

AREA 4 COUNCIL MEETING

September 24, 2016

Area 4 Director Betty Gunterman welcomed participating Council Members to the meeting held in Glen Ellyn, IL. The meeting was called to order at 9:15 AM, with the following Council Members, Chapter Presidents and Committee Chairmen present:

Council Management

Betty Gunterman – Area 4 Director

Mary Ross – Area 4 Treasurer (left at noon)

Denise Struve (VVC) recorded minutes of the meeting

Janice Westphal – Education Chairman

Sara Stone – Convention Team Manager

Linda Bloch – AC&C Treasurer

Not present:

Beth Montgomery - Membership; Melanie Concklin - Website Manager; Cookie Crews – ACJC;

Peggi Meyer - Manual Chairman; Joy Coleman - Associate Member Coordinator

Jeanne O'Connor – CT Contest/Stage Manager and Area 4 Secretary

***Voting Members of the Council (Chapters officially represented) in this meeting:**

Bluegrass Harmony (Louisville, KY) – not represented

California Note Catchers (San Diego, CA) – not represented

*Covered Bridge Harmony (Greencastle, IN) – Roseanne Jensen

*Harmony Magic (Central Indiana) – Sara Stone

*Misty River Music Makers (Geneva, IL) – Linda Berg represented by Mary Ross

*St. Louis Chordinals (St. Louis, MO) – June Hahn

*Sound Celebration (Plymouth, WI) – Marianne Cooke

*Village Vocal Chords (Metro-Chicago, IL) – Jacquie Jensen

Wolf River Harmony (Shawano, WI) – not represented

Guests Present

Kathy Arana, St. Louis Chordinals

Copies of this meeting's Agenda and Treasury Reports were distributed via email prior to the meeting.

Welcome	Betty welcomed the Council Members, led all in reciting the Harmony Creed, then shared general information:
June Meeting	✓ Minutes of the June, 2016 meeting were approved by email and posted to the website
Area 4 Manual	Consensus was that historical data should be included on the website rather than in the Manual. The Convention Guide was reviewed (Betty & Sara) and will be sent to Council members around the 1 st of the year. It was suggested that sections of the Manual be assigned to various chapters and that they review only that section; however, the following individuals volunteered to review the following sections: Marianne Cooke– Job Descriptions; Mary Ross– Financial Policies; Sara Stone – remaining sections.

	Betty will advise Peggi Meyer that she no longer has responsibility for the Manual.
Finances	Financial statements prepared by Area 4 Treasurer Mary Ross (Income and Expense, Balance Sheet, Budget vs Actual year to date) were reviewed. Approximately \$9078 in Area treasury. There is approximately \$4200 additional money resulting from AC&C. It was agreed to hold \$4,000 in reserve; \$2,000 to cover any loss from AC&C, and \$2,000 as a safeguard so the account never drops to \$0. Mary will add to the balance sheet as a reserve.
Area Dues	Mary will no longer bill Area dues, but a method of dealing with those coming in at odd times will need to be determined.
2016 AC&C Final Budget	<p>MOTION by Sara Stone, seconded by Jacquie Jensen, to accept the financial statements as provided. Motion carried</p> <p>Linda Bloch, AC&C Treasurer, presented the AC&C 2016 Final Budget. Following discussion,</p> <p>MOTION by Marianne Cooke, seconded by Roseanne Jensen, that the AC&C 2016 final budget be approved. Motion carried.</p>
AC&C 2017 Budget	<p>Linda Bloch presented two proposed 2017 AC&C budgets; one with the contest at Holiday Inn and another with the contest at the Normal HS auditorium. Discussion focused on the version with the contest at Normal HS, with net expense/revenue totaling (\$1,615.00). It was agreed to remove ACJC Lodging as a separate line item and include it with the convention team lodging, increasing Convention Team Lodging to \$800.00, resulting in expense/revenue balance of (\$1475.00). Wanting to keep the AEP at \$100, it was agreed that \$1500 of the profit from AC&C 2016 would be added to result in a positive budget.</p> <p>MOTION by Jacquie Jensen, seconded by Roseanne Jensen, to approve the version of the AC&C 2017 budget with contest at Normal HS Auditorium. Motion carried.</p>
Website	✓ Council was reminded that If chapter or quartet information needs updating, information should be forwarded to Melanie Concklin
OLD BUSINESS	Chords and More in Area 4
Support Stickers	✓ Betty provided pictures of possible sticker choices. Consensus was to keep the same sticker as last year but to produce on bright color paper so it would stand out on name tags.
AC&C Items	✓ Sound of Illinois men’s chapter received donations (food/money) for the Midwest Food Bank. Council agreed that food pantry

donations/money will again go to SOI in 2017. There was discussion about the possibility of a basket raffle, with proceeds being accessible to choruses to finance bringing in a coach. Responsibility to administer the fund raising option set by Area Council at the fall meeting will be added to Moonglow responsibilities.

