

## AREA 4 COUNCIL MEETING

February 11, 2018

Area 4 Director Betty Gunterman welcomed participating Council Members to the Zoom teleconference as they joined at 5:00 PM CST. The meeting was called to order at 5:10 PM with the following Council Members, Chapter Representatives and Committee Chairmen present:

### Council Management

Betty Gunterman, Area 4 Director  
Denise Struve, Secretary  
Mary Ross, Treasurer  
Janice Westphal, Education Chairman

- \*Valinda Petri representing Bluegrass Harmony (Louisville, KY)
- \*Denise Thede representing Covered Bridge Harmony (Greencastle, IN)
- \*Lynda Sterns representing California Note Catchers (San Deigo, CA)
- \*Patty Goesch representing Harmony Magic (Central Indiana)
- \*June Hahn representing St. Louis Chordinals (St. Louis, MO)
- \*Kerry Wilson representing Sound Celebration (Plymouth, WI)
- \*Kris Tetting representing Wolf River Harmony (Shawano, WI)
- \*Voting Members of the Council (Chapters officially represented) in this meeting**

Not present:

Melanie Concklin - Website Manager  
Sara Stone - Convention Team Manager  
Linda Bloch - AC&C Treasurer  
Beth Montgomery and Deb Neisch - Membership  
Linda Kersey - Associates Coordinator  
Barb Ries – Misty River Music Makers  
Jacquie Jensen – Village Vocal Chords (joined about 6:15 PM)

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

Welcome	Betty welcomed Council Members and asked that a moment of silence be observed to remember <b>Randy Parrish-Bell, Ginger Carpenter, and Joanne Willett</b> , recently deceased, then shared general information:  ✓ Minutes of the September, 2017 meeting were approved by email and posted to the website
New Chapter Officers	Chapter Presidents were reminded to let Betty know new chapter President and Secretary once officers are chosen.
IC&C Convention Manager	Betty announced that the new IC&C Convention Manager will be Allison Thompson (Bluegrass Harmony). She will be shadowing Jan DeVecchio, who will retire after the Orlando convention.

IC&C Opening Ceremony Guests	The current second place BHS quartet, Signature, will be featured at the Opening ceremony in Orlando.
Directors First Tag Challenge	Betty reminded Council members to check out the Director’s First tag challenge, started by Bluegrass Harmony and highlighted in this month’s E-Note. The deadline is March 1.
Area 4 PR Person Sought	Betty is seeking an Area 4 PR person and asked that Council members let her know of any suggestions.
Coaching Funds Available	Council members were reminded that all chapters may request \$200 for coaching in the 2018-19 fiscal year, beginning April 1, 2018. Application process is simple; just send an e-mail stating who coached and request the \$200.
Website	The Quartet Day flyer and registration form are posted.
Finances	Mary Ross reviewed the Area 4 financial statements (Income and Expense, Balance Sheet, and revised Budget for 2018-19).  <b>MOTION</b> by Kerry Wilson, seconded by Kris Tetting, to accept the Year End and Income & Expense statements as presented. <b>Motion carried</b>
Area Budget 2018-19	The proposed budget approved in September was reviewed. Discussion focused on whether to support the Directors First campaign in the Area 4 budget and on whether to support the ACJC to attend category school in January, 2019. Council agreed to support Area 4 directors with a fundraiser at AC&C.  <b>MOTION</b> by Patty Goesch, seconded by Denise Thede, that Area 4 contribute \$318 toward the ACJC’s 2019 category school room and board. <b>Motion carried.</b>  Revisions to the budget resulted in a total revenue of \$2526.47 and total expenses of \$3509.40, for a net expense/revenue of (\$982.93).
OLD BUSINESS	Chords and More in Area 4
Education	The Area 4 Education Day will be held Saturday, April 21, 2018, at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Plymouth, WI, with Sound Celebration providing lunch. Cost will be \$120 for quartets and \$30 for individuals. There is a hotel, AmericInn, right next door to the church, which makes for convenient lodging for those coming from out of town. Janice Westphal presented the Education Day budget, which includes a total expense of \$1616.00 and a total income of \$1776.00.  Area Incorporation was placed on hold by IBOD; however, Area 4 has

