

**AREA 4 COUNCIL ZOOM CONFERENCE  
September 18, 2021**

Area 4 Director Betty Gunterman called the meeting to order at 6:05 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  
 Susan Spencer, Incoming Area 4 Director  
 Denise Struve, Secretary  
 Linda Bloch, Area 4 Treasurer/AC&C Treasurer  
 Pam Ringo, Website/Facebook  
 Sara Stone, Convention Team Manager

**Not present:**

Beth Montgomery, Membership  
 Kathy Custis and Kathryn Dory, Education Chairmen (AC&C only)  
 Linda Kersey, Associate Coordinator  
 Maria "Ria" Bunte, ACJC  
 Sandi Wright, Quartet Promotion

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

Bluegrass Harmony – Allison Thompson  
 California Note Catchers – Ann Ash  
 Covered Bridge Harmony – Phyllis Smith  
 Harmony Magic – Sara Stone  
 Misty River Music Makers – Barb Ries  
 St. Louis Chordinals – Ruth Farrell  
 St. Louis Vocal Project – Faith Williams, VP  
 Sound Celebration – Melissa Gerend  
 Village Vocal Chords – Jacquie Jensen

**Not present:**

Lake Ridge Legacy Chorus, Kelly Ramey  
 Wolf River Harmony, Leah Armstrong

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

Welcome	Betty welcomed Council Members and led them in reciting the Harmony Creed.
Area 4 Director's Report	Details:
February 2021 Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Minutes of the February meeting were distributed via email prior to the meeting. <b>Motion by Sara Stone, seconded by Ruth Farrell, to approve the Minutes of the February 2021 Council Meeting as presented. Motion carried.</b></li> </ul>

Education	Kathy Custis and Kathryn Dory have taken on the role of Education Chairs for AC&C.
Membership	Some choruses report having lost members while others have gained members, even in spite of Covid and while rehearsing virtually.
Website	<p>Pam Ringo informed the group that HI is in the process of switching their website over to Harmony Site. The move should be done by next summer. The site will be free to Areas as long as there is an email sent once or twice a year encouraging quartets and choruses to move over to their service. Area 4 currently uses Weebly for free, but paying a \$30/year domain name cost. Switching would put them in direct contact with member information for both International and Area. In addition, any updates made on individual sites would automatically change on Harmony Site.</p> <p><b>Motion by Jacquie Jensen, seconded by Allison Thompson, that Area 4 change their website over to Harmony Site as recommended. Motion carried.</b></p> <p>Chapters can stay with whatever they are currently doing.</p>
Area 4 Financial Reports	<p>Linda Bloch sent out the financial reports via email prior to the meeting. There has been no activity impacting the Income Statement since the previous statement. Not enough is known yet regarding plans to put together a budget. Chapters are encouraged to use their coaching money; if your chorus had coaching in 2021, send Betty a note requesting funds. Zoom coaching counts!</p> <p><b>Motion by Melissa Gerend, seconded by Ann Ash, to approve the financial reports as presented. Motion carried.</b></p>
AC&C 2022	<p>Sara reported that the room rate at the Marriott in Normal has increased from \$139/room to \$238/room! She will contact the Holiday Inn, as we may now fit there with the decrease in membership. The date would be the second weekend in June. We are already penciled in at the high school. The same people who had duties in 2019 will have them in 2022 or whenever we have our next AC&amp;C. Sara will continue as Convention Team Manager until that time. Susan Spencer will be looking for a person to replace Sara. Interested persons should contact Susan to discuss the position.</p>
<b>OLD BUSINESS</b>	
Operation/Policy Manual	Update pending.
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>	
Corporate Office Email Request	Reminder that if Chapters did not yet respond to an email from the Corporate Office seeking Number of Singers and Current Logo, that information is <b>due September 22.</b>

