Barbershop Harmony Society
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Meeting: September Board of Directors Meeting
Format: Virtual
Date: September 20, 2026
Presiding: Kevin Keller
Quorum: Confirmed
Attendees:

- Dwayne Cooper
- Erin Harris
- Jeff Wolff
- John Santora
- Kevin Keller
- Larry Bomback
- Sue Melvin
- Ted Byers
- Tim Myers
- Zachary Materne
- Terry Reynolds
- Jason Thompson
- Robert Rund
- Joe Cerutti
- Devin Bradford

Meeting Summary

1. Call to Order and Prior Minutes

Kevin Keller called the meeting to order after confirming a quorum. Tim Myers presented the minutes from the public and combined Sunday–Monday Board meetings held in St. Louis. No questions or corrections were raised.

Vote: The Board approved the St. Louis public and executive-session minutes without opposition. The transcript appears to attribute the motion to John, although the speaker labeling is inconsistent. No seconder was identified, and no dissenters were recorded.

2. Leadership Transition and Year-End Priorities

Kevin Keller reported that the presidential transition to Zachary Materne was substantially complete, with only limited administrative matters remaining. The Board discussed the expected January transition of the Immediate Past President role and the need for bylaw clarification regarding how that vacancy is filled. Developing the Board's philanthropic leadership role was identified as a significant future priority.

3. Building Sale Update

Jeff Wolff reported that the headquarters sale remained under contract for and was progressing toward closing. The buyer had made substantial nonrefundable and project-specific

commitments. An easement matter involving the neighboring Holston House prompted three optional 30-day extensions, each requiring a payment to BHS that does not reduce the purchase price. The first extension had been exercised. Management anticipated that all extensions might be used, potentially moving closing to approximately January 2027, followed by a 60-day move-out period. No material threat to the transaction was identified.

4. Board Training and Strategic Direction

Jeff Wolff outlined onboarding materials and individual orientation meetings for incoming Board members Bari and Ted. The full Board may also be invited to review the training document.

Robert Rund presented the Strategic Planning Committee's emerging three-pillar framework: reaching more people; strengthening belonging and community; and building sustainable financial capacity. Metrics and definitions remain under development. A fuller document will be shared in Basecamp, refined through the fall, and targeted for Board approval at the midwinter meeting. Discussion included measurement baselines, chapter health, district and chapter relationships, member education, and possible regional and alternating-year Harmony University models.

5. Governance and Board Development

Zachary Materne described a shift from reactive to proactive governance. The Board will examine its responsibilities, composition, skills, leadership pipeline, committee structure, stewardship role, governing documents, and operating manual through the lens of the three strategic pillars. The work will emphasize generational leadership development, mentorship, continuity, diversity of perspective, and stronger alignment with operational needs. The Leadership Development Committee and the Governance and Bylaws Committee will be central to this process. The November Nashville meeting will serve as a working session, with an initial governance charge targeted for midwinter.

6. Fall Convention and Philanthropy Update

Joe Cerutti asked Board members attending fall district conventions to actively support staff representatives, help staff engage members, and serve as ambassadors for the Ring True campaign. The campaign had raised just under one-third of its $300,000 challenge at the time of the meeting. BHS aims for 50% member participation in direct giving by the end of 2028. A chapter- and district-based year-end campaign is planned following the fall conventions.

7. November Meeting Logistics

The November Board working session will be held at the airport Hilton in Nashville. Participants should arrive by approximately 6:00 p.m. Friday, November 6, for dinner at 7:00 p.m. The Board will work throughout Saturday, with departures planned for Sunday morning. Administrative details and meal selections will be distributed separately.

Action Items

- Tim Myers/Devin Bradford: Post the approved St. Louis minutes to the website.
- Zach Materne: Clarify the bylaw process for filling the Immediate Past President role.
- Jeff Wolff: Finalize and distribute Board training materials; meet individually with incoming Board members before the next meeting.
- Robert Rund/Strategic Planning Committee: Share the detailed strategic plan materials in Basecamp and refine proposed metrics for midwinter approval.
- Board members: Use fall conventions for strategic listening, identify potential future leaders, and support staff and the Ring True campaign.
- Devin Bradford: Survey Board attendance at fall conventions, coordinate Board/staff alignment, and distribute November meeting logistics and meal selections.
- Governance and leadership committees: Prepare governance, Board-structure, and operating-manual topics for the November working session.

Votes Taken

Approval of St. Louis meeting minutes: Motion attributed in the discussion to John Santora. Motion carried with no opposition and no recorded dissenters.

Adjournment