

Minutes of the meeting of the House of Delegates of the Pioneer District of SPEBSQSA, Inc. held on April 22, 2016, in the Thornapple Room of the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, MI

1. Call to Order:

District President Mike Hansen called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m. He asked Chris Berry, District Director of Chorus Director Development, to lead everyone in the singing of "The Old Songs".

Mike introduced himself as the incoming Pioneer District president. He is succeeding Dan Bezaire in that role. He noted that there were two Society guests present who will be introduced later.

2. Agenda:

Mike Hansen had passed out copies of a proposed agenda which was also distributed electronically. He entertained a motion for adoption of the agenda. The District Secretary asked delegates to give their name and chapter whenever they move or second any action. Dan Bezaire (Windsor) moved that the agenda be adopted. Ed Bax (Rochester) offered the second. **Motion approved.**

3. Quorum:

District Secretary Jim McMahan determined that a quorum (30% of authorized delegates) was present. **[NOTE: The sign-in sheets were attached to the original copy of these minutes.]**

6. Minutes of the two previous meetings (out of order in agenda):

Mike Hansen indicated that minutes from the HOD meeting of October 16, 2015, had been distributed electronically. The secretary pointed out that two sets of minutes were actually submitted. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of April 24, 2015, was inadvertently missed at the last HOD meeting. Both sets needed approval.

Mike asked for a motion of approval. Dave Montera (DOC) made the motion, and it was seconded by Doran McTaggart (Windsor). **Motion approved.**

7. Treasurer's Report (out of order in agenda):

Mike called upon the new, but returning District Treasurer Robb Smith to give his report. Robb had placed documents for the delegates to pick up upon entering. Although he left a note on the pile saying "one per chapter", he felt there were enough for everyone to have one. He admitted he would have preferred to have sent out the documents by e-mail.

The documents that he distributed were: (1), a Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2015; (2), a Profit & Loss statement for January through December of 2015; (3), a Profit & Loss Statement for January through March of 2016; and (4), a history of budgets from 2011 through 2015 and a Projected Budget for 2016.

Robb informed the delegates that they should go through his reports and refer any questions to him later. He noted that the last six pages (item 4) would normally be what he would create as a budget. However, he is still working on the records because of a change in the format back to a mini-income statement about each event. He was not sure if he had everything in the right place.

He had announced at the BOD meeting that morning that he will have a budget developed for electronic approval by the board within 30-45 days. It was clarified that the document does not need approval by the HOD, so it will be sent out subsequently as an informational document.

Robb pointed out that the net income on the budget history document will not agree with the financial statement. He had moved some numbers around on the latter document after the first one was printed.

Robb cited plans by board members to develop budgets for their activities. This info will be used as input for his document.

7. Treasurer's Report (out of order in agenda) (cont):

On the Balance Sheet (item 1), it was noted that the Flagstar accounts have been terminated. Part of the reason for this action was a requirement by Flagstar that all of the account signatories gather in one location in order to change the names listed. Therefore, the accounts were closed and transferred to Citizens.

Finally, Robb reported that he will be opening an on-line savings account that will offer a higher interest rate. The current account only pays 0.01%. The new one offers 0.9%.

4. Memorial for deceased members (return to agenda):

Mike Hansen realized that he had skipped some items in the agenda, so he returned to it.

Paul Ellinger, District Director for Membership, led a memorial service to honor members who had passed away since the last HOD meeting. He began the ceremony with the traditional reading of "Passing of the Bar" by Alfred Lord Tennyson. Then he listed District members who were now known to have joined the "Chapter Eternal":

Lee Hanson (Frank Thorne chapter)
 Byron Hatch (Benton Harbor/St. Joseph chapter)
 Chuck Jewell (Traverse City)
 Leon Waldman (Gaylord chapter)
 Bill Hayner (Lansing chapter)
 Walter Williams (old Oakland County chapter)
 Bob Fox (Lansing chapter)
 Daniel LaBumbard (old Jackson chapter)
 Bob Tollas (old Boyne City chapter)
 Harry Jessop (old Oakland County chapter, and DOC chapter)
 Chuck Wilson (Kalamazoo chapter)

Paul concluded the ceremony by quoting a poem written by Linda Jo Jackson entitled "I'm Free". He noted that these eleven members would no longer be on the risers with us. Their voices are silenced. They are friends remembered for the part they played in the history of their chapters and the District. May they sing chords on high, and may their friends and family remember the joy and happiness that barbershop singing brought to their lives!

