaker. He also has been making phone calls reaching out and touching base with a number of community groups. Everyone is looking forward to getting back together.

2021 Budget. Rich Owen presented the proposed budget for 2021 which will be on the HOD agenda tomorrow for approval. There was some discussion. No action was needed. The budget document are attached to these minutes.

New Business.

Bill appointed a committee to review and approve Chapter grants for projects. It is composed of the President, Immediate Past President, Executive Vice President, Treasurer, and the requesting Chapter's Division Vice President. Further details to follow.

David Melville raised the issue that maybe an online event could be held in the spring much like the AIC show this summer. Also, he mentioned that a webinar or a panel of presenters might be developed and scheduled.

For the Good of the Order

There was some input from the group. A big "thank you" from Brent Anderson and Dick Whitten who are leaving the board at the end of the year. Bill also thanked them for their years of service to the district.

A recording of Keep the Whole World Singing was played ending the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Maass
FWD Secretary