

AREA 4 COUNCIL

February 19, 2017

Area 4 Director Betty Gunterman welcomed participating Council Members to the teleconference (4:30pm Central) as they phoned in. The meeting was officially called to order at 4:40, and roll was called with the following Council Members, Chapter Presidents, or Delegates and Committee Chairmen present:

Council Management

Betty Gunterman – Area 4 Director
Denise Struve – Area 4 Secretary
Mary Ross – Area 4 Treasurer
Sara Stone – Convention Team Manager
Joy Sullentrop – Associates Coordinator

Council Management Not Present

Melanie Concklin - Website Manager
Janice Westphal– Education Chairman
Beth Montgomery and Deb Neisch – Membership Chairmen

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

*Bluegrass Harmony (Louisville, KY) – Valinda Petri
*California Note Catchers (San Diego, CA) – Annette Draper (represented by Karen Hasman)
Covered Bridge Harmony (Greencastle, IN) – Roseanne Jensen (not present)
*Harmony Magic (Central Indiana) – Sara Stone
*Misty River Music Makers (Geneva, IL) – Barb Ries
*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) – Donna Beyer (not present)

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

Area 4 Director	<p>Betty welcomed the Council Members to the call, with a special welcome to Denise Struve, new Area 4 Secretary, and a thank you to Jeanne O’Connor, former secretary. She then shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Minutes of the September 24, 2016 Council Meeting were approved via email, distributed by Betty and posted to the website. Should you find errors in these minutes, please contact Betty or Denise.➤ When new chapter officers are elected, please send President and Secretary information to Betty.➤ Betty announced that she completed her application to be placed on the ballot for Area 4 Director for another 2-year term.
-----------------	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work is being done on the historical data for Area 4 AC&C chorus and quartet awards and will be posted on the website when complete.
Website	<p>The flyer and registration form for the Area 4 “A Day of Singing” are posted.</p> <p>The AC&C historical award data will also be posted when complete.</p>
Area Manual	The position of Manual Chair is vacant. There is nothing to report at this time.
Finances	<p>Following review of financial statements,</p> <p>MOTION by Sara Stone, seconded by Marianne Cooke, to approve the Income & Expense and Balance Sheets through Jan. 31, 2017. Motion carried. Cash balance: \$9,341.18 Net worth: \$9,935.48 as of Jan. 31, 2017</p> <p>MOTION by Jacquie Jensen, seconded by Barb Ries, to approve the 2017/18 Area 4 Budget as provided by Treasurer Mary Ross and amended by the Council. Motion carried.</p> <p>Harmony is continuing to work on Area Incorporation and has concluded that Rhode Island will not work as a home base. They are considering Maine, where the International Secretary resides.</p>
Directors First Campaign	<p>After considering whether to support the Directors First campaign in the Area 4 budget and whether to support the new Area 4 Director to help with travel,</p> <p>MOTION by Marianne Cooke, seconded by Sara Stone, that \$200 from AC&C Moonglow charitable endeavors be sent to Harmony for the Directors First Program, and the balance saved to support travel by an Area 4 designee chosen to attend Harmony University. Motion carried.</p>
Area 4 Director’s Funds	Betty explained the new method of distributing director’s funds. Rather than directors requesting a certain amount, Harmony will allot each area director \$4 for each area member. Since Area 4 has 244 members, this results in us receiving \$976 in director’s funds. Betty explained various ways these funds may be used.
Financial Policies	Area 4 Financial Policies are in the process of being updated.
OLD BUSINESS	<i>Chords and More in Area 4</i>
	The Area 4 Convention & Contest Manual is complete. Any revisions should be sent to Betty.

Future Council Meetings	Meeting at AC&C on Thursday evening, June 8, 6-8pm Fall meeting in September – date to be determined
Adjournment	The teleconference adjourned at 7:53.

Following are chapter updates, as submitted:

SOUND CELEBRATION

- Conducted our 50th annual show in October which was a musical as well as financial success.
- Attended ICC in Providence and participated in the chorus contest. All active members attended.
- Had several Christmas performances for community groups.
- Staged a Community Christmas program featuring our chorus as well as the local men’s barbershop chorus. A free will offering was shared with the church (our rehearsal location), the men and Sound Celebration.
- Had a profit of over \$1000.00 from doing telephonic Singing Christmas cards. We charge \$10.00 each and did 104 “cards.”
- Enjoyed a reindeer themed Christmas party.
- A new ACC contest song was distributed along with a learning CD at the Christmas party. A good learning tool especially as we missed two consecutive rehearsals in January due to bad weather.
- We conducted two open rehearsal nights to “Find Your Voice.” We have two prospective members.
- The chorus has an all- day rehearsal on Saturday, March 4th to work on contest songs, vocal instruction, and performance skills.
- This year we host the Moonglow at ACC. We have a chairman and subcommittees designated to make it a great Big Top event.
- We have 3 or 4 quartets interested in attending the Area education event on April 1st.