- ✓ Betty recommend that the Area Director be removed from the Convention Team but still be copied in on correspondence and included on teleconference calls and meetings. Following discussion,

MOTION by Jacquie Jensen, seconded by Sara Stone, that the Area Director be an ex officio member of the Convention Team and that her expenses be an Area expense. **Motion carried.**

- ✓ Betty recommend that policy re. practice judges be changed to give a complimentary AEP which would include the Saturday dinner paid by Area budget.

MOTION by Jacquie Jensen, second by Marianne Cooke, that non-performing practice panel members receive a complimentary AEP. **Motion carried.** (one NAY vote)

MOTION by Marianne Cooke, that we include in the financial policies that payment of AEPs for practice panel members be paid by the Area. Marianne withdrew this motion. This will be considered for possible revision under the financial policies.

- ✓ There was question about the success of the Assistant Convention Manager job and whether this position should continue. Consensus was that it should.
- ✓ Council agreed that judges' gifts should consist of \$10/judge, which could be used to purchase something on-site.
- ✓ Is the \$25 fee to sell items in the hospitality room policy?

MOTION by Sara Stone, second by Marianne Cooke, that if anyone wants to sell something in a hospitality room, they pay a \$25 fee, which would include a business card-size ad in the program. **Motion carried.**

- ✓ Is "profit" completely going to the Area account again for 2017, or should it be split with half to Area and half split between chapters? Council agreed that it should go to Area.
- ✓ What is the status of finding another AC&C site? Normal West HS is 7-1/2 mi. from hotel. It seats 650 and could be used for Fri. & Sat. contest, briefing, and chorus evals. (This was approved in the AC&C 2017 budget, with \$1500 profit from 2016 being added so that it

	could be balanced and AEPs remain at \$100.) There is the possibility of petitioning the International Board with the possibility of getting an AC&C date in April if we find that necessary.
NEW BUSINESS	Chords and More in Area 4
Area Incorporation	✓ Still working on this situation so we can open a banking account for AC&C.
Area 4 Convention and Contests Manual Rewrite	✓ Will be sent at a later date for approval before the 1 st of the year.
Area 4 Dropbox	✓ Suggestion: (Marianne Cooke) That Area 4 set up a Dropbox account to store minutes, etc. on the Cloud. Council agreed to let Sara try it with Convention Team and see how it goes.
Area 4 Facebook Page	✓ Suggestion: (Pam Ringo, Bluegrass Harmony) That a Facebook page be created for Area 4 (she has offered to create one)
Other New Business	MOTION by Marianne Cooke, second by Sara Stone, that Area 4 develop a Facebook page with Pam Ringo as administrator. Motion carried. Council requested that Betty put out feelers about individual payment of Harmony dues, suggested by Marianne Cooke.
Education	✓ Janice Westphal had determined three possible dates: Mar. 18, Apr. 1 & Apr. 8 With six coaches being available Apr. 1, MOTION by Marianne Cooke, seconded by Jacquie Jensen, that the proposal for an Area 4 Quartet Day on Saturday, April 1, 2017 be approved. Motion carried.
Next Meeting	The spring Council meeting will be a teleconference on Sunday, February 19, 2017, 5:00 EST, 4:00 Central
Adjournment	Betty and all in attendance expressed gratitude to: Jacquie Jensen for securing the meeting venue; and to Maria Bunte for the donation of coffee cakes and for ordering and delivering lunches. The meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM.

CHAPTER UPDATES

Presented as received...

Sound Celebration – Marianne Cooke, President

- Qualified to compete at ICC, 25 chorus members are attending ICC
- Successful food stand fund raiser in July
- One new member
- Performed at Barbershop night in the Plymouth City park band shell along with the local men's chorus
- Conducted a Saturday rehearsal in early September
- Working on presentation of our 50th consecutive annual show to be staged on October 7 and 8.
- Patron ads for our show are close to \$8,000.00
- Booked the Green Lake Convention Center for our March 2018 retreat (we have a retreat every other year)
- The Board is preparing a survey that each member will complete at the end of the year. Every few years we provide the membership the opportunity to give written input into chorus operations
- We have selected our contest up tune for 2017. Music and learning trax are given to members before the Christmas break
- The chorus currently has 3 organized quartets and 2 pickup quartets that are singing on the show
- Our coach, Joanne Bischoff will be at rehearsal in October to help us with our contest package

Bluegrass Harmony – Valinda Petri, President

Bluegrass Harmony has been really busy this summer preparing for our first International Contest. We've been working with coaches, having extra practices, and fine tuning our songs. We've also sang around town at a couple local festivals and worked on fundraising to help our members with expenses for International. Two of our members volunteered to fill two vacant positions on the HI board and we couldn't be prouder of them. We are looking forward to seeing our Harmony friends this November and having fun on and off the contest stage.

