

AREA 4 SPRING COUNCIL MEETING
March 26, 2010

Area 4 Director, Beth Montgomery, welcomed participating Council members to the 2010 spring meeting held in St. Charles, Illinois. Beth began the meeting at 7:10 pm by leading all present in reciting the Harmony Creed. Roll was called with the following Council Members, Chapter Presidents or Delegates and Committee Chairmen present:

Beth Montgomery – Area 4 Director
 Skip Sutton – Area 4 Treasurer
 Jeanne O’Connor – Area 4 Secretary
 Janice Westphal – Area 4 Education Chairman
 Marianne Cooke – 2010 AC&C Chairman

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

California Note Catchers (San Diego County, CA) Outlying – not represented
 *Covered Bridge Country Chorus (Greencastle, IN) – Jodi Leach
 Derby City Chorus (Louisville, KY) – not represented
 *Harmony Magic (Central Indiana) – Barbara Birnbaum
 *Misty River Music Makers (Geneva, IL) – Linda Berg
 *Sound Celebration (Plymouth, WI) – Marianne Cooke
 St. Louis Chordinals (St. Louis, MO) – not represented
 *Village Vocal Chords (Metro-Chicago, IL) – Lynn Schwenker
 Wolf River Harmony (Shawano, WI) – not represented, newly chartered, February 2010
 Women in Harmony (Brandon, Manitoba, Canada) Outlying – not represented

Copies of this meeting’s Agenda, the October 25, 2009 meeting minutes, 2010 AC&C Budget and various Area Treasury reports were distributed for discussion.

<p>Minutes of October 25, 2009 Council Meeting via teleconference</p>	<p>These minutes were initially distributed following the meeting last fall, but Beth reviewed several documented items with updated information. Such items will be identified in these minutes with an asterisk (*).</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><<< >>></p> <p>Noting a quorum was present to support voting, Area Director, Beth Montgomery asked for approval of the minutes.</p> <p>MOTION by Marianne Cooke, seconded by Barbara Birnbaum, to approve the October 25, 2009 Area teleconference meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED. 4 yes, 1 abstention (substitute delegate felt not familiar enough with the minutes to approve)</p>
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<p>*Teleconferences</p>	<p>(From page 6 of 10/25/09 minutes) Additional annual teleconferences with the Council and with the Council Executive members only have not yet been instituted.</p> <p>The anticipated cost of the 3/25/09 Council teleconference was \$30; however, <u>actual</u> cost for the 2-hour call was \$120.97. Beth will check with the other Area Directors and the Executive Treasurer to see what determines call rates (length of call, number of participants, their location, etc.). Such factors may have a bearing on the number of Area teleconferences conducted annually.</p> <p>Beth posed the question of how to fund the calls. Should the chapters pick up the expense? The Area? If the Area, would it be by raising Area dues?</p> <p>Brief discussion followed, but no vote or resolution.</p>
<p>*Volunteers</p>	<p>(From page 9 of 10/25/09 minutes) Vacancies still exist in several Council Chairmanships: Membership Chairman, Quartet Chairman, Education Chairman. Beth has sent job descriptions to several choruses that do not have members in Area volunteer positions. Chapter Presidents are asked to encourage their members to consider sharing their expertise by taking on a chairmanship, or even sharing the duties with another.</p> <p>Please contact our Area Director at: BETH_MONTGOMERY_530@comcast.net</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><<< >>></p> <p>Beth expressed appreciation to volunteer Melanie Conklin for her extensive efforts keeping the Area website current.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><<< >>></p> <p>Beth has forwarded to volunteer Peggi Meyer (Manual Chairman) some updates to the AC&C Manual. Chapters are to receive a copy.</p>
<p>*Reporting of Area Finances</p>	<p>(From page 3 of 10/25/09 minutes) Beth has conferred with Executive Treasurer, Dianne Ritz, to determine the most efficient form of recording/reporting the Area finances to ensure transparency of all monies. It was concluded the format currently used is sufficient considering the limited</p>