Area Incorporation	secured a checking account for AC&C by using Harmony's EIN.
NEW BUSINESS	Chords and More in Area 4
AC&C Update	Sara Stone reported that she has a new contract with the school and is getting an estimate for sound and lighting. She has found a person to record, and is working on registration form. She reminded chapter Presidents to give her the names of chapter representatives so she can set up phone calls.
Question Re. Venue	Valinda Petri asked if we were still going to consider a new venue for AC&C? She stated that while Bloomington was a good location, the fact that Special Olympics is held there the same weekend causes problems. Betty stated that there shouldn't be a problem this year or next as Special Olympics will be held at a different time, but she will bring the issue up with Sara Stone.
Quartet Registration	Betty reminded Council members that if any quartets have not yet registered, they need to do so asap with Debbie Stoll, Quartet Development Coordinator, using form HAR028A.
Zoom Teleconference	The Zoom conference method received at "thumbs up" from Council members.
Next Meeting	The next Area Council meeting will take place at AC&C on Thursday, June 7, from 6-8pm.
Adjournment	The teleconference adjourned at 6:37 PM.

## CHAPTER UPDATES

### Presented as received...

**Village Vocal Chords:** Well this must be the year of change for the VVCs. We are losing our church rehearsal location, St. Thomas UMC, as the church is closing on April 1, so our most recent priority has been to find a new rehearsal location. At this time we have been very lucky to have two, maybe three possible churches to which we can move, and we have scheduled rehearsals in each to get the feel for them before making a move. In the meantime we are going through all the things we have gathered at St. Thomas to determine what needs to be moved, and how and when we will be moving them. Moving day will be some time in March; we'll keep the Area informed.

In addition, we have moved our annual to show to the fall for this year at our director, Jeanne's request, since she and husband Dennis are vacationing in their Florida "second home" again, from January through April. Jeanne will be returning to the

Chicago Area for significant performances, etc. as needed. Until then we are under the talented arm waving of Assistant Director Lynn Randall and the rest of our Music Team. Under their guidance we are working hard, as we're sure all our Area 4 chorus friends are, on our new contest songs.

And finally, another change for us was the sad task of saying good-bye to our last remaining founding member, Ginger Carpenter. Ginger passed away earlier in February and we sang for her memorial service this past weekend, singing several songs, including her favorite, "Mary, Did You Know?" While Ginger has not sung actively with the chorus in some time, she has remained a loyal supporter of the VVCs through-out her life and her spirit will be missed.

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### **Sound Celebration:**

Completed our annual show October 20th and October 21st, 2017.

In December, performed 5 events in the community in the early part of the month, delivered over 100 singing Christmas cards in the middle of the month, and rocked it with a holiday party at the end of the month.

In February, we are driving our Find Your Voice campaign and will follow through with Rookie Camp for three weeks at FYV conclusion.

We are making final preparations for our Winter Retreat in early March and looking forward to seeing some sisters in Harmony at Day of Singing in April.

All the while, we are diligently practicing our contest songs and looking at music for our 2018 annual show.

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### **Covered Bridge Harmony**

It all began with the goal of having a Christmas concert in the Greencastle community. We set our date for the concert and decided to invite women to come and join us to sing 3 songs for our Christmas concert. After dazzling them with our sensational singing, charm, fun, and can-do attitude, we'd see if they would want to join along as our sisters in song. (I mean, who wouldn't?) Well, two of the ladies just couldn't wait until after the concert and joined us right away. Then came three more additions to our chorus including a mother/daughter pair which includes our youngest member at age 11. And BOOM, there you have it—5 new members—a perfect addition to our CBH family. Well, the night of the "Simply Christmas" concert finally came. We hold the concert on a Monday night—our regular rehearsal night— as we know that the weekends in December are CRAZY busy for families, and we don't charge for the concert. We just ask for donations, BUT we also give away the majority of our proceeds to a local charity. I don't know if we picked just the right charity or if our singing was particularly tremendous that night, but the church sanctuary was packed, and after paying the church and the guest hand bell choir, we were still able to take in over \$400. So, in addition to the literal "BIG" check of \$400 to the Putnam County Non-Food Pantry, our chorus brought in dozens and dozens of items including toilet paper, paper towels,

shampoo, cleaners, diapers, feminine hygiene products, soap, and much more. Putnam County has a high poverty rate, and people cannot get these basic necessities with EBT cards or food stamps. We were so happy to share our wealth and non-pantry items to such a deserving community non-profit like the Putnam County Non-Food Pantry. We look forward to giving another great concert, again, this December and selecting another great charity to choose to gain some much-needed funds!! But the fun didn't stop there with new members and our successful "Simply Christmas" concert. After the holidays and back to our rehearsals in January we noticed that either our members had eaten a little too much over the holidays or that our risers were getting smaller. Fortunately, neither was the case. Due to our additional members, our space on the risers was getting a little small. We needed to obtain two new sets of risers, and fast!! So we engaged in applying for a grant asking for the cost of one new set of risers if we would pay for one set. (HINT— We were told this was a good way to request additional funds and also show that we were willing to spend some money on ourselves, too.) Guess what? It worked. We were awarded a \$900 grant for the purchase of a set of risers. We are happy to announce that the risers have been ordered and will be on their way to Greencastle soon!! Then we'll really be able to spread ourselves out and have a little more room. We've had a great past year, and we look forward to continuing our success in 2018!!

