

Belleville Illinois Chapter (E005) BOARD MEETING MINUTES of July 20, 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, Music & Performance VP Paul Schulte, Marketing & PR VP Chuck Cook, Secretary Jim Morgan, Treasurer Tom Cunningham, Program VP Steve Martin; Chapter Development VP Larry Dohogne, Immediate Past President Mike Dohogne and Board Members at-Large Steve Hand and Bill Heine.

II. Additions to the Agenda

President Rathmann added Grant Application under New Business.

A motion was made by Steve Martin and seconded by Steve Hand to approve the agenda. Passed.

III. Secretary's Report: Secretary Morgan sent the July 20 minutes to the board by email. The board made several corrections and minor grammatical changes to these minutes:

- Treasurer Cunningham noted that he had paid Doug Brooks \$300 in director's fees instead of the \$200 noted in the June minutes. This is an overpayment of \$60 which he will correct in next month's director's fee payment.
- In the Marketing & PR Report, Schulte noted that Cook did not go to the sponsors to collect their payments for sponsorship, but instead collected receipts to give to Treasurer Cunningham.

A motion was made by Schulte, seconded by Larry Dohogne to accept the minutes as corrected. Passed.

Cunningham has received the signed 2025 Financial Review from Dave Howe and Dave Fellwock. He will scan it and upload into the BHS Member Center tomorrow.

Secretary Morgan had expressed an interest to President Rathmann in possibly purchasing a 'Fieldy AI' device to automatically record and transcribe monthly board meeting minutes. This device also apparently will identify the person speaking in the transcription. President Rathmann said that he had purchased one for his own personal use and that it was currently being shipped to him. He will give the board an update on whether this device might be suitable for board meeting minutes transcription.

IV. Treasurer's Report: Cunningham distributed his June 2026 report to the board. Beginning balance: \$13,108.50. Ending balance June 2026: \$12,145.07.

The chapter received a \$300 donation for their participation in the New Athens June Jamboree parade. We also received \$60 in 2026 show income.

We had expenditures of director's fees of \$120.00 for June 2026. Cunningham said that we were up-to-date in payments to Doug Brooks. He indicated that it was a very busy month for expenditures.

Schulte asked for a detailed financial report from the 2026 Spring show. Cunningham said he would work on this report and get it to the board in the next few days.

Motion was made by Mike Dohogne, seconded by Martin to receive the treasurer's report. Passed.

V. Vice-Presidents' Reports

A. Chapter Development: Larry Dohogne gave the board a presentation to consider using Choir Genius software as an alternative to the Members section on our website. The cost would be \$22 a month or \$264 a year. The other option is to pay monthly at \$33 a month. One advantage to the use of the software is the ability to keep track of who attends rehearsals/performances. The board was encouraged to look at the demo on choirgenius.com to gain further information. There is also a mobile app that can be used with the product

and a 30-day free trial is available. The board agreed to have continued discussions on whether to purchase Choir Genius and implement its features for the chapter.

A brief discussion was held about the health and sustainability of the chapter. The board continues to look for more opportunities throughout the community to perform and potentially grow the chapter in membership.

B. Program VP: Martin has begun to implement more tag singing after the break. He plans to re-introduce some of the Pole Cat songs during this time. The board was also very enthused at the impromptu quarteting being done as a way to work on our repertoire songs. He asked that the board members let him know if they have any other ideas.

Martin also offered to assist Morgan in contacting ILL District President Ben Dirks to ask that our appearance in the District contest be as late as possible in the program.

C. Marketing & PR VP: Cook proposed purchasing an ad in the program for the 2026 Illinois District Fall Convention. It was mentioned that this expenditure supports the district and also gets our rehearsal information out to anyone who might be in the area.

A motion was made by Schulte, seconded by Larry Dohogne to approve up to \$80 for the purchase of an ad. Passed.

D. Music & Performance VP: Schulte reminded the board of our intention to compete in the 2026 District Chorus Contest on Saturday, September 26. Contest package will be “Try A Little Tenderness” and “Nobody Knows What A Red-Head Mama Can Do.” Chorus will wear the tux outfit with the purple vest & tie combo.

Coaching with Rick Knight & Peggy Leon will be on Tuesday, August 11 and September 8 in the gym at UUM Church.

Mike Dohogne brought up the possibility of having AOH member Max Sabor coach SOH. Max is a candidate Performance Judge. Schulte stated that the Music Team is still discussing this and that no firm date or arrangements have been set.

A Christmas Show date has been confirmed for Saturday, December 5, at Saint Boniface Church in Germantown. More details to follow.

Our annual Christmas performance at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows has been confirmed for Tuesday, December 15 at 7 PM.

There is a possible \$500 paid chorus performance on Tuesday, December 8, at Saint Augustine’s Church in the sanctuary. Gerry Bach was tasked by the Music Team to get more details about this possible performance and report back to the Music Team. More details follow.

A new Christmas song, “Happy Holiday/It’s The Holiday Season” has been introduced to the Chorus. In order for us to have permission to perform this song, the three surviving members of the arranger’s quartet have asked that we make a \$50 donation to the Harmony Foundation in the arranger’s name.

Schulte made a motion, seconded by Larry Dohogne to make a \$50 donation to the Harmony Foundation. Passed.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Sunshine: President Rathmann reminded everyone to contact him in the event of any chorus member’s illness or hospitalization.

B. YIH: Larry Dohogne. No report at this time.

C. Parades: Hand said we have the Centralia Halloween parade on Saturday, October 31. We also have a possible parade in Okawville - The Wheat Festival Parade on Sunday, September 13.

Hand added that we need to replace some of the banners for the float.

D. Fundraising: Cook and Rathmann: No report at this time, but they are open to suggestions. Hand mentioned that there was a box of notepads that Don Koch had made up that can be used to pass out for parades and fundraising opportunities.

E. Uniforms: No report at this time. Some discussion about moving some of our property from the rehearsal hall and Cook's basement (e.g.: Bill stock's barbershop memorabilia) to the shed at Koch Farms.

A discussion ensued about quantity of uniforms we have in storage. We have at least a dozen vest/tie combo sets, a quantity of blue short-sleeve polo shirts, and long sleeve shirts. We will most likely have to go to another supplier if we need more long-sleeve shirts because the old one is most likely out of business.

A brief discussion was held about getting a good clean digital copy of the chorus's logo. President Rathmann will get this to Schulte and Cook.

Communications: None received.

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Budget committee: The committee will meet Monday, July 21 at 6 PM at the rehearsal hall (Rathmann, Cunningham, Cook & Martin).

B. Insurance for Property: Discussion is still ongoing. Hand checked into one insurance company and was told that most insurance companies would not cover just misc. property. We most likely would have to go with a smaller type insurance policy.

C. Central High School & Special Olympics Donation: We do not yet have the figures needed to make a determination on the amount. This item was tabled until next month.

VIII. New Business

A. President Rathmann received information from the Harmony foundation about \$5,000 grants that can be awarded to a chapter for a specific function or purpose. A grant recipient must have the ability to have someone match that \$5,000 amount for a total of \$10,000. The board came up with several ideas that we might be able to use the money for, if received. Rathmann said he would have more information at next month's meeting and so the item was tabled.

IX. Next Meeting Date: Monday, August 17, 7 PM at Union United Methodist Church in Belleville.

Motion to adjourn by Hand, seconded by Cook at 8:22 PM. Passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Morgan

Secretary, Belleville, Illinois Chapter (E005)