	<p>number of expenses, line items, transactions in bank accounts, etc.</p>
<p>*Membership Recognition</p>	<p>(From page 8 of 10/25/09 minutes) Beth has investigated and priced award plaques and trophies for the new Area 4 Membership Award. Prices range from \$50 to \$130 (plus engraving).</p> <p>Following brief discussion, it was suggested such large, pricey items were unnecessary; a small, portable item, or even a certificate, should be considered for this Membership Award (as r recognition to the chapter with the highest percentage growth in membership during the previous membership year). Also, the Council preferred the award <u>not</u> be named after the first winner, as suggested.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">^ ^ ^ ^ ^</p> <p>At AC&C, all who have earned a pin, by bringing in a new member through the “Find A Voice” program, will be brought on stage to receive recognition by the Area. The “newbie” will join her on stage, as well.</p>
<p>*All Events Pass Non-Performing Rate</p>	<p>(From page 8 of 10/25/09 minutes) In the interest of increasing attendance at AC&C, an AEP rate for those not competing was being considered. In February 2010 Beth received the following email:</p> <p>MOTION by Chris Humbel (Sound Celebration) and seconded by Valinda Petri (Derby City Chorus) that beginning with the 2010 AC&C, Area 4 offer a non-performing AEP. The price for this year will be the same as the student member rate. The price of the non-performing AEP is to be reviewed annually as part of the AC&C budget.</p> <p>(All chapters received the above motion and an “E-vote” resulted in...MOTION CARRIED. (8 chapters in favor, 2 opposed)</p>
<p>Area Membership Totals</p>	<p>As reported by Executive Secretary, Carolyn Pellow, membership includes 225 Regular Members (10 chapters) and 23 Associate Members for a total of 248 members in Area 4.</p> <p>Regretfully, effective March 31, 2010, the Ohio Harmony chapter (18 members) relinquished its charter. We’re</p>

	<p>pleased to welcome our newest Area 4 chapter, from Shawano, WI, Wolf River Harmony (18 members).</p> <p>Area 4 dues are currently \$3.00 per member.</p>
AC&C Advance	<p>AC&C Chairman, Marianne Cooke, revised the 2010 AC&C Budget report (submitted last October) to note there was no monetary advance made to the hostess chapter from the Area treasury. This “advance” line item should remain on the budget report, however, to aid future hostess chapters in preparing AC&C budgets.</p>
Grid Lines	<p style="text-align: center;">+++++</p> <p>Area Treasurer, Skip Sutton, agreed to fulfill a request to insert grid lines on budget reports for easier reading.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">+++++</p>
Area Dues	<p>Upon receipt, Area dues will be banked, held in escrow until the total amount (from all Area 4 chapters) is in hand, and then reported. This will eliminate confusion of reporting collected dues before and after the year-end/new year (March 31/April 1) dates.</p>
*Revised 2009/10 Area 4 Budget	<p>The April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010 budget was again reviewed and several adjustments made. A couple of missing items include: (under “Income”) \$250 refund from Harmony, Inc. toward the Area purchase of an LCD projector; (under “Income”) 2009 AC&C hostess chapter return of \$200 advance from the Area.</p> <p>While this budget is now history, a revised copy (for the record) will be issued by the Area Treasurer.</p>
(NEW) Area 4 2010/2011 Budget	<p>Several adjustments were made to the submitted budget, e.g., anticipated expenses removed or revised.</p> <p>(It was stated the only sources of income by the Area include Area dues, ways & means projects and one-half of the AC&C profit, the other half goes to the hostess chapter.)</p> <p>In the interest of boosting the Area treasury (to help fund Area projects) IBOD member, Marianne Cooke, will ask the Executive Committee if Areas should budget a profit line for AC&C’s. Beth will ask other Area Directors, in their next teleconference, if their Areas budget a profit line.</p> <p>Following this research, Beth will submit the 2010/2011</p>