BLUEGRASS HARMONY

Bluegrass Harmony has had a wonderful year of firsts. We have experienced our first contest as a competitor, competed at our first International, held numerous fundraisers, our first guest night and have experienced major growth both administratively, musically and in numbers.

Here is a brief listing of what has been happening since our charter in October 2015.

- Added new members
- Competed and won our very first Area 4 Competition

- Fundraising
 - Made Area 4 tee shirts
 - Hosted an Italian Dinner where both the chorus and quartets were able to perform our contest sets for our guests
 - Yard sale
 - Weekly split the pot marble game
- Competed at our first International placing 8th and winning three awards
- Had two chorus parties; a summer pool party and a Christmas party
- Working to improve communications
 - Weekly Take Note newsletter recapping announcements, calendar and app of the week
 - Monthly Bluegrass Buzz newsletter that includes member focus, vocal tips, comedy, good news, photographs and much more
 - Implementing Chorus Connection website for communication, music, roster, riser chart and much more
- Working to improve administrative operations
 - Writing job descriptions
 - Creating new committees and jobs in order to delegate some of the work for a growing chorus
 - One of our members is leading team building, core values and developing a mission statement in which we are creating as a team
 - Putting together a membership growth/retention plan
- Held our first Guest Night in conjunction with Harmony Awareness Week
 - Eight prospective members
 - Four planning to join
- Welcomed four new members in the last month (not including the four from Guest Night)
- Increased the size of our Board of Directors from five to eight as of the new year
- Learning new music in preparation for Area 4 Competition
- Have a retreat scheduled for April which will include not only rehearsal but team building, education and loads of fun
- Planning new fundraisers for 2017
- Planning our first annual show for October 2017
- 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. We are working to grow in numbers at a pace in which a high rate of retention can be achieved. We are also working to grow musically both as individual singers and as an ensemble. All of us at Bluegrass Harmony are very excited about our chorus, our leadership and are looking forward to seeing what the future holds!

In Harmony!

Angie Beatty

Membership/Marketing Coordinator, Bluegrass Harmony
PR Coordinator, Harmony, Inc.

MISTY RIVER MUSIC MAKERS

Misty River was very busy during the holiday season. We had our annual Christmas concert at the Batavia Public Library. We performed at the Steeple Walk in Geneva. This is an annual event that features musicians from the Fox Valley Area. The audience travels from church to church to listen to 6 performers. We also caroled at the Paramount theatre before the performance of the Little Mermaid. Dean Richards from WGN radio in Chicago was broadcasting that day, so we were able to sing on the radio. Our rendition of Susie Snowflake, a WGN favorite, was a hit. We also sang for some senior centers. We had our annual Christmas party after the holiday. This also happened to be Karen Shumaker's 75 birthday. We surprised her with a cake and some former Misty Members, who showed up for the celebration. We also sang for Linda Berg's cousins 60th birthday party. We are looking forward to the spring and our new contest songs.

VILLAGE VOCAL CHORDS

The VVCs began travelling down the yellow brick road to Oz for AC&C 2015 and retired that itinerary as we retired as International Champions on the Parade of Champions 2016. We have enjoyed our time "Over the Rainbow" but are now back in the real world, preparing for our 2017 show on April 22. Our director, Jeanne, has been away for the months of January and February on a well-deserved golfing holiday with her husband, and rehearsal planning has been in the hands of our Music Team members. While we all have missed her at weekly rehearsals, both the chorus members and the music team have stepped-up to keep us moving forward in Jeanne's absence. We're looking forward to her return on March 7, to gathering again with our Area 4 sisters at AC&C 2017 in June and with Harmony, Inc. at IC&C in Halifax, where we hope to be cheering-on all of our Area 4 chorus and quartet qualifiers.

HARMONY MAGIC

Harmony Magic is doing great!

- Since performing in the Silver Division Contest at IC&C, we've held our 10th Anniversary Party on Saturday, December 3rd, 2016. Our show titled "Spirits of the Past, Present and Future - featured song selections from our first 10 years, some holiday music and music of our future.
- We had several Holiday performances in December followed by a night of singing holiday cards.

- We had our 2017 goal-setting meeting on January 5th, 2017.
- Our latest achievement was our chorus retreat in February. We focused on learning more about the new performance category and working on our new contest song.
- We're re-chartering with 5 new members - 4 brand new to Harmony, Inc. and 1 former associate member.
- We're also continuing to get coaching from Jean Barford.
- We're excited to see everyone in June at AC&C!!

Sara E. Stone