

AREA 4 SPRING COUNCIL MEETING

May 15, 2011

Area 4 Director, Beth Montgomery, welcomed participating Council Members to the teleconference (7:00 pm EST) as they phoned in. The meeting was officially called to order at 7:15 and roll was called with the following Council Members, Chapter President or Delegates, and Committee Chairmen present:

Beth Montgomery – Area 4 Director
Jeanne O'Connor – Area 4 Secretary
Lynn Randall – Education Chairman (from 7:00 to 7:20)
Marilyn Arana and Kathy Arana - 2011 AC&C Co-Chairmen, St. Louis Chordinals – (joined at 8:10 EST)

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

*California Note Catchers (San Diego, CA) – Outlying - Karen Hasman
Covered Bridge Country Chorus (Greencastle, IN) not represented
Derby City Chorus (Louisville, KY) – not represented
*Harmony Magic (Central Indiana) - Susan Spencer
Misty River Music Makers (Geneva, IL) – not represented
St. Louis Chordinals (St. Louis, MO) – not represented
*Sound Celebration (Plymouth, WI) - Mary Albright (joined call at 8:00 EST)
*Village Vocal Chords (Metro-Chicago, IL) - Lynn Schwenker
Wolf River Harmony (Shawano, WI) – not represented
*Women In Harmony – (Brandon, Manitoba, Canada) – Outlying - Sharon Brown

Copies of this meeting's Agenda, May Area Treasury Report, and paid Chapter dues report and Associate Member Area dues chart were distributed via email prior to the call/meeting.

Area Director Remarks	Beth welcomed all to the teleconference and extended a special hello to Karen and Sharon representing the Area 4 outlying chapters. Expressed thanks to the Council executive members for their efforts in serving the Area. Sorry she will not be at AC&C this year, due to a family function she must attend. She has asked Cookie Crews (ACJC) and "D" Dyer (International President attending as the IBOD Representative) to conduct the Area Meeting Friday morning, 11:00 to noon.
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	<p>Delighted to see that 11 quartets and 7 choruses will be competing at AC&C (more than in recent past).</p> <p>Minutes of the 2010 Area Council Meeting held October 17 were approved 12/6/10 by Council Members via email vote.</p> <p>The next Area Council Meeting will take place at Area Education Day in late summer.</p>
COMMITTEES	
<p>Treasury Reports & Financials</p> <p>Area 4 Dues</p>	<p>Monthly financial statements are being sent to all chapter Presidents, Secretaries and Council Members by Area Treasurer, Skip Sutton.</p> <p>*All chapters have paid the 2011 Area 4 dues (report sent).</p> <p>*The Associate Member dues report was updated with a couple of additional names noted as having paid since the report was forwarded.</p> <p>*Due April 1st annually.</p>
2010/2011 Budget (Final)	Beth reported when Skip returns from vacation, they will review this budget for finalizing and then forward it to the Council.
2011/2012 Budget (Proposed)	<p>Beth and Skip will review this proposed budget the week of May 23, then forward it to the Council by May 27.</p> <p>Considerations for this budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ASCAP fees for 2011 AC&C contests and website expenses have been paid - Must budget for the Area 4 Contest & Judging Chairman to attend Category Training School in February 2012 - Build in % increase for Area teleconferences - Determine if purchase Area 4 IC&C support ribbons - Build in scholarships to be offered for the International Education Symposium
Education	Education Chairman, Lynn Randall reported on the survey she conducted with the Area. Taking survey comments into consideration, educational events are being planned.

	<p><u>AC&C</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - offering 16 classes, grid to go out on website - Presidents roundtable - videotaping of classes being investigated (for outlying chapters) - Beth will send Area LCD projector with Kathy Custis <p><u>Area Education Day (AED) – 2 days</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - August 19, 20 (out-of-town guests arrive Thursday, Aug. 18) - St. Thomas Methodist Church, Glen Ellyn, IL - Friday noon to 7:00 pm, with gathering that night 7:00 to 9:00 - Saturday chorus and quartet coaching + classes continued - faculty to include Wendy McCoole, Katie Taylor, Sandi Wright, Gene Spilker (choreographer with BHS champs, Ambassadors of Harmony) - Area Council Meeting will be conducted Thursday evening - Budget to include application to Harmony Queens Travel Fund - Lynn will email the budget to Beth
Manuals	<p>Updates of the Area Manuals will be completed by Beth (line-by-line) and then forwarded to Manual Chairman, Peggi Meyer to be formatted.</p> <p>The updated AC&C Guide will be forwarded to the Village Vocal Chords in August.</p>
Membership	<p>The Area 4 Membership Award will be given at AC&C to one of 3 chapters eligible to win. The President of Sound Celebration, last year's award recipient, will present the award following the Chorus Contest.</p>
Find Your Voice	<p>Find Your Voice continues to be our membership theme – materials can be found on the website. All chapters are encouraged to use these materials in their chapter and Harmony, Inc. promotional endeavors.</p> <p>“D” Dyer will be doing a class at AC&C on how to print out materials from the website.</p>

Website	(Beth) Melanie is doing an “awesome” job. She’s revising the site, with planned completion of updates by November 2011.
Ways & Means	Chairman Kathy Wylie was not on the call, but it was noted she may repeat sale of musical socks again for Area revenue. (No other ways known to raise revenue at this time.)