5. Harmony Foundation Representative Report (return to agenda):

Mike Hansen proceeded to introduce J.J. Hawkins, who was serving as the representative for the Harmony Foundation on this occasion.

J.J. indicated he was going to describe the "Every Voice Matters" campaign, and provide insight on why it has been created and how members can assist. He observed that it is often felt that a single person or action will not make a difference in the world. However, he declared that individual donors to H/F have created a family of 4000+ voices, and have funded 12 years of life-changing programs.

Inherently, everyone understands that every voice does matter. He felt that we have dreamt of the day when all who wish to experience the joy of singing would have the resources to do so. J.J. suggested "that day is here". But the desire to sing is outpacing what barbershop supporters can provide. Consequently, H/F is doing what it must to partner with leaders who have a bold vision and dream to add an additional \$500,000 of funding for 2016.

It is an aggressive goal. Nevertheless, the fate of our schools and our society deserves bold action. J.J. said he was seeking leadership from Society members.

J.J. felt that we know, as barbershoppers, that music is essential to cognitive and social development. Scientific research is validating that fact daily. However, we still see loss of singing in educational systems and in communities. One out of every four schools in America has lost its music program, and fewer people than ever are singing in community choirs.

5. Harmony Foundation Representative Report (return to agenda) (cont.):

Two years ago the BHS committed to developing programs to address this crisis. Although these programs were launched, a shortage of funding still exists. While the explosive growth of the programs is encouraging to those who love music, the capacity of the current donor base cannot meet the demand. J.J. noted that thousands of young people last year were still left wishing for an opportunity to sing. The answer is simple. More people are needed to help.

J.J. asked the rhetorical question "What will this increased funding help us to do?" He noted that there are some Society objectives that have already been started.

One of those objectives is to bring people together to experience the joy of singing, and to connect them with other lifelong singers. J.J. envisioned choruses in which 13-year-olds, 85-year-olds, and 30-year-olds might be standing together. He declared that you can't put a price on that kind of experience. It keeps older people young, and it allows younger people to interact with older people and to grow socially.

An effort has been made to align the funding of grants with the mission of the Society. Therefore, grants were made to support 97 youth camps and workshops in 2015. However, 30 outreach events could not be funded. The goal is to bring barbershop harmony to at least 100,000 people each year. Increased support is needed to fund innovative and visionary programs that will carry our message to future generations.

Another objective is to show music educators, singers, and directors how to build better, bigger, and stronger community groups of singers. This is done through H/U scholarships. In 2013, there were 67 people who received scholarships to H/U, and 29 of them were music educators. By 2015, the number of music educators on scholarships had grown to 118---a 67% increase. J.J. emphasized that those scholarship were all funded through H/F grants.

These music educators represent hundreds of choruses across the country, and they reach thousands of singers every year. They can leverage the growth of barbershop harmony in their schools and communities. J.J. noted that H/U has also hosted students from 14 countries outside of North America---including Sri Lanka, Poland, and Brazil. Barbershop is truly becoming a global harmony.

J.J. stated that there is also a desire to create, publish, and distribute exciting barbershop music to every major country on earth. He felt that great strides have been made toward this goal by partnering with the Hal Leonard Corporation---an international publishing company. That firm has distributed a new series of barbershop arrangements that are aimed at encouraging and introducing four part harmony into schools.

The Hal Leonard firm is requesting more arrangements by the hundreds. The Society cannot keep up with the demand because of the cost of getting licensing clearances, creating learning tracks, and printing of sheet music. Again, there is a need for funding.

J.J. announced that the Society was able to introduce barbershop music to 63,000 people in 2015. This number excludes barbershoppers and their families. These contacts were made through youth chorus festivals or harmony explosion camps. At different BHS conventions, top-flight quartets were brought into the host communities to perform at local events. The goal is to get to 100,000 each year. The eventual goal is to reach 1,000,000 people by 2018.

