

AREA 4 COUNCIL

February 9, 2014

Area 4 Director Betty Gunterman welcomed participating Council Members to the teleconference (6:00 pm Central) as they phoned in. The meeting was officially called to order at 6:10 and roll was called with the following Council Members, Chapter Presidents, or Delegates and Committee Chairmen present:

Council Management

Betty Gunterman – Area 4 Director

Jeanne O'Connor – Area Secretary

Not present: Mary Ross, Treasurer; Melanie Conklin, Website Manager; Peggi Meyer, Manual Chairman. Education Chairman position is vacant)

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

*California Note Catchers (San Diego, CA) – Deborah Neisch

*Covered Bridge Country (Greencastle, IN) – Kathy Custis

*Harmony Magic (Central Indiana) – Kathy Wylie

*Misty River Music Makers (Geneva, IL) – Barb Ries

St. Louis Chordinals (St. Louis, MO) – not represented

*Sound Celebration (Plymouth, WI) – Marianne Cooke

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

Wolf River Harmony (Shawano, WI) – not represented

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

Note: Subsequent to the teleconference and prior to the approval of the meeting minutes, assignments were carried out. Such information is noted in bold italics within these minutes.

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| Welcome | Betty welcomed the Council Members to the call, then shared membership information: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Bluegrass Harmony (Louisville, KY) is a prospective chapter, currently has 12 active members (need 18 to charter), Standing Rules and Bylaws have been approved➤ On Q (Albuquerque, New Mexico) is a prospective chapter, 40-50 members ages 14-35, have a Facebook page, Holly Davis Chavaz (Director), Theresa Miller (President)➤ Misty River Music Makers has experienced some recent membership losses |
| September Mtg. | Minutes of the September 2013 meeting were approved via email and are posted on the Area 4 website. |
| Membership | Area 4 is in need of a Membership Chair whose duties would include: contacting Area 4 chapters; inquiring if chapters need help; gathering chapter information to share; gathering information on Find Your Voice program; helping the Area Director in communicating with prospective chapters. Following discussion and suggested names, Deborah Niesch volunteered to |

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| | <p>serve as the Chair, and Beth Montgomery will be contacted to see if she would be willing to work with Deb on the local duties and report back to the Chair. Assigned: Betty contact Beth Montgomery Due: Immediately</p> <p><i>Beth was contacted, is delighted to be asked and very willing to help!</i></p> <p>It was noted in January the International Director of Membership Sandra Dunlop had sent out a survey re membership and the Find Your Voice program. Chapters are encouraged to respond to the survey questions.</p> |
| PR Team for IC&C | <p>With the 2014 IC&C being held in Area 4, public relations efforts for the event will require assistance from individuals to contact local media, generate a list of contacts, etc. Volunteers to help with PR matters are being sought.</p> <p>Assigned: Betty to contact Valinda Petrie and Kris Wheaton (members of Bluegrass Harmony) Due: Immediately</p> <p><i>Betty sent the names to Director of Communications Nancy Arkin, who contacted them. Members of Bluegrass Harmony will assist.</i></p> |
| AC&C 2014 | <p>Linda Berg is the new AC&C Chair. Information is posted on the Area 4 website, and additional items will be posted when received.</p> <p>Hotel: Hilton (Lisle, IL) Contest Site: Aurora Christian School (Aurora, IL) Theme: A Weekend At the Ozzies All Events Pass (AEP): \$100 (includes Sat. dinner) Guest dinner: \$40</p> <p>Re Saturday night dinner/moonglow - members are encouraged to forward money soon to get a better seat; send in your chapter's theme or moonglow song choice.</p> |
| Finances | <p>Financial statements provided by Area 4 Treasurer Mary Ross were reviewed. Following discussion,</p> <p>Motion by Marianne Cooke and seconded by Kathy Custis to approve the September-December 2013 statement as presented. Motion carried.</p> <p>The 2014-2015 Area Budget was reviewed and items adjusted: - number of Area Associate Members (fewer than reported by Harmony) - Area 4 support ribbon supply adequate for 2014 IC&C - IC&C Hospitality Room (continue in 2014, but publicize it more; need an MC; order food from hotel; change \$50 for ribbons to \$50 for a jumbo-tron advertisement)</p> <p>Following discussion, Motion by Jacquie Jensen and seconded by Kathy Wylie to approve the 2014-2015 Area 4 Budget as adjusted. Motion carried.</p> <p>Betty will ask Mary Ross to edit and re-submit the budget as adjusted by the Council Members. <i>The adjusted budget has been sent to Chapter Presidents.</i></p> |