Chapter Rehearsals Resumed	It appears that all Area 4 Chapters have resumed rehearsing either in-person or via Zoom, or both.
Big Screen Ad for IC&C	Reminder that the <b>deadline</b> for submitting <b>Form HAR-092</b> for a big screen ad is <b>October 15</b> . Completion of the contract, uploading the ad and submitting payment can all be done online. Last year the Area 4 ad was designed by Pam Ringo and she was willing to do it again this year. She has completed it and it is attached as <b>Appendix A</b> .
Other New Business	<b>Motion by Ann Ash, seconded by Jacquie Jensen, to approve the purchase of a big screen ad for AC&amp;C for the fee of \$10.</b>  Jacquie Jensen inquired whether Area 4 is doing any Area Education. Consensus was that they are not, considering that the Education Chairs have only taken on that responsibility for AC&C. The group also questioned whether the HIVE classes are meeting that need. Susan Spencer said she will talk with Kathy & Kathryn to see if they are interested, and perhaps something could be planned for virtual class(es) during the winter months.
Thank You	Betty expressed her thanks to the group for their support during her 10-year tenure as Area Director. The group in turn thanked Betty for all her time and effort devoted to the position.
Questions for Incoming Area Director	In an effort to learn more about new Incoming Area Director, Susan Spencer, the group was encouraged to ask questions about her. We learned that: -Her current work position is Project Manager for training events for Anthem Insurance; -She has been a member of Harmony Magic for 29 years; -Her most recent experience on the Area 4 Team has been as Contest Site Manager; -If she was a color, she would be PURPLE because it's her favorite color as it is a BLEND of red and blue; -She has two kitties; Shadow, who is black, and Dexter, who has four white paws and reminds her of the nerdy character Pointdexter, who wore white socks.
Next Meeting	February 5, 2022, 7-9 PM ET –Zoom Conference
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

**CHAPTER UPDATES**

**Presented as received...**

**Village Vocal Chords**

As the COVID pandemic continues to impact the world, the VVCs continue to search for ways for our members to be safe and still experience the joy of singing in Harmony each week. We hold weekly rehearsals both in-person and on Zoom so that members can choose their level of comfort for their attendance. In the absence of sharing music with our Area 4 friends at AC&C,

earlier this summer we invited our other Chicago-area HI chorus, Misty River Music Makers, for a "Night of Harmony" in our rehearsal church parking lot. It was so good to be able to see and sing with these Area 4 friends. And speaking of doing things again, this fall we have done 3 in-person performances: sang the national anthem for a Kane County Cougars baseball game; joined a neighboring community as, outside, they celebrated their 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary; and provided the music for a worship service at the church where we rehearse. This last performance was originally planned as a final activity of our planned Fall Retreat Weekend. While we cancelled the in-person coaching activities of that retreat, we held a mini-retreat. Ever the creative impetus during these difficult times, our director, Lynn, arranged for us to meet virtually on Saturday morning with our coach, Jen Cooke, who led us through a class on membership recruitment and retention and a second class on believable performances. We plan to be able to meet again for the coaching aspect of that retreat when it is safe to do so. In the meantime we are preparing for what we hope will be a more normal Holiday season. We have 6 performances already on our calendar in the hopes that it will be safe to do inside performances. Afterall, Chicago-area winter does not lend itself to outside performances, although we may add some caroling to our holiday plans. So while things continue to be "different," we strive to continue to share our harmony with the world that needs it so much right now.

--Jacquie Jensen, VVC President

### **California Note Catchers**

Greetings from California Note Catchers

We are often asked -- "Do you have any fires near you?" At this time, we do not. We heard that the smoke from one devastating fire in northern California went all the way to New York.

As of August 1<sup>st</sup>, we are meeting in person. We wear our masks, social distance, and meet outside in a church patio ... and we're singing! Yay! Since we meet outside, we have many people stop by to hear us. A rehab center has asked us to sing sometime soon and we plan to sing for family and friends of the chorus. We've been working on 2 new songs -- "Get Well Soon" and "You've Got a Friend in Me".

Katie Taylor, director of Northern Blend, worked with us on Zoom for many months. We do not have WIFI access at the church where we meet so now we're not able to have Katie meet with us. But we are using many of the techniques Katie helped us with. Plus we have a very talented and amazing music team. We're also using the local Sweet Adelines director's warm ups that we get through Youtube. We are certainly learning all about technology.

The California Note Catchers thank Area 4 for their support this past year and a half. We wish Betty Gunterman much joy in her retirement as Area 4 Director. We appreciate her many years of service.

