

**Far Western District
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes**

Stockton, California

May 13, 2022

Hybrid Meeting in-person and via ZOOM®

1. Call to Order with the Singing of the Old Songs Bill Rosica

Scott Suwabe led the singing of the Old Songs as the meeting was called to order at 1:10 PM

2. Roll Call Jim Maass

The following board members were in attendance:

Bill Rosica, Kenny Rios, Jim Maass, Rich Owen, Kathy Kileen, Cody Littlefield (ZOOM), Rich Postal, Chuck Root, Adam Kaufman, Rob Menaker (ZOOM), and Craig Hughes.

The following management team members were present:

Scott Suwabe.

3. Opening Remarks and introduction of guests Bill Rosica

President Bill welcomed everyone to the meeting and recognized Bill Faulkner, and Dick and Sandy Whitten who were in the audience. He also made reference to his president's message which was sent out to everyone and is posted on the FWD Website. He highlighted some of the points he made.

- a. Remarks Society Representative Devin Anna Bradford

Bill introduced Devin Bradford, Society Rep. She said she is excited to be here today and is looking forward to the competition and festival today as well as the International Convention in July.

- b. Harmony Foundation JJ Hawkins

Bill introduced JJ Hawkins who was in attendance representing Harmony Foundation. He shared some items with the board which included a review of how the district direct funding works. Up to 40% HFI donations goes back to the district and chapters as designated by the donor. The chapter maximum the donor can designate is 30% with the remaining 10% going to the district. If the donor does not designate, then the district gets the entire 40%. He mentioned the AIC, HFI, with SoCal Vocal Association hosting a Youth in Harmony workshop last October and that

there is a second one taking place in So Cal today with Signature quartet the headliner. He also made reference to an Ohio program reaching out to incarcerated youth with music educators and performing quartet and choruses working with them.

4. Approval of Agenda Bill Rosica
Agenda was accepted by the board.

5. Approval of Minutes Bill Rosica
- a. October 8, 2021, Fall Board Meeting
MS to approve the minutes as presented. All Aye.
 - b. January 23, 2022, Special Meeting (Prelims)
MS to approve the minutes as presented. All Aye.
 - c. February 27, 2022, Special Meeting (Prelims)
MS to approve the minutes as presented. All Aye.

6. Vice-Presidents Reports (Oral)

President Bill announced that the reports for this meeting will be oral, and nothing written was submitted citing that not much has been going on and that a brief oral update would be appropriate for this meeting. Full written reports will be in the upcoming edition of Westunes.

- a. Division 1 Southwest Kathy Kileen
Kathy mentioned that chapters are meeting and that some are struggling with few in attendance. She has been calling chapters and has gotten through to about half of them. She continues to encourage them to meet and to have fun. There was also some discussion about chapters searching for directors. Chuck Roots expanded Kathy's concerns to include all five divisions saying that we are all in the same boat. There was a lengthy discussion. President Bill recommended that Kenny Rios and Jeremy Loper get together to look at ways to increase and maintain. Membership. During the discussion, the BHS website came up and its inadequate reporting system and inability to get accurate information easily. Several of the board members made their concerns know to the Society Rep present at the meeting.

- b. Division 2 Southeast Cody Littlefield
He is not getting good responses as he reaches out to chapters. Only two chapters got back to him after he sent out a letter to all the chapters. The two which responded are getting back into

the swing of things. He will be calling the rest of the chapter if he does not hear from them.

c. Division 3 Northwest

Rich Postal

Rich has contacted six chapters and has visited four of them. All seem to be doing ok.

d. Division 4 Northeast

Chuck Roots

Chuck reports some chapters doing ok, some hanging in and some are lost. He expressed that “fun” should be the important part of the chapter meeting. Randy Meyer brought up the concept of different business models and chapters could address them as suits their individual needs.

e. Division 5 Arizona

Adam Kaufman

Adam indicated that what has been mentioned is what’s going on with his chapters, too. He gave a brief rundown on some of the activities they are doing and made reference to re-starting the August BASH this year.

f. Contest and Judging

Randy Meyer

Awards SOP Article 14 Review—Randy went over the types of contest awards as outlined in the SOP. If there is a need to change the SOP, those changes would have to be made by the BOD and referred to the HOD for approval. He was not making any specific recommendations, but only brought this up for clarification.