| OLD BUSINESS | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
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| Education | <p>Area education for 2014 was discussed, with consideration of conducting an Area Education Day, or some other option.</p> <p>It was decided to cancel the scheduled AED August 16th and replace the usual “day” event with extended education classes at Area 4 AC&C in June. Educational offerings will begin on Thursday evening (followed by meet/greet activities at the discretion of the hostess chapter) and additional classes offered Friday morning and afternoon. Jacquie Jensen volunteered to assist the Misty River Music Makers in planning of the classes. This plan is contingent upon availability of hotel meeting rooms, as the AC&C budget was approved prior to the knowledge of this request.</p> | | | | | |
| Motto | <p>Betty will ask Chapter Presidents to have their members brainstorm for an Area 4 motto and send all ideas to her by April 1st. Suggestions so far include: Moving 4ward, 4ward Motion, 4 In Motion, Sing 4 Life!</p> <p><i>Soon after this meeting, Betty sent a notice to chapter Presidents.</i></p> | | | | | |
| AC&C Team | <p>Betty posed the question – is an AC&C Team still something we should pursue? The positive response was unanimous. Marianne Cooke offered to draft a transitional plan for the Team concept which will be reviewed at the June Council Meeting.</p> <p>Assigned: Marianne Cooke to draft a plan Due: June 1</p> <p>Following discussion and polling of the Council Members, centralization of AC&C was unanimously agreed upon. Target date of implementation is 2016, with the same hostess chapters on the current AC&C rotation schedule (see below) working with the (soon to be created) Convention Team. The Chicago area is the preferred “central” region.</p> <p><i>Marianne has made inquiries in a potential location in Bloomington, IL.</i></p> <p>Rotation Schedule: 2014 – Misty River Music Makers 2015 – Harmony Magic 2016 – Sound Celebration 2017 – St. Louis Chordinals 2018 – Village Vocal Chords 2019 – Covered Bridge Country</p> | | | | | |
| NEW BUSINESS | Area 4 | Area 4 | Area 4 | Area 4 | | |
| Youth Event | <p>If any chapter plans to request funds for a Youth event, contact Youth Program Coordinator Jen Wheaton immediately. Budgeted corporate funding for all Areas is limited. Jen’s email and phone are: youth@harmonyinc.org 603-557-0044</p> | | | | | |

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| Future Council Meetings | At AC&C Thursday, June 12, 4:00 to 6:00 prior to the start of education classes Fall teleconference – September (TBA) |
| Adjournment | The teleconference adjourned at 7:35 pm |

CHAPTER UPDATES (as submitted)

California Note Catchers – Deborah Neisch

For about the past ten years we've had an annual talent show that we call Kaleidoscope. It started when our director realized how many members have terrific skills and amazing hobbies outside of chorus. Yes, some of our ladies do perform songs, but over the years members have shared things like original art, including photography and oil and watercolors, piano playing, even a reading from a not yet completed children's story. We hold it each year in July or August, so if you want to plan your vacation out here for that time period....

This past year our director, Randy Parrish-Bell, tried something new to bring in prospective new members. In September, we placed ads in the local newspapers and the Pennysaver for three weeks of free voice lessons. For those three weeks our assistant director, Lisa Hohman, ran the rehearsals for the first hour and Randy gave the voice lessons. The second hour the chorus rehearsed and guests were asked to stay for the rehearsal. We were able to use some of the Find Your Voice materials in the planning and setting up for the night which helped us appear more professional. The very first week we had more visitors than members attending and for the other two weeks the chorus met upstairs and left the larger room for our guests. On the fourth week we started our annual Community Sing program and all those who came for voice lessons were invited to join us. Community Sing is another program we've been using to bring in prospective members; those attending come for the first hour of rehearsal and learn 2 songs during a 9-week period, along with the chorus, for the Christmas program. Attendees are invited to stay the additional hour if they would like to and learn more songs. I believe we ended up with something like nine people who transferred over from the voice lesson group and have about 5 who are now being considered for membership. Doing the two programs consecutively gave us the most successful recruitment we've ever had!