	Area 4 Budget to the Council members, by May 1st for “E-vote” approval.
<p data-bbox="245 344 573 449">2010 Area Convention & Contests (AC&C)</p> <p data-bbox="285 638 532 669">Budget, Hotel Fees</p> <p data-bbox="285 1037 532 1068">Area Director AEP</p> <p data-bbox="293 1293 524 1360">Practice Panel All Events Passes</p>	<p data-bbox="656 310 1382 378">AC&C Chairman, Marianne, submitted a revised budget and reported the following:</p> <p data-bbox="656 420 1422 669">A miscommunication between hostess chapter and the hotel was discovered. The hotel charges a \$1500 fee for meeting rooms/facilities, but if meals are ordered by the group, this fee is waived. It was thought our Saturday night dinner sufficed for waiving the fee; however, it was recently pointed out the fee is \$1500 <u>per day</u> for a total of \$4500 for our 3-day event.</p> <p data-bbox="656 711 1409 888">To help offset the extra fees, meals (Friday and Saturday breakfasts for up to 2 in a room) will be ordered. Further funding of the fees will come from the built-in \$900 profit, plus \$455 of the \$1000 education funding given to each of the Areas from the international treasury.</p> <p data-bbox="1003 930 1084 961" style="text-align: center;">\$\$\$\$\$</p> <p data-bbox="656 1003 1430 1142">Beth noted that (although entitled as Area Director) she does not usually submit receipts for her attendance at AC&C; however, she will be requesting a complimentary All Events Pass this year.</p> <p data-bbox="1003 1150 1084 1182" style="text-align: center;">\$\$\$\$\$</p> <p data-bbox="656 1224 1430 1474">It is Harmony, Inc. policy for Areas to give a complimentary All Events Pass (AEP) to those in the judging community who are practice judging at the AC&C (in addition to the Official Panel of Judges). When meals are included in the AEP, the practicing judge is responsible for the meal expense portion. It is possible Area 4 will have 6 people on the <u>Practice</u> Panel in June.</p> <p data-bbox="656 1516 1422 1654">MOTION by Marianne Cooke, seconded by Linda Berg to provide up to \$200 per year to assist judging applicants and candidates practicing at our Area AC&C and, if 4 or less, they each get \$50. MOTION CARRIED. (4 yes, 1 no).</p> <p data-bbox="656 1696 1360 1728">The Area Treasury will add \$200 to the AC&C budget.</p> <p data-bbox="656 1770 1422 1837">This year, each practice (of 6) will receive a complimentary AEP plus \$34 cash toward meals which total \$48.</p>

<p>History Book Contest</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"># # #</p> <p>Since there is no longer a History Book Contest at our International Convention & Contests (IC&C), Beth will email chapter Presidents to determine if there is interest in conducting a contest at AC&C.</p>
<p>Sale Items</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"># # #</p> <p>Harmony Magic requested permission to sell “I Sing, Therefore I Am” bags at AC&C as a Ways & Means project. AC&C Chairman, Marianne Cooke will ask the hostess chapter if this is agreeable to them.</p>
<p>Mail Boxes</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"># # #</p> <p>There will be no mail boxes provided for quartets and choruses. Too many items have been left behind in the past. Messages of good wishes can be printed in the program booklet for a nominal fee (see website for details).</p>
<p>Donations</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"># # #</p> <p>Those in attendance are encouraged to collect the hotel room gel, shampoo, etc., which, along with money raised throughout the (AC&C theme) “Bridal Party,” will be donated to the hostess chapter’s charity, Solutions Center of Fond du Lac, a shelter house for abused and homeless women and children.</p>
<p>Songs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"># # #</p> <p>The Council requested a list of 5 songs be chosen (from free downloads) for group singing at AC&C. Hostess chapter, Sound Celebration will select and post the titles on the website.</p>
<p>IBOD Rep</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"># # #</p> <p>Kath Morgan, the International Board of Directors representative attending our AC&C, will serve as MC for the Quartet and Chorus Contests.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"># # #</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Gathering Place</p>	<p>Arriving Thursday? The “wedding shower” will be that evening where games and singing will take place. Quartets are invited to stop in and sing, or octets, choruses!</p> <p>Friday night, a room will be open to the “night owls” for singing and friendship. (We mustn’t disturb other hotel guests.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"># # #</p> <p>Additional AC&C details can be found on the Area website, www.area4harmonyinc.org</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Area Education Day</p>	<p>The 2010 Area Education Day (AED) will be held on Saturday, March 27, at the Congregation Church in St. Charles, IL. There will be 42 participants, 3 quartets.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">^ ^ ^ ^ ^</p> <p>MOTION by Kathy Custis (presented by delegate, Jodi Leach) ...to make Area Education Day the same weekend as AC&C, beginning in 2011.</p> <p>Rationale: To boost attendance at the event, chapters may be more likely to attend or send representatives to one function instead of 2 separate, expensive trips.</p> <p>Discussion took place, including the following thoughts: We must demonstrate we are an educational organization in order to maintain 501 C-3, non-profit status. We need to try something new, “out of the box.”</p> <p>Chapters travel such long distances to attend AC&C, it’s unlikely members will stay around to attend education classes on Sunday morning.</p> <p>Chapters should promote AED more...cover expenses for members to attend.</p> <p>Beth stated chapters will be surveyed for what ideas they may have on how to proceed with Area-sponsored educational events.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- - -</p> <p>MOTION by Lynn Schwenker, seconded by Marianne Cooke to table the motion submitted by Kathy Custis. MOTION CARRIED.</p>