Written by --  
Karen Hasman

### **St. Louis Chordinals**

We may be small in number, but we're mighty rehearsing masked and physically distant. Nov. 20th we resume our annual trivia and will introduce each category with a tag, plus we hope to include Rockin' Robin. Love the virtual learning sessions - Thank-you, Harmony, Inc!  
Ruthie Farrell, President

### **Covered Bridge Harmony**

Covered Bridge Harmony has been rehearsing regularly in the local park. We have had several invitations to perform and activities scheduled, but some have not come to pass. We had to cancel a performance with the Brazil Concert Band in August, and our annual yard sale in September. We also postponed our CBH reunion until the spring. We did sing the National Anthem to open Airport Appreciation Days on Saturday, Sep. 11th. We have begun rehearsing indoors at a local church in their sanctuary using singers' masks and social distancing. We have several performances lined up: singing for a local church group in November, singing for a fundraising event (Clothe-a-Child) in December, and singing for the Festival of Lights at our local park in December. Hopefully we will be able to do all of these. We surely do miss singing for others!!

Kathryn Dory

### **Harmony Magic**

Harmony Magic is doing very well!!! We've added 2 new members and rehearsed weekly at a local park over the summer. We were singing under an covered open shelter so we actually heard ringing chords – who knew!!! We had one performance in a Kokomo, IN park in August and have several options for performances in nursing and assisted living homes around the area this fall and winter. We're also planning a spring 2022 show with a Hollywood theme, so we've been learning lots of new music. For the holidays, we have a repeat performance at the City Club of Indianapolis in December. We last sang there in 2019, so we're looking forward to singing for them again after not being able to perform there last year. On a very sad note, one of our cherished members, Janet Stacy, passed away in June. She had been with us 5 years and told us on her first night that she always wanted to sing in a barbershop group. We were blessed to have her be part of Harmony Magic and miss her dearly. We have a temporary new rehearsal home in the Lifepointe Church in Westfield, IN. This location is more equidistant between our northern gals in Kokomo and our southern gals in south Indianapolis. They've offered us free rehearsal space from October 7<sup>th</sup> – December 16<sup>th</sup> while they assess what they might charge us to rehearse there permanently. We are very hopeful this arrangement will work out for us as their sanctuary is very high and offers us space to spread out and sing. Finally, we'd like to congratulate Susan Spencer on taking the reigns of the Area 4 Director!! We're excited for her to share her talents with the rest of the Area and on the International Board of Directors. Thanks to Betty for your 10 years as the Area 4 Director – we appreciate your years of service and leadership!!

In harmony,

Sara Stone, President, Harmony Magic Chorus

### **Misty River Music Makers**

Misty River held its annual banquet in August. It was great to see many of our members at this event. We have a new rehearsal place. We are now meeting at Valley Sheltered Workshop in Batavia. We resumed in person rehearsal in July but suspended rehearsals after the COVID-19 numbers increased. We recently resumed rehearsals. About ½ our members are attending.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Ries  
President-Misty River

### **Bluegrass Harmony**

Bluegrass Harmony started venturing out in January when we rented a local theater to watch the movie Wonder Woman. We also held our installation ceremony in a private room at a local restaurant. It was fun to be together while still being safe.

During the winter, we continued our zoom rehearsals and invited some of our Harmony sisters to join us. By spring things in Kentucky were improving so we started in-person rehearsals for all of our vaccinated members.

In May it was exciting to do our first performance in over a year and we have had several sing-outs since then including assisted living facilities, the VFW and a local city festival.

We've also kept busy with our annual yard sale fundraiser, a Christmas in July rehearsal and our quarterly Snack N Chat where we spend the evening discussing chorus business, eating, fellowshipping and playing games.

In the fall we welcomed a new addition to our chorus family – Vera Wheaton, daughter of our Director Kris Wheaton.

We aren't slowing down this fall as we will participate in the local Walk to End Alzheimer's and gear up for several Holiday shows and telegrams as well as our annual holiday party.

Bluegrass Harmony wishes everyone a joyous, safe, holiday season and we hope that we can be together again at Area in 2022.

Allison Thompson, President

**Appendix A**

**HARMONY. STRONGER.**  
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Chords & More In  
**Area four**  
Harmony, Inc.

**HELPING TO MAKE  
HARMONY STRONGER ONE  
MEMBER AT A TIME!**