Best,  
Denise Thede  
President  
Covered Bridge Harmony

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**Misty River** held a Christmas Concert at Mooseheart House of God in December 9, 2018. The theme was The Night Before Christmas. One of our talented members, Connie Kubajak, recited a 2017 version of the poem "Twas the Night before Christmas". Santa was dressed in faux fur. He snacked on soy milk and gluten free cookies. Well you get the picture... Needless to say, the snacks served after the concert was not the healthy variety. We performed at numerous venues during the holiday season. One of our favorite is the lobby of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO). We welcomed 2 new members this fall. We are now working on our songs for contest.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barb Ries  
President-Misty River

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**Bluegrass Harmony** is busy as usual. This has been another exciting time for Bluegrass Harmony and we are well on our way to accomplishing our two-year goals and creating bigger goals for the next two years.

Here is a brief listing of what has been happening.

- Added new members with more in the process
- Competed at Area and qualified for IC&C
- Took 13 to IC&C and had a blast

- Fundraising
  - Cookbooks
  - Performances
  - Yard sale
  - Annual show
- Had two chorus parties; a summer pool party and a Christmas party
- Working to continually improve communications
- Working to improve administrative operations
- Now that internal processes are solidified, we are working externally to increase fan base, performance opportunities and of course, growth
- Harmony Awareness Week
  - Reached out to local hospitals and nursing homes
  - Delivered singing valentines to veterans in the VA hospital
- Honored to have kicked off the Directors First Tag Challenge on behalf of Harmony, Inc
- Learning new music in preparation for Area 4 Competition
- Have a retreat scheduled for April which will include not only rehearsal but team building, leadership training and musical education
- Planning our second annual show for August 25
- Continuing to working towards making the chorus self-sufficient financially in order to pay for education, coaching, music and other operating expenses as well as to help offset some of the expense for members when possible

In summary, Bluegrass Harmony is in a very good place to promote growth in all areas. There is an air of excitement in all of our activities and we are in a very healthy place, now the work begins to maintain the level of excitement.

In Harmony!  
 Angie Beatty  
 Membership/Marketing Coordinator, Bluegrass Harmony  
 PR Coordinator, Harmony, Inc.

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#### **HARMONY MAGIC**

- Current Membership – 24 (Janet Stacey joined as a new member and Debi Fouts changed to an associate member)
- HM met all 2017 goals:
  - Received award for the highest number of new members
  - Won Most Improved Score at Area Contest
  - Qualified for International Contest in Halifax

- HM used a grant from the Tipton Women’s foundation to hold “Tipton Women Sing” - an education day to introduce Barbershop music to our local community
    - 5 guests participated
  - The Kokomo Tribune wrote an article on Harmony Magic that was featured on the 1<sup>st</sup> page and was picked up by 3 other local newspapers. These articles led to offers for paid performances and at least one possible new member.
  - HM will be singing Barbershop music for a music class at Indiana University – Kokomo to introduce young students to Barbershop music.
  - HM is currently working with CICATOS – Central Indiana Chapter of the American Theater Organ Society – to find ways to bring the followers of our 2 historic art forms together.
  - HM is currently planning a variety show to be presented in early 2019.
  - Fund raisers this year included: Several sing-outs throughout the year, a holiday carol sing, Singing Christmas cards, Singing Valentine cards, booths at our local farmer’s market (bake sale and a good way to attract new members) and Car wash ticket sales.
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It's been a busy year for us with **Wolf River Harmony!** This summer, we worked as a chorus to give our cream puff wagon a much needed make over. We spent a few days taping and painting and laughing together and we sold over 6000 cream puffs at the Shawano County Fair on Labor Day Weekend! This is our only fundraiser during the year and helps to cover scholarships for area graduates pursuing a career in music. We tried to increase our visibility in the community with several activities. We held a Find Your Voice Campaign for 5 weeks in November and got two new members. In December we participated in Sounds of the Season, a community chorus concert, with donations going to the local food pantry. Also, our Historical Society held their first annual Holiday Stroll through Heritage Park. It featured a variety of local musicians caroling and performing on site and proceeds went to SAM 25, our local homeless shelter, and Safe Haven, a local domestic abuse shelter.