Another goal is to bridge the gap between elementary and high school music education. It is known that students who sing at the middle school level are more likely to go on to the high school level. There is also the reality that elementary schools are often the first to see their music programs cut.

J.J. reiterated that an additional \$500,000 must be raised for Society programs on top of what is given by annual donors. To do this, it was decided to do the thing that H/F does very well, and to which the Society's members respond very well. That is a matching gift challenge. Seventeen individual donors and their spouses were asked to contribute, and they offered \$250,000 in a matching game. That is the total amount they will give if it is matched by other donors.

J.J. explained that an existing Ambassadors of Harmony donor who renews his donation at the same amount will not count toward the match. It only goes toward the annual goal. An increase would count.

5. Harmony Foundation Representative Report (return to agenda) (cont.):

By the same token, a President's Council donor who increases his donation to the next level would count toward the match. Finally, a totally new donor to either program would count.

J.J. had placed pledge cards on all of the tables. He encouraged people to take one, and let him know if they would like to make a donation toward the match.

Since a number of the members of Pioneer are Canadian citizens, J.J. indicated that they can help as well through Sing Canada. He urged that they talk to Doran McTaggart, Murray Phillips, or Dan Bezaire to learn how they can assist through donations to that organization.

6. Minutes of the two previous meetings:

(This topic was previously covered.)

7. Treasurer's Report:

(This topic was previously covered.)

8. Society Representative Report:

Mike Hansen introduced Murray Phillips, who is the representative to this convention on behalf of the Society board.

Murray noted that he had planned to use a projector and big screen for his presentation. He had only the big screen, however. He asked the delegates to imagine it---and it will happen. He declared that is almost the way the Society is operating now.

Murray asserted that now is the time to be a barbershopper. He noted that much is happening on-line. We have had barbershoppers on Fox News and on YouTube. Also, there are people who find things. He cited the people who find things and share them with friends. He gave as an example of the video of "Port City Sound" ---a seniors' quartet---on an airplane that had a delay. The flight attendant recorded their singing and put it on YouTube. The video got over 5,000,000 hits.

Murray said that now was the time. People are ready to hear us. All we need to do is to take advantage of the circumstances. He alluded to the growing educator interest. It is soaring---thanks to H/F support of the youth programs.

Murray declared that we know what produces joy. There is the joy that comes from singing. There is the joy that comes from joining together. There is the joy that comes from genuine friendships. Finally, there is the joy that comes from making a real difference in people's lives.

He posed this question to the delegates: "Did you join to make friends, or because you liked the music?" He suspected that most join because they get hooked on the barbershop sound. Most of them stayed because of the friendships. Murray believed that 90% of his friends are barbershoppers, and the other 10% wish that they were. That 10% are not because he has heard them sing!

Murray asked "Are you ready?" He felt that we have all of this stuff (resources). He cited CEO Marty Monson. Murray said Marty was a ball of energy and enthusiasm and great ideas. It was suggested that we waste that resource if we aren't ready to take ownership. It is only meaningful for individual chapters if they are thriving. "A growing Society needs growing chapters."

Murray asserted that the Society was heading in the right direction. He said that it is creating a climate of success, and it is making investments in chapter success in 2016. The Healthy Chapter Initiative has been put in place to chapters to help them. Again, H/F is funding this initiative entirely. He felt this was a wonderful investment by H/F on behalf of the Society.

8. Society Representative Report (cont.):

The Leadership Operation Project Team has created a chapter assessment model. This is a tool to assess the health and vitality of chapters. It is known that it can look at chapters in many different ways. Steve Weizmerski (sp-?)---the current DP of the Johnny Appleseed District---is the chair of the LOPT. He is trained as a school teacher and is an avid barbershopper by avocation. He is there to help.

