

SOUNDS OF HARMONY BOARD MEETING MINUTES of February 9, 2026

I. President Bill Rathmann called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Union United Methodist Church in Belleville. Attending the meeting were President Bill 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; Immediate Past President Mike Dohogne and Board Member at-Large Bill Heine. Absent: Board Member at Large Steve Hand. Guest David Koch also attended.

II. Additions to Agenda: Dohogne added topic of possible ad placement in the Bloomington Chapter Spring Show program and Martin added topic of Singing Valentines for Veterans. Schulte moved to accept the agenda. Seconded by Jim Morgan. Passed.

III. Secretary's Report: Morgan emailed the January 5, 2026, minutes to the board. He also stated that he went through the minutes with a fine-tooth comb to find as many grammatical errors as possible. Schulte stated that there were fewer extraneous commas present in the rough draft of the minutes. Martin motioned to accept the minutes as corrected. Seconded by Schulte. Passed.

Secretary Morgan indicated that he had attended the 90-minute Illinois District Leadership Training for chapter secretaries on January 10 via Zoom. Most of the class was a refresher course for him. Morgan noted to the class that the Chorus Manager is one of three positions who can register a chorus for contest. He also learned not to include anything in the board meeting minutes that did not occur at the meeting.

IV. Treasurer's Report: Cunningham distributed his report for January 2026 to the board. Beginning balance: \$14,444.35. He indicated that there was not much financial activity for the month. Projected expenses were \$180.00 to Doug Brooks for January, Liability insurance payment to BHS of \$637.00, and \$310.00 for 2025 ASCAP fee. Ending balance: \$13,382.31.

Cunningham provided an updated financial report for the 2025 Christmas Show at Breese Central High School. He had previously included a \$200 deposit not related to the Christmas show. After corrections, his report indicated:

Total income: \$4,934.00

Total expenses \$1,139.80

Net Profit: \$3,794.00

Motion by Schulte, seconded by Steve Martin to donate a total of \$1,000.00 of Christmas show profits to Breese Central High School, with \$500 to the Music Program and \$500 to the school's Student Council. Passed.

A brief discussion was held about insurance for the chapter's property in the storage shed at Koch Farms. Rathmann and Morgan will investigate this and report back to the board at our next meeting.

President Rathmann also reminded Cunningham that the 1099 tax form for the chapter was due by the end of the month. He can upload and submit this form to BHS through the Member Center. Cunningham indicated that he still needed to send a 1099 form to our 2025 spring show feature quartet LINC 182.

Motion was made by Steve Martin, seconded by Paul Schulte to receive the Treasurer's report. Passed.

V. Vice-Presidents' Reports

A. Chapter Development – Don Koch: Koch suggested having a guest night, possibly in Mascoutah, IL. The board felt that this event should best be held somewhere like a church fellowship hall. The event would ideally be held on a Tuesday night and contain as much singing from the chorus and quartets as possible. Light snacks may also be served. Would be best if it could be held where we can use our risers. The gym at Union United Methodist Church is available occasionally, but not every Tuesday, because another organization uses it then. Koch was tasked with finding a suitable date and location with assistance from other board/chapter members.

Motion was made by Martin, seconded by Morgan to reimburse Koch \$80 for Installation Banquet meals for Kevin and Ann Keller.

B. Program VP – Steve Martin: Martin said that we have two quartets delivering singing Valentines on Friday, February 13, and one on Saturday. He plans to have these quartets sing during rehearsal Tuesday night. He also plans to have more programming at rehearsal after the Singing Valentines program ends.

C. Marketing and PR VP – Chuck Cook: Cook distributed a rough draft of his schedule for Singing Valentines quartets. He stated that he had been sending/receiving emails all day trying to finalize different details for the Singing Valentines program. Cook asked the board to check the schedule to see if any corrections needed to be made. Any last-minute details will be discussed during Tuesday night's rehearsal.

D. Music and Performance VP – Paul Schulte: A tentative show date of June 6 has been set at Breese Central High School. He is checking with South of Normal quartet to determine their availability to be our Feature Quartet for the evening. Afterglow will have to be held at a different location (no booze on school property). Other show details will be discussed and finalized later.

The Music Team has chosen "Nobody Knows What A Red-head Mama Can Do" and "Try A Little Tenderness" as our 2026 contest songs. Learning tracks and sheet music for both songs will be posted on the website in about a week. Schulte relayed Doug's request that chorus members spend a great deal of time on their contest/repertoire songs prior to rehearsal to be better prepared for rehearsals on Tuesday night.

VI. Committee Reports

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

Morgan contacted Jim Bostick about sending a card and flowers to Steve Hand's home following his recent hospitalization for a heart attack.

B. YIH – Rathmann is hoping to get more vocal music students involved from the Music program at Breese and the other surrounding high schools, since our June 6 show will be held at Breese High School.

C. Parades – No report at this time.

D. Fundraising – See Marketing & PR report above for details on Singing Valentines program.

E. Uniforms – Construction of the new shed at the Koch Farm is complete. The heat is currently set at 65°. Thanks to Don Koch, Steve Hand and Bill Rathmann for moving the uniforms into the shed and organizing them. There is a spare rack for storing any other items. Koch has also cleared all of his items out of that shed, so the only items in the shed belong to the chapter.

VII. Communications

Rathmann received an invitation from Rockford's Second City Chorus about a possible jamboree type event that they are hosting in June 2026. Sounds like a lot of fun, but a little bit impractical for us (Long drive).

VIII. Unfinished Business

A. Rathmann and Morgan plan to attend the Spring Illinois District House of Delegates meeting in Bloomington on Friday, March 20. If anyone has any topics they would like to have them bring up, please let them know.

B. A brief discussion was held on whether to investigate moving our rehearsals back to Parkview Church of the Nazarene in Fairview Heights. Rathmann will contact them to see if this would be a possibility.

IX. New Business

A. Rathmann distributed a document from Rodney Mehlberg with some month-by-month ideas for the chapter to try that might help grow membership throughout the year. The board was asked to look it over and determine if any items warranted further discussion at future board meetings.

B. Martin made a motion, seconded by Paul Schulte, to reimburse Ryan Latinette \$120 for the Zoom Membership dues. Passed.

C. President Rathmann wanted to make sure that we had a back up plan for the treasurer duties while Tom Cunningham goes through a medical procedure for eight weeks. Tom believed he could still fulfill his duties, but Bill agreed to help him out if he needed him to i.e. write checks. Tom will let Bill or Dave Howe know of any assistance needed.

D. Dohogne (Newly elected VP of the St. Louis Area Council) is looking for a list of alternates who could attend Council meetings. Morgan and Cunningham have attended in the past as alternates for Belleville when Rathmann has been unable to attend.

E. Martin would like to brainstorm with several other board/chapter members about the possibility of changing our contest outfit for the District Chorus contest. Schulte suggested coming up with a theme that both songs have in common. Sandi Wright offered to provide some presentation ideas.

X. Next Meeting Date: Monday, March 16, 2026, at 7 pm.

Motion to adjourn by Chuck Cook, seconded by Steve Martin. Passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Jim Morgan
Belleville Chapter Secretary