VVCs – Jacquie Jensen, President

The VVCs have had a very busy summer. Following AC&C, while director Jeanne was a world traveler, those of us left behind filled the time with VVC Summer School. This consisted of 4 weeks of rehearsals with a teaching session at each one by our certified judges Lynn Randall, Lauren Lindeman and Jen Wheaton. These classes included learning all about do for improving singing in key, the body mechanics involved in singing, breath management and even how yoga can improve relaxed breathing. Summer School ended with a Graduation Salad and Dessert Potluck at which all members received their "Certificates of Graduation". But that wasn't the end of summer busyness...we are just finishing putting together a new CD called "Golden Memories", including 16 of our championship performances, from our first in 1976 to our most recent in 2015. This recording will be on sale at IC&C in the hospitality

room. And speaking of IC&C, that is, of course, our current focus. We have enhanced our Oz package from last year's championship two song package to a 5 song package, including all your favorite OZ characters and additional staging. We'll perform this on the Parade of Champions on Friday night, as well as learning a special new song for our farewell song at the close of the international chorus contest. If summer is supposed to be a time to enjoy the relaxed vacation time, I think the VVCs have somehow misunderstood that goal, but it sure was fun!

California Note Catchers – Annette Draper, President

We have been having a great time sharing our love of Harmony. We had our first Summer Show the end of June. We had approximately 150 guests in attendance. Our family and friends enjoyed the show and we look forward to presenting our annual Holiday Harmonies on December 18th. We just commenced our Community Sing and are learning new holiday songs. Our chorus has been performing at many luncheons, churches and residential facilities throughout the county and we have many more bookings to take us into the New Year.

Harmony Magic – Sara Stone, President

HM is doing great. Excited to be in the Silver Division Contest this fall and the recipient of the Area 4 most-improved chorus award!! We earned money this summer at a Local Farmer's Market and got 2 prospective members out of it!!! We sang this summer at 2 events and are planning for 2 holiday performances in Tipton, IN – where we have our weekly rehearsals. We are celebrating our 10th anniversary this year, too, so our December show, on 12/3, will be a combination of our anniversary celebration and holiday music. We're asking all former members to come back and sing a couple of songs with us. Right now, we have a total of 4 prospective members and are excited as they move through the process to join the chorus. We are also getting coaching from Jean Barford in preparation for the Silver Division contest and to keep improving our level of singing. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at IC&C this year.

Misty River Music Makers – Fran Bell, VP

Misty River Music Makers won the Best in Show Trophy for Entertainment at the Moonglow dinner, topping off an enjoyable experience at the 2016 AC&C. Afterwards we took a two-week vacation and got back to work in July. We had a successful partnership with a Park District sponsored class in Barbershop singing. We had 3 students for the 4-week class. Two of them decided to remain. One has already joined us and the other is ready to audition. July also brought Lisa Weiland back to us after a 3 year absence. Maria Kolano was awarded a scholarship to Harmony University's Director School. She went to the classes in Nashville for a week and returned with so much new information and enthusiasm! August was a busy month for us. The chorus sang at St. Charles Live, our quartet, Piece O' Chord, performed at Cantigny and we had our annual Banquet at Granite City in Naperville. In September, we had 3 guest nights on the 12th, 19th and 26th. We only had 1 guest, but she likes it and continues to attend. On September 12, 2016 the chorus unanimously voted to retain Maria Kolano as our Director. September also brought some sadness. Our President, Linda Berg, lost her mother. We are currently learning a couple of new songs and are, of course, working on Christmas music. We are planning a

Christmas Concert, which will be held at the Batavia Public Library on Saturday, December 3rd at 1:00 pm and we are performing at the Geneva Steeple Walk on December 4th.

St. Louis Chordinals -- June Hahn, President

Following the Area 4 contest in June, the focus of our chorus has been increasing our membership and fundraising. We've devoted a portion of each weekly practice to learning new tags and brainstorming for membership. We've held two guest nights with a mini concert. So far we've added one new member. We will continue to advertise and to invite friends and acquaintances to join us. Our fundraising involved a successful Trivia Night in September. We have planned 2 restaurant fundraisers (Lone Star & Pieology) and a Costume Parade Tea (sponsored by the St. Louis Repertory Theatre) in February. In July our chorus served as monitors for the 3-day Mid-America Music Association (MAMA) Festival and Contest at Lake of the Ozarks. The chorus enjoyed our annual barbeque last week hosted by our director, Kevin Nelson. We are currently learning new songs and practicing for two performances at retirement homes in the St. Louis area. We are also preparing for our annual show titled "Group Therapy" on November 19.

Wolf River Harmony – Brenda Krueger, Treasurer

Since June we have been finalizing our paperwork with the IRS and as Betty is aware, our group is back in good standing with them. So glad to have that behind us. Since convention we have started learning fresh new songs, added some fun to our group and stepped out of our comfort zone. With our President stepping down, I have stepped up as Treasurer to assist in keeping the group going with the help of the Board. But we haven't missed a beat! We have been doing 3-4 venues a month to get our faces in the community and I'm pleased to say we have gained 4 new members!

We're Wolf Harmony We're strong !