Request for Funds	<p>The Areas had each received \$1000 from the international treasury to be used for education. Beth received a request from The California Note Catchers chapter for funding an educational event, namely, bringing in a drum instructor to help them with rhythms.</p> <p>MOTION by Lynn Schwenker, seconded by Linda Berg to send money from Area Development to the California Note Catchers to support their request for education. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
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OLD BUSINESS

Director and Officer (D&O) Liability Insurance At the Chapter Level	The vote passed and will become effective with the 2011 international dues. The tally was 29 chapters in favor, 22 opposed, 11 abstaining. Two Area 4 chapters, Ohio Harmony and Derby City, did not count (either missed deadline or spoiled ballot).
Brainstorming Ideas for Area 4	Last fall, Beth requested ideas from the chapters on various subjects. Two chapters responded and the list of ideas submitted by the Village Vocal Chords was read on the October teleconference. No discussion on any item took place. The same list was again voiced at this March meeting.
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS	<<<<< >>>>>
Survey	<p>There soon will be an all-member survey (via blast email) sent from the Corporate Office regarding IC&C and education (structure, format).</p> <p>Chapter President, please encourage your members to update their email address and keep it current. See www.harmonyinc.org members only section.</p>
Youth Outreach	Harmony, Inc. has awarded each Area \$1000 to be used for youth outreach projects. Chapters conducting such events can apply for monies from this fund.
Image of Harmony Award	There are currently no nominees for the Image of Harmony Award, so Area Directors are asked to inform chapters to encourage (worthy) nominations. Contact Beth.

IC&C Garage Sale	(From the Annual Meeting of the IBOD) Area Directors are asking chapters if they wish to bring to IC&C items to sell for their own profit, e.g., old barbershop albums, costumes, etc. If interested, contact Beth.
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CHAPTER UPDATES:

California Note Catchers – 22 members; informal Wednesday morning practice for 2 hours; Singing Valentines program netted \$600

Covered Bridge Country Chorus – Disney show in fall; sang for Chamber of Commerce in Green Castle; Singing Valentines; Central Indiana Youth program (inner city or home schooled) combined efforts with SAI and BHS; competing at AC&C

Derby City Chorus – 17 members; not competing in June

Harmony Magic – Valentines Day at Camp Atterbury (for troops being deployed) sang in mess halls and around the camp; Singing Valentines back home; Carmel Farmers Market (baked goods fund raiser and membership promotion, \$600); part of the Central IN Youth Program; planning a show; goal setting for improving singing (4 weeks of PVI's on rehearsal night); mandatory testing on all repertoire to improve singing; hope to compete (if enough people)

Misty River Music Makers – many Christmas performances, luncheons; guest night (big write-up in newspaper) with 4 prospective members returning

Sound Celebration – Singing Christmas Card program (on phone) netted \$800; Find Your Voice campaign usage going well, and distributing the bookmarks in libraries and places women frequent; membership retention good and 6 brand new members; getting monthly coaching (one Monday per month) with a vocal coach, very helpful; planning October show (“Route 66”)

St. Louis Chordinals – no report

Village Vocal Chords – 30 members; May 15th show (That's Life); revamping committees and chapter team work; focus on membership recruitment; many Christmas performances including 2 hour-long concerts in churches (splitting the ticket sales between church and chorus), lucrative for both

Wolf River Harmony – 18 members; attending AC&C with a quartet competing; located 2 ½ hours west of Sound Celebration

Women In Harmony – no report

AC&C Rotation:

2010 - Sound Celebration

2011 - St. Louis Chordinals (ACJC Cookie in contact; Beth to meet with chapter in April)

2012 - Village Vocal Chords

2013 - Covered Bridge Country Chorus

2014 - Derby City Chorus

2015 - Misty River Music Makers

MOTION by Lynn Schwenker, seconded by Jodi Leach to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED (10:05 pm)

Jeanne O'Connor
Area 4 Secretary
April 2010