

## BELLEVILLE BOARD MEETING MINUTES of March 16, 2026

**I. President Bill Rathmann** called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the Union United Methodist Church in Belleville. Attending the meeting were President Rathmann; Chapter Development VP Don Koch; Music & Performance VP Paul Schulte; Marketing & PR VP Chuck Cook; Program VP Steve Martin; Secretary Jim Morgan; Treasurer Tom Cunningham and Board Members at-Large Steve Hand and Bill Heine  
Absent: Immediate Past President Mike Dohogne. Guest David Koch also attended.

**II. Additions to agenda:** With no additions to the agenda offered, a motion was made by Steve Martin, seconded by Paul Schulte, to approve the agenda.

**III. Secretary's Report:** Secretary Morgan sent the February 9 minutes to the Board by email and stated that he had not received any notification of any errors in last month's minutes. President Rathmann said that there were grammatical errors, but nothing too major. Schulte made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected, seconded by Martin. Passed.

**IV. President's Report:** Rathmann read a list of March to-dos to the board:

- 1) Attend District House of Delegates meeting; Rathmann and Morgan will attend this meeting on Friday, March 20, 2026.
- 2) Confirm the Chapter's incorporation status with State of IL. Treasurer Cunningham believes he took care of this and is going to confirm, then report back to the Board. Cunningham believes that a check and a form must be mailed in to report our status. We are also supposed to report this status to the Barbershop Harmony Society through the Member Center.
- 3) Confirm the status of the Registered Agent for the Chapter. According to Standard Chapter Bylaws, the required Chapter officers would include the President, Secretary and Treasurer.

**V: Treasurer's Report:** Cunningham distributed his report for February 2026 to the Board.  
Beginning balance: \$14,509.31. Ending balance: \$13, 601. 61.

A discrepancy was discovered on final totals for Singing Valentines. Martin was able to locate the discrepancy and Cunningham agreed to correct it. Cunningham believes we made about \$1,000 net this year on Singing Valentines.

Motion was made by Hand, seconded by Cook to receive the Treasurer's report. Passed.

President Rathmann reminded Cunningham to verify that the signature cards were up-to-date at the bank. Cunningham agreed to verify this and report back to the Board.

President Rathmann asked that Cunningham confirm he had submitted the 2025 1099 forms. Cunningham confirmed that he had mailed one to LINC 182 (2025 Guest Quartet) and said that a 1099 should also be sent to Doug Brooks.

## VI. Vice-Presidents' Reports

**A. Chapter Development:** Koch reported that Gay Michael has decided to retire due to health concerns. Michael's Restaurant will close the weekend of March 28, 2026. Koch thought it would be nice to have a get-together at the restaurant on Saturday, March 21 to thank Gay for his previous hospitality and kindness. After a brief discussion, the Board decided to present this opportunity at rehearsal tomorrow night and gauge the members' availability/interest in this event.

**B. Program VP:** Martin reported that he is brainstorming ideas for various activities to hold after the break at rehearsal (e.g. tag singing, quarteting chorus songs). President Rathmann added that the latter would help the chorus learn new songs more quickly and also reinforce current repertoire songs.

**C. Marketing and PR VP:** Cook reminded the Board that he was given show program ad materials for the Bloomington, IL Chapter Show by Mike Dohogne at last month's Board meeting. He said the only ad size that was worth doing in our price range was \$130 for a quarter-page ad. He wanted to get the Board's feeling on what we would gain from purchasing an ad in their program. A motion was made by Cook, seconded by Koch, to buy a quarter-page ad in the Bloomington show program for \$130. Motion Failed.

**D. Music & Performance VP:** Schulte has a tentative date of June 6 set for the show at Breese Central High School. He sent a song list to Doug Brooks for approval. Schulte was hoping to get a response by tomorrow.