The chapter assessment model has the dedicated support of the Healthy Chapter Initiative. A key person is Donny Rose. Dr. Duane Gunn was slated to take on a part-time role as manager of Chapter Leadership Education. However he found that he could not relocate to Nashville. Because of his long time service in the military, he has been away from his family a lot. He decided that this was not a good time for him to move again. He will still serve as a consultant to this project. However, Donny Rose has the experience to be able to help with the project. Murray urged the delegates to go to H/U some time just to meet Donny.

With a generous grant from H/F, support was given to the Society for resources and liaison to connect headquarters, district, and chapter needs. Trained facilitators will be provided. A re-vitalized district Leadership Academy curriculum will be available in 2016.

Murray felt that this was good news for all of the districts. His district was finding people reluctant to go to L/A because they thought they would hear the same old stuff. Murray asserted that it isn't the same if you have a different person teaching it. Something new will always come out. Murray mentioned that he has been a chapter president six times, but has attended the Presidents Track at Leadership Academies eight times. He got new things every time. He reiterated that the new L/A curriculum is being developed, and will be available later this year.

The Lead Generation project is a way to contact thousands of people who have been associated with the BHS, and to offer them membership. Heretofore persons could only join through chapters. Forms were completed and sent to the Society. A program was established in October 2015, and with almost no marketing, it has allowed 165 men to join via a website process. Since then, 50 of them have joined chapters, and the rest have become Frank Thorne members. While they can't sing with a chorus, they can be in competition quartets. It is hoped this will happen when they find others in their area. Alternatively, a large enough group of them might even seek a charter as a new chapter. Murray thought this initiative may grow with time. He acknowledged that Marty Monson was the source of this idea. It happened because someone visited the Society headquarters and asked about membership. When the person was told he had to go through a chapter, he rejected that option.

Murray identified some new tools for advancing barbershop. At the Mid-Winter 2017 in San Antonio, there is the possibility of having a seniors' chorus festival. This will be an opportunity for members to perform at a high level before a large crowd. If Pioneer chose to participate, it could hold a contest in the fall. Members in the group would have to be over age 55. The QCA might form the nucleus of such a group. The group would get scored. If its number was among the five highest among all of the districts in the Society, the group would get invited to come to San Antonio.

Murray acknowledged that his small chapter in Nova Scotia would never go to International unless it was part of one of the all-chapter choruses that Donny Rose has been organizing. He noted that the Pioneer board will decide if a seniors' chorus from Pioneer gets developed.

Another tool is the chapter grants program which is intended to help chapters and districts to extend their singing beyond their meeting places. Murray suggested looking at a big picture. The first part is a strategic direction of transforming our self-definition. We are not an organization that is a group of singers. We are a community of artists who make a difference in people's lives, and leave a legacy when we do so.

In 2016-2017, a major strategic planning process will be built around the four pillars of the Society. The pillars are defined in these words:

(1) Through the medium of barbershop harmony, we maintain and expand supportive services for a global community of artists;

8. Society Representative Report (cont.):

(2) Through the medium of barbershop harmony, we elevate artistic and leadership skills through education and best practices;

(3) Through the medium of barbershop harmony, we establish lifelong singing as a core community asset;

(4) We scale our impact by growing social enterprise, individual philanthropy, and institutional philanthropy.

As part of this process, Murray asserted that the resulting program will insure that our activities all serve the strategic goals, and will be easily understood by external funding sources. As an example, he suggested that a foundation like the Carnegie Foundation would understand what we are doing.

The process will also give more direction to members. He mentioned that the representative to the Pioneer fall convention will not be a Society board member, but will be a member of the Strategic Planning Committee. That individual will do some surveying and talking to District members in order to gain input. The intent is to make the Strategic Plan reflect the thoughts of the members.

Murray reiterated his original premise. "Now is the best time to be a barbershopper." He didn't think there would any questions about that premise. He declared that we are thrilled to be a community that is bringing music and joy to the world. "Together, we are making the music that is making a difference."

Murray invited the delegates to share questions or comments with him during the weekend.

A question was asked about how one could learn the names of individuals who have joined the Society without going through a chapter. Murray identified that District officers can go into the system to see those names. There is also a monthly list that is published of all of the persons who have joined the Society.

