

**AREA 4 COUNCIL ZOOM CONFERENCE**  
**February 16, 2020**

Area 4 Director Betty Gunterman called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM and welcomed participating Council Members. Present on the call were the following Council Members, Chapter Presidents, and Committee Chairmen:

**Council Management**

Betty Gunterman, Area 4 Director  
 Denise Struve, Secretary  
 Linda Bloch, Area 4 and AC&C Treasurer  
 Beth Montgomery, Membership  
 Sara Stone, Convention Team Manager  
 Maria "Ria" Bunte, ACJC

**Not present:**

Linda Kersey, Associate Member Coordinator  
 Pam Ringo, Website  
 (AC&C Education Chair, vacant)

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

Bluegrass Harmony, Charlotte Moore  
 Harmony Magic, Susan Spencer  
 Misty River Music Makers, Barb Ries  
 St. Louis Chordinals, Ruth Farrell  
 St. Louis Vocal Project, Susie Slavney  
 Sound Celebration, Marianne Cooke  
 Village Vocal Chords, Maria "Ria" Bunte

**Not Present:**

California Note Catchers, Ann Ash  
 Covered Bridge Harmony, Kathryn Dory  
 Lake Ridge Legacy, Kelly Ramey  
 Wolf River. Kris Tetting

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

Welcome	Betty welcomed Council Members and thanked them for giving up their Sunday to be on the call, then led them in reciting the Harmony Creed. Details of Betty's report:
September Meeting	✓ Minutes of the September, 2019 meeting were approved via email and posted to the website
New Officers	✓ Betty asked chapters to send names of new President and Secretary when elected
Thanks for Support	✓ Betty extended her thanks to the group for supporting her as Area Director for another two-year term and stated that this will be her last term, ending at the 2021 Annual Meeting.

Education	Someone is needed to coordinate education classes at this year's AC&C. Classes will take place on Thursday night. The Convention Team had talked about the possibility of using people in Area 4 to conduct classes, as well as judges.
Membership	Beth Montgomery stated along with Ruth Farrell that the St. Louis Chordinals have a new director, <b>Juliette Jackson</b> . Juliette will be joining Harmony, Inc. soon.
Website	Since moving to Florida, Pam Ringo has been singing with Coastal Voices in Ft. Myers and is continuing to oversee the Area 4 website. She still needs photos for the website as some choruses are not yet represented by photos. They can be emailed to her at pam@beattyringo.com. Just a reminder that the Area 4 website address was changed last year. The new address is <a href="http://www.hiarea4.com">www.hiarea4.com</a>
Area 4 Financial Reports	Linda Bloch presented the reports and reminded chapters to request 2019 coaching money if they have not already done so. St. Louis Vocal Project asked for information regarding coaching funds. Betty gave a brief overview and explained that Vocal Project will be eligible for reimbursement following the 2020 AC&C.
AC&C 2020 Budget	<p>Following review of the financial statements to date, <b>MOTION to approve the financial statements as presented by Susan Spencer, seconded by Ria Bunte. Motion carried.</b></p> <p>Linda Bloch had prepared multiple budgets with various AEP/non-performing AEP amounts for consideration. Following discussion, <b>MOTION by Marianne Cooke, seconded by Barb Ries, to accept the budget which includes an AEP of \$125 and non-performing AEP of \$95 as presented (total revenue of \$1,103.45). Motion carried.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During discussion, Council was reminded that the youth AEP is covered by Harmony.</li> <li>• Eight of eleven Area 4 chapters voted for a new AEP of \$125 via email in the fall.</li> </ul>
AC&C 2020	Sara Stone reported that while the cost of AEPs will be higher this year, the room rates will be lower. A double-double room will be \$114 and a suite will be \$125. There will be no basket raffle this year but there are plans to have past Harmony University recipients take up a collection during the Moonglow. Donors will receive a ticket that will go into a drawing for a free AEP.
AC&C 2021	Sara, Betty, Susan Spencer and Ria Bunte traveled to Normal recently to check out the Marriott there as a possible convention and contest site for 2021. They reported that this location has a huge banquet room that would accommodate all of us with room to spare, and could also be used for the contest. IF they couldn't give us all sleeping rooms, there is a Hyatt Place right across the street that could house any overflow. While we could have the contest at