He mentioned that the weekend contest and festival will have 14 quartets and 5 choruses. One chorus cancelled due to a COVID outbreak among its members. Eight of the quartets are competing for qualifying International scores. The others are singing for evaluation only.

The October Convention in Fresno will be an open convention. However, there will be a limit set so he encourages everyone to sing up early. A triple judging panel can handle 30 quartets and 20 choruses.

g. Music and Performance

Rob Menaker

Rob reported that he has as some requests for quartet coaching. He is also looking to do a Top Gun school but not a lot of time between now and International or now and the Fall FWD in which to set it up. It’s a work in progress. He also mentioned a “late show” at the FWD convention in October. Rob will check things out and keep President Bill in the loop for scheduling a room.

7. District Management Team

Kenny Rios, Executive Vice President

a. Membership

Jeremy Loper

No Report

b. Chorus Director Development

Scott Suwabe

Scott didn't have much to report. He did mention the need to access reports from BHS and would talk with Devin from the Society after the meeting. He did reference that he has heard from a few directors who feel their board is not listening to them and what they would like to do with the chorus. Rob suggested that those directors need to work with their chapter Music VPs and music team.

c. Events

Bill Rosica

Bill reported that contacts for the hotel and venue for October FWD Convention in Fresno have been signed. Dates for next Spring 2023 have been set.

i. Convention Manual

Bill Rosica/David Melville

Work in progress. He has finished part one and has two more to go in combining all the manuals into one more concise comprehensive manual. Hopes to have if finished in the next few months.

d. Marketing and Public Relations

David Melville

No Report

e. Youth in Harmony

Kenny Rios

Kenny briefly mentioned the successful youth festival last October and that a second one was taking place today with AIC, HFI and SoCal Vocal Association as sponsors.

f. Financial Development

Roe Darnell

No report.

g. Endowment Funds

Roe Darnell

No Report

h. Director's Guild

Scott Suwabe

Scott is looking for a weekend gathering of directors since we are getting COVID behind us. He will be working with the directors in putting this together. There was general discussion regarding director training.

8. Old Business

a. Financial Review

Rich Owen

Rich reported that there is \$180,355.80 in the FWD account. Harmony Foundation donor program netted \$18,962. The Bay Area Chapter has been dissolved and their assets of \$10,000+ have been transferred to the FWD treasurer. He also reported that the Far Western District Outreach Fund fiscal year value is now \$56,137 and recommends its dividends be rolled over. There was also some discussion of travel funds and Rich indicated that the BHS dues structure makes it more difficult to determine what's available. He will have a proposal to change how the district allocates the funds for the summer board meeting.

Rich reported that one college quartet has requested funds from the district to support their trip to International. Rich suggested giving \$250 per quartet member for FWD quartets. There was some discussion regarding specifics. It was determined that there might be a maximum of two quartets. The quartet members do have to be a member of BHS or FWD to compete but the FWD would be able to support quartets who are going to school in the district regardless of where their hometown might be. It was moved and seconded to give \$1000 per quartet who are attending school in the geographic area of the FWD and going to Charlotte. All aye.

b. Leadership Academy

Jeremy Loper

No Report

c. Community Outreach

Charles Carothers

No Report

d. Nominating Committee

Craig Hughes

Craig handed out a current listing of all board members and the number of years they have served. He indicated that the current EVP would move up to the President's position and that the committee would be looking to nominate a new EVP. He asked if everyone else would be agreeable to staying on in their positions for next year. He asked that each board member see

him personally regarding this.

e. Other Issues

Bill Rosica

Chuck Hunter was in the audience and briefly reported that the Convention Dedicattee, John Krizek, will be honored at the FWD convention in October in Fresno.

9. New Business

a. Grants from the District

Bill Rosica

President Bill said we need something in place to assist chapters struggling with their budgets due to COVID in requesting grants from the FWD. Rich Owen will head up a committee to put together guidelines and have a report back to the BOD at its next meeting.

b. Summer Board Meeting

Bill Rosica

Bill said that there will be a Summer Board meeting via ZOOM in August. Date to be determined.

10. Adjourn with the Singing of Keep the Whole World Singing

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 PM with Randy Meyer directing Keep the Whole World Singing.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Maass

Secretary