Another side of that database is the 90,000 former barbershoppers who have allowed their membership to lapse. An effort will be made to contact them individually. Some of those persons may have left over a dispute. However, they might still be interested in having a connection with the Society. Murray suggested that this might be another advantage of the Lead Generation program.

Mike Sobel (Kalamazoo) mentioned a problem that occurred in his chapter that might have a negative effect. A member of his chapter, who serves in the active Naval Reserves, got called up to active duty. The member contacted the Society about freezing his membership while he was serving overseas. He was asking for this privilege since this was not a decision that he made. He got a "No" for an answer. This situation was quite upsetting to the member and to the chapter. Basically, the individual dropped out. The chapter board did opt to cover the individual's dues during his absence if requested.

Mike asked that this policy be reviewed further by the Society board. Murray indicated that he would share this concern with the strategic planning committee. He thought that the offer to cover the dues with chapter funds was appropriate. He knew that was done often for youth members or those with financial problems.

9. Consent Calendar:

Mike Hansen indicated that the delegates had received a number of written reports prior to the meeting. Unless there were any questions about them, he declared he would move on to verbal reports for areas not covered in writing.

Mike noted that two reports were not submitted soon enough to allow them to be distributed. One of those was the YIH report. Aaron Pollard was not present at the BOD meeting earlier, but his father Craig covered the area for him. However, Craig was not present at this meeting.

The other report that was not available beforehand was the Financial Development report. Doug Weaver was present to report on behalf of this function.

9. Consent Calendar (cont.):

---Financial Development:

Doug Weaver chose to follow up on J.J.'s earlier comments about donating to the H/F. He declared that going to the YCF will satisfy any questions one might have. It is a phenomenal experience. Watching the youth choruses compete, seeing the camaraderie, and seeing them having a great time singing will dispel any doubts. He urged that members attend a YCF.

Doug declared that TVBC did a great job in Reno, and represented the District very well. He noted that their trip was extended a little because of weather. They had to stay an extra day. Pete and Sally Burns arranged for a pizza party. Dave Anderson helped them out with breakfast.

It was noted that there will be some changes for the next YCF in San Antonio. Female and mixed choruses have been added to the competition. The event will still be capped at 20 choruses. Therefore, choruses will have to make quick commitments to get accepted.

Doug mentioned that at the BOD meeting it was learned that TVBC is continuing, and it is growing. There may 35 or more members going to San Antonio. They have only taken 25 during the last two years.

Growth created challenges for the District to help them. The group did raise some money on its own. Chapters have helped them financially. The District also provides help. Doug announced that there will be a Parade-of-Checks again in the fall. He asked that chapters consider how they can participate in that event. One option that some chapters use is a 50:50 drawing each week. The half that is held back goes into a fund for TVBC.

Doug observed that a membership of 35 will add a lot to their costs for San Antonio. He urged that the delegates go back to their chapters and consider how they can help. He noted that the District will be giving support to the group, and it will NOT be doing a YCF sponsorship. Although the District has done sponsorships in the past, it did not do so for Reno for the same reason as this year---to commit all of its support to TVBC. He reiterated that chapters should focus their attention on getting the group to San Antonio.

Mike Hansen noted that TVBC has come a long way, and it has structures in place. It has a management team, and is looking at a budget. It is looking for ways to raise money internally. He felt that it was important that we continue to provide support until the group becomes self-sufficient. Chapters are urged to support the P-O-C.

10. Other Reports:

(There were no other reports.)

11. Old Business:

Mike Hansen was not aware of any items in this category. One delegate expressed a concern about some reports that did not have a name associated with them. Mike noted that would be corrected in the future.

Roger Lewis asked for an opportunity to make two comments. First off, he advised everyone who has a room on the fourth or fifth floor of the hotel that they are "quiet" floors. This is where airline personnel stay. There can be as many as 70 of them.

He noted that we are sharing the hotel on this weekend with two groups. One is the airline personnel. The other group is a sports team. It appears that group does not go to bed early.

The second item that Roger identified was an error in the program. It is correctly stated that the chorus contest begins a half hour earlier (10:00 a.m.). It was not caught that the JBC rehearsal should have been moved up to 9:00 a.m.