	the hotel, this location is much closer to the school, and it might be more cost-effective to continue to work with the school for the contest, especially since they have been so cooperative in the past.
<b>OLD BUSINESS</b>	
Results of Area 4 Financial Survey	There was agreement at the Fall Council meeting that we probably don't need as large a financial cushion as we have. The group discussed ideas for how we might be able to use some of the excess funds and Susan Spencer prepared a survey that was sent to the Area membership for their input last fall. The results of that survey were sent to chapter Presidents in a separate email. Anyone interested in receiving the survey can contact Betty or Denise.
Grant Funds for Harmony University	The three highest-scoring suggestions were 1) Lower/no AEP for 2020-21 ACC; 2) Additional coaching dollars for choruses; 3) Area 4 members' dues vacation. Following discussion, <b>MOTION by Marianne Cooke, seconded by Barb Ries, to defer the decision on use of excess funds until the June Council Meeting. Motion carried.</b>  Needing a clear description of how we're handling grant funds for Harmony U, <b>MOTION by Susan Spencer, seconded by Marianne Cooke, that any Area 4 musical leader attending Harmony University is eligible to request funds, but only one person per chorus per year.</b>
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>	
Medals for Top Qualifiers	Susie Slavney asked whether it might be possible for medalist choruses other than the 1 <sup>st</sup> Place chorus to get medals at AC&C, even if they have to pay for them. Betty said she would put this on the agenda for the June Council Meeting.
Chapter Equity & Diversity Handbook	Betty provided a copy of the Harmony Area and Chapter Equity & Diversity Handbook along with the meeting documents for use by Area 4 chapters..
Next Meeting	June 4, 2020, 4-6 PM – Betty's Suite at AC&C
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 PM.

## CHAPTER UPDATES

### Presented as received...

#### Sound Celebration

Since September 2019

- Staged a successful chapter show in October. Two performances in a new venue in Plymouth. The church where we now rehearse. As usual we generated a lot of income via paid program ads, a money raffle, tote bag raffle, and ticket sales.
- In December we did a few Christmas performances and Singing Christmas cards.
- While the chorus took a two-week break over the holidays, the Music Team met and solidified plans for 2020. We selected music for our October show, "Aloha Harmony", a Hawaiian theme and for ACC. We also decided on repertoire songs and tunes to retire from the repertoire.

- The weather has cooperated this winter and no rehearsals missed...so far!
- We had two guest nights attracting 5 visitors. Two appear likely to join the chorus.
- In March Renee and Steve Tramack will provide coaching to quartets, sections, and the chorus.
- We have two paid gigs upcoming this spring and following an audition recording review, we were selected to sing the national anthem at a minor league baseball game in Fond du Lac in July.

### **St. Louis Vocal Project**

St. Louis Vocal Project is entering its second year with steadily increasing membership and enthusiasm. We produced our first public concert, Street Corner Barbershop, on January 19 to a nearly full house. In addition to a program of old favorites and new surprises, we showcased two of our quartets, Take 4 and Great Day. Vocal Project's rehearsals are planned around four musical "seasons". The performance marked the end of our winter concert season. Next comes spring education season, in which we study various aspects of barbershop singing, with a class each week on topics such as vocal production, sight reading, and body language, along with several coaching sessions. In late spring we begin contest season, focusing on polishing our contest set for AC&C. In summer and early fall we'll enter another education season to further refine our skills and learn new repertoire, and then it's winter concert season again. We believe this focused approach will help us work better together as a unit, as well as attract new singers who are curious about the barbershop world.

**NO OTHER CHAPTER UPDATES WERE RECEIVED.**