Not only did we have a good turnout of visitors (for the West Coast, anyway), but we also had a very successful Holiday Show. We filled nearly every seat in the theater; its capacity is just over 200. The interesting thing we have realized is that while Barbershop is not as prevalent here, and Women's Barbershop even less so, as a group, the California Note Catchers has developed its own audience over the years. They are not necessarily there to hear barbershop music, they are there to hear us. And we consistently hear each year that our sound has improved.

Every year our chorus focuses on something new to work on in terms of performance skills, besides the obvious, the music. Last year we worked on emoting. This year we're working on movement. Some of the ways we've used to evaluate our skills are: videotaping, mirroring a partner, and have half of the members watch and take notes while the other half practices the skill. We're still hoping to find a choreographer one of these days, as well.

Covered Bridge Country – Kathy Custis

This has been quite a busy year (hosting AC&C can do that). Some of the other highlights of the year included:

*Singing for the remaining survivors of the USS Indianapolis at their 68th and final reunion in August. This ship was sunk by Japanese torpedos in shark infested water in 1945. 315 of 1200 men survived the sinking; 38 are still alive today, and these heroes were honored at this final gathering. We will never forget this opportunity to do our small part for these brave men and their families

*Returning to our original rehearsal site--Greencastle Middle School--where we can now store our brand new risers purchased in December.

*Fun Christmas programs shared with Harmony Magic

Now we are looking forward to spring (no more snow!) and our annual retreat in March.

Sound Celebration – Marianne Cooke

Chapter Activities September 2013-Feb. 2014

- Fund raiser selling grilled food at a local grocery store netted over \$700 in profit
- Annual show in October was a success financially, musically, and as a community event. Total profits over \$6,000.00 mainly due to patron sponsorship, money raffle, free will offering, and basket raffles.. We found that by making it a free event, we actually made more money than when we sold tickets.
- We competed at ICC. We invited Chicago area women to join us on our chartered bus and it was a great inter-chapter event. For some of our members this was the first time they had traveled internationally.
- The chorus did numerous holiday performances and over 100 Singing Christmas cards at our Christmas party
- Due to greater than expected income this year, the chorus is buying new performance tops for all members.
- We had 2 guest nights in January (one was cancelled due extreme weather). We had several visitors and one new member
- Two inactive and one active member dropped from our roster and we added one so chorus size at renewals is 25.
- We have set the date for our 2014 show, October 17 and 18, 2 shows this year as we had a full house last year at our new venue. It has a circus theme. All show music has been designated and purchased and committees assigned.
- Members voted to purchase, and individually pay for, casual tee shirts with bling lettering to wear for summer gigs
- Installation of new officers is set for March 25

- Feb. 22-23 we had a very successful Retreat at the Green Lake Conference Center. We were pleased that the quartet Day Break and Betty Gunterman and Jeanne O'Connor attended.
- We now have 4 active and one forming quartet in our chapter. Interest in quartetting is at an all- time high.
- We're preparing for June ACC

Village Vocal Chords – Jacquie Jensen

Since our last meeting in the fall of 2013 the VVCs have had a fun and busy time. Preparing for and attending Harmony's International Convention and Contest was a wonderful journey for our chorus members. The icing on that cake in Windsor was supporting our two chapter quartets, our chapter President receiving the International President's Award, and especially winning our 19th International Chorus Championship. Immediately following convention, we began Christmas music rehearsals with local residents participating in our community chorus, one member of which now seems to be moving toward membership in the chorus. Those rehearsals terminated in a busy holiday season, including seven performances and a new fund raising project, Singing Christmas Cards delivered by phone. We are now working on new music, preparing for our annual show on May 17, when we will return to "Camp Yagottawanna--the sequel."