Mike Hansen asked the delegates to share these items with their friends and chapter members.

12 New Business:

Doran McTaggart (Windsor) indicated he had envelopes for a dozen chapters with tickets for the Windsor Sendoff. The envelopes include sheets with info about when he needs to get the results of how many are attending.

Doran stated that the Sendoff is scheduled for the second Friday in June (June 10). The purpose of the Sendoff is to give checks in support of the quartets and the chorus that will represent the District at International.

He was pleased that DOC re-instituted the Jug Night several times last year, and that resulted in a large contribution at the Sendoff to the Pioneer quartets. That allowed the Sendoff to contribute more to the chorus that represented the District.

Doran made a plea to the U.S. members of Pioneer. He urged that more of them attend the Sendoff. He observed that only 74 of the attendees (just under 300) at the last event were from the U.S. The 74 included the members of the chorus that went to International. He recommended that the delegates talk about the event to their fellow chapter members.

He pointed out that the info sheet specified the reservation deadline date. A map to the location will be provided shortly, since it is a new place this year.

Finally, Doran indicated that chapters that did not get a packet of tickets can contact him to get some.

Peter Stephens-Brown (Marquette) had asked for time to present two ideas. The first idea was to make a change at the next convention. Peter understood that the HOD is an advisory body to the BOD. Therefore, he wondered why the HOD meeting is after the BOD meeting. He moved that the time of the HOD meeting be changed permanently to the morning before the BOD meeting. Dale Hanson (Gaylord) made the second.

Mike Hansen suggested two options for doing this---either hold the HOD meeting at 9:00 a.m. and the BOD meeting immediately afterward, or hold the BOD meeting in the afternoon.

Murray Phillips noted that one reason why the BOD meeting might have to be first is that the BOD may have to approve things that must then be presented to the HOD. He did note that those items could be considered beforehand in a portion of the BOD meeting, and the remainder of that meeting could be held later.

One delegate expressed concern about attendees being able to get to the meeting by 10:00 a.m. because of work schedules. Another person noted that he had to drive 8 hours to get there, so he had to take a full day off from work.

Paul Ellinger (Huron Valley) asked if there were any examples of HOD actions that needed subsequent BOD decisions. None were cited at that time.

Robb Smith observed that it is easier to reconvene the BOD if necessary since it is a smaller group, or it can do electronic votes. Mike Hansen mentioned that the board is making many more electronic decisions.

Doran McTaggart (Windsor) asked for verification of the projected HOD meeting time under this proposal. After hearing that it would be held on Friday morning, he observed that meetings have been at other times. He recalled that HOD meetings used to be held on Friday nights. He then remembered that they might even have been held on Thursday nights.

The secretary noted that a HOD meeting typically runs for an hour and a half. If it started at 10:30 a.m., it would end just before lunch. Then the BOD meeting would follow in the afternoon.

Larry Parker observed that an earlier HOD meeting requires attendees to check into the hotel earlier. He noted that hotel rooms sometimes have not even been ready for occupancy at noon. He saw this as a logistical problem.

12 New Business (cont.):

John Cowlshaw (Pontiac-Waterford) noted that he had come to many HOD meetings, and could not recall an instance where something had to be referred to the BOD. From his experience of taking minutes, the secretary concurred that he could not recall any situations.

Roger Lewis (Battle Creek) asked Peter Stephens-Brown if he had specific issues that he felt should be addressed at a HOD meeting beforehand. Peter felt that his main concern was to let the HOD---as a deciding body---to be motivated to seek action by the BOD. He believed that motivation has been missing for several years because of the current time structuring.

The second idea that Peter wanted to present was to work on membership roles for females. He observed that we already have female judges and female coaches and female directors. However, we have associates (female) who cannot compete. His chorus has three associates who would like to sing with his group in competitions. He indicated that he would soon make a motion that we allow females to compete.

As a point of clarification, Murray Phillips emphasized that associates are not members of the Society. He also observed that competition rules are set by the Society, and not by the districts. Peter agreed, but noted that there are some mixed quartet competitions occurring in other districts. Murray explained that those competitions are being managed by the Mixed Harmony Barbershop Association---a new affiliate of the Society. Peter agreed that topic would involve a longer discussion.