OLD BUSINESS

Brainstorming	<p>In response to a request from the Area Director for brainstorming ideas on Area 4 and IC&C, the Village Vocal Chords submitted (October 2009) a list of ideas. Beth discussed the ideas with the Area Directors (at the IBOD Mid-Year Meeting May 5-8). She will revisit the ideas after trying some to see what other Area Directors are doing.</p> <p>Beth encouraged the Council members to discuss with their chapters the possibility of joint coaching with nearby chapters.</p>
Youth Outreach	Chapters are encouraged to apply for monies available for youth events. The Area has \$1000 designated for such events in 2011.
Area Development	Chapters are encouraged to submit to the Area Director ideas for Area development (new chapter growth). Each Area has \$1000 available to apply to such endeavors.
Image of Harmony Award	(See May E-Note). Nominations for this international quartet service award should be sent to the Area Director.
2011 AC&C Update	<p>Co-Chairman, Kathy Arana and Marilyn Arana reported;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contestants’ order of appearance and schedule of events will be published on the Area 4 website - deadline for program booklet ads (return to Stephanie) is May 20 - U4X is mic testing - no education class information has been received yet, but will be posted on the website upon receipt

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International President will conduct a round table discussion - Harmony resources being shipped for sale at AC&C
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NEW BUSINESS

<p>IBOD Mid-Year Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Harmony’s website is being revised – some color schemes changed, etc. Should be available to the membership in a week. Wendy McCoolle will maintain the site and train Carolyn Pellow and Chris Hembel on posting to the website. - The Board continued brainstorming with 3 action teams on Chapter Strengthening, Membership and Brand Recognition. Some of the ideas included: (Chapter Strengthening) A “tool kit” of ideas and documentation, including a “healthy chapter” checklist, is being created to assist members on reporting how they think their chapters are doing in the areas of music, administration, performance, contest, community involvement, etc. (Membership) A committee is creating entry and exit surveys which will be posted on the website. Harmony must retain its current members, as well as get new. (Brand Recognition) Find Your Voice materials most helpful in promotion, getting our name out. New icon being put on FYV materials and business cards.
<p>New Area 4 Director (November)</p>	<p>Betty Gunterman has been elected (by acclamation) Area 4 Director. Her two-year term will begin at the conclusion of Beth’s current term, following the November Annual Meeting of the International Board of Directors.</p>
<p>2012 AC&C</p>	<p>AC&C Chairman, Betty Gunterman is meeting with the Village Vocal Chords Steering Committee members to discuss preliminary preparations for the June 7-10, 2011 event. A proposed budget will be available for the next Council meeting.</p>
<p>AC&C Rotation</p>	<p>2011 – St. Louis Chordinals 2012 – Village Vocal Chords 2013 – Covered Bridge Country Chorus 2014 – Derby City Chorus 2015 – Misty River Music Makers</p> <p>Beth will contact Wolf River Harmony re adding to the rotation schedule.</p>

Adjournment	<p>At 8:20 the teleconference was officially adjourned.</p> <p>Beth requested VVC participants, Jeanne O'Connor and Lynn Schwenker to please leave the call so the remaining Council Members could discuss a subject unknown to this Council Secretary.</p>
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CHAPTER UPDATES

CALIFORNIA NOTE CATCHERS – (Karen Hasman) 22 members. Had a Mother's Day performance (mother/daughter luncheon); planning holiday show Sunday, Sept. 11th, first time having Queens quartet (Change of Heart), applying to Harmony Queens Travel Fund for financial assistance.

COVERED BRIDGE COUNTRY CHORUS – (Beth Montgomery reported) 25 members. Sept. 24th show, "Beatels, Beach Boys & Bee Gees;" Preparing for competing at AC&C.

DERBY CITY CHORUS – (Beth reported) 14 members. Not competing this year; doing some community involvement; The Twilights and Topaz quartets will be competing at AC&C; Alan directing part time.

HARMONY MAGIC – (Susan Spencer) 13 members. Lost 7, gained 2; preparing for AC&C; doing joint Christmas show in December with CCC as "sister choruses," one night in Greencastle, one in Indy Area; working on increasing membership.

MISTY RIVER MUSIC MAKERS – (Beth reporting) 20 members. Chorus and two quartets competing at AC&C.

SOUND CELEBRATION – (Mary Albright) 19 members (down from 22). 44th Annual Show Oct. 15, "Recipe For Harmony" cooking theme; coaching regularly; using FYV materials in January, gained 1 new & 1 prospective member; send-off performance before AC&C coming up May 31. Recommend choruses invite ladies to join in singing with the chorus for holiday performances - the brief commitment with familiar music may "hook" them.

ST. LOUIS CHORDINALS – (Kathy Arana and Marilyn Arana) 27 members. Hosting AC&C, busy planning; spring program netted 3 potential new members; ads in local newspapers, craft fair in early spring brought interested people; planning fourth Sept "trivia night" fund raiser, sell tables of 8-10, plan questions on various subjects, e.g., history, TV, different categories - winning group gets \$ prize, raffle baskets – like Trivial Pursuit.

VILLAGE VOCAL CHORDS – (Lynn Schwenker) 31 members. 3 new members; celebrating 50th Anniversary all year with various events; beautiful installation banquet in

April, received letters from community, Illinois Governor, various dignitaries; Oct. 15 show (bringing back old costumes, revisiting some repertoire); Retreat in September; hosting 2012 AC&C.

WOLF RIVER HARMONY – (Beth reported) 18 members. Competing, late entry, singing first.

WOMEN IN HARMONY - 25 members. Preparing for Oct. 15 show, “Musical Antique Road Show”; coached with an coach SAI last week; still support Autism.

Area 4 Membership: 10 chapters

Total Area Membership: 242 – (218 Chapter Members, 24 Associate Members)

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne O'Connor
Area 4 Secretary