South of Normal Quartet has agreed to be our Feature Quartet for the 2026 Spring show. Their talent fee would be \$800, not including travel & lodging expenses. Schulte made a motion to hire South of Normal for their \$800 talent fee, plus expenses (TBD), for this year's show, seconded by Cunningham. Passed. Expenses will be voted on at a later date.

Schulte is researching a location for the Afterglow before deciding on lodging for the guest quartet. Other details that were discussed at the Board meeting still need to be finalized. Donations to the school and/or another charity will also be discussed at a later date.

## VII. Committee Reports

**A. Sunshine:** President Rathmann reminded everyone to contact Jim Bostick in the event of any chorus members' illness or hospitalization.

Koch sent Bostick an email regarding guest Dale Thole's farming accident. Gay Michael will receive a card from the Chapter regarding his upcoming medical procedures. The Chapter also sent a card and flowers to Pat Flynn. Unfortunately, Flynn did not receive them, because they were delivered after he left the hospital.

**B. YIH:** Rathmann will develop a form letter for local high schools & colleges, inviting them to experience barbershop harmony with SOH. He asked Board members to provide him with the name of a school or college/university and a contact number, and he will do the rest.

**C. Parades:** Hand initially said that there was nothing to report. Board Members then asked about parades that were coming up. President Rathmann recommended that Hand sign us up for everything he can, because this is good exposure for the Chapter and the chorus. The Chapter can also decide which ones to participate in based on our schedule. The Board agreed that sponsorship was the best way to go to cover our parade fee, if parade organizers lack funds to cover our fee.

**D. Fundraising:** Cook provided a summary of the expenses and income for the 2026 Singing Valentines program. He said that three credit cards needed to still be charged because of some missing information in the initial purchase of the SV. Print ads have all been paid. Cook still needs to pay for the radio ads, but said the station was not in a rush to be paid.

**E. Uniforms:** Morgan sent an email to members regarding Chapter insurance. His research indicated that the Chapter has liability insurance, but property is not covered under any insurance policy paid for by BHS. The Chapter's float is covered under the vehicle liability policy of the person pulling the float.

Martin is still looking into a possible different chorus costume for the Illinois District Contest this fall.

**VIII. Communications:** Rathmann received two forms of communication:

1) An email from Bob Cearnal wanting the Chapter to pay for his ILL District (\$45) and Chapter dues (\$20). Society rules allow another individual to pay a member's dues, but the Chapter is not allowed to do that.

2) Rockford's Second City Chorus sent all the chapters an invitation to a possible jamboree-type event they are hosting in June 2026. Sounds like a lot of fun, but a bit impractical for our chapter (little bit of a drive).

**IX. Unfinished Business**

A. Rathmann and Morgan plan to attend the Spring Illinois District House of Delegates meeting on Friday, March 20 in Bloomington, IL. They asked that anyone having an issue for discussion there please let one or both of them know.

B. Rathmann passed out a document that Rodney Mehlberg created with ideas that he has to help grow the Chapter membership throughout the year. Board members were asked to look it over and determine if any items warranted further discussion at future Board meetings.

C: A brief discussion was held about the possible sale of Don Koch's pick-up truck (used to pull the float in parades) at his estate sale on May 16. Both Rathmann and Hand already have vehicles that can pull the float.

**X. New Business**

A: Morgan proposed several dates for the SOH to perform the National Anthem at Gateway Grizzlies games during their 2026 season. The Board decided that Saturday, July 25 and Saturday, September 5 will work best with our schedule. Morgan will contact the Grizzlies to see if those dates are still available.

B: President Rathmann would like to form a 2026 budget committee. The committee would be responsible for categorizing different expenditures throughout the year so our Treasurer can properly record these items. Cunningham will Chair, with Cook and Martin also serving on the committee. Schulte will provide them with a budget for the annual show.

**XI. Next Meeting Date:** Monday, April 13, 2026.

Motion to adjourn by Hand, seconded by Martin at 8:20. Passed.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Jim Morgan, Secretary