Mike Hansen asked if there was any more discussion on the pending motion. Dale Hanson (Gaylord) noted that a majority of the BOD membership are present at HOD meetings. He wondered if that group could meet after a HOD meeting if necessary. The secretary pointed out that the idea was previously suggested---along with the electronic vote option. Someone emphasized that the BOD does not have to wait until a convention to make decisions. It can do so at any time via existing mechanisms.

A vote was taken on the motion pending. **Motion defeated.**

Peter made a second motion to allow females to compete in Pioneer competitions---at least at the mixed quartet level---as affiliate members. A second of that motion was not received.

Mike Hansen referred to Murray Phillips's earlier comment that the District does not have the authority to make this change. The secretary agreed with Murray's comment. He acknowledged that many of those present probably agree with the concept that Peter had advanced, but noted that we must wait for the Society board to act on that issue.

Murray reported that some districts have added mixed harmony competitions to their fall 2016 conventions. NED, MAD, SUN, and EVG were cited as examples. It requires that another section must be added to the convention.

Dave Montera (DOC) added to Murray's comments. He explained that districts that have mixed quartet competitions must run them separate from the regular district quartet contests and International prelim contests. He emphasized that Pioneer can still join with other districts in creating this new type of event. It becomes a logistical challenge for people like Roger Lewis to figure out how to fit it into the event.

Dave maintained that we are not limited on stepping forward, however, with this kind of activity. He believed that mixed quartets could sing during the same portion of the program just like youth quartets do. However, Murray countered that youth quartets can sing in the same matrix as regular quartets, while mixed quartets could not.

Roger Lewis observed that two choruses were sing for scoring and evaluation only at this convention. He wondered if we should ask if choruses with female singers could be in a matrix with groups such as those. The secretary wondered if we could do that through an administrative action. Roger felt that it would still be best to run the concept by the Society C&J committee. If that committee then wants to get approval from the Society board, it can pursue the issue further. Murray Phillips reported that body has been discussing the idea already.

12 New Business (cont.):

Mike Hansen proposed that the District go to the Society with a request to hold chorus contests in which the contestants would only receive scoring and evaluation, and those choruses might have female participants. He asked if we also wanted to request an opportunity to hold a separate mixed quartet competition.

A question was asked about whether the scores of such groups would be reported. It was suggested that might be a choice to be made by the group(s). However, that data is not usually published on the scoring sheets.

Mike Hansen asked if that the board was being asked to talk to the Society about creating an opportunity to have mixed choruses compete for scoring and evaluation only, and having a separate mixed quartet contest. Pete Stephens-Brown was asked if his original request was for mixed choruses only. He indicated that was the case, but thought that addition of mixed quartets was good also. He did note that his request also extended to involvement of women beyond being associates. Murray Phillips stated that discussion of that issue has been ongoing for a while.

The secretary observed that no formal motion had been entered into the minutes. He asked if there was a consensus of the group regarding the actions just stated by Mike Hansen. Roger Lewis clarified that the mixed chorus issue is the one that would require some dialogue with the Society board. The secretary emphasized he was not making a motion, but just asking for a consensus.

Since Aaron Pollard (Director of YIH) had joined the meeting, Mike Hansen asked him to report on this function.

Aaron reported that he send out e-mails in the fall of 2015 to every high school choir director in Michigan. This was done through Marshal Music. This e-mail included links to collegiate quartet videos, mixed quartet videos, a mixed chorus video, and an array of various YIH resources for various age levels. Unfortunately, many of those e-mails went into spam folders.

Subsequently, that info was disseminated through Marshal's road representatives. This was done mostly to schools in the lower part of the state. The info in the original e-mail was hand-delivered to choral educators. While 400 e-mails were sent out in the fall, the hand-delivery led to contacts with 100 educators. Aaron reported that six schools are now officially doing barbershop as part of their choral programs.

The info distributed by Marshal included links to resources available from the Society, so Aaron thought there might be other schools using those resources.

Aaron was planning to do more contacts, and doing follow-ups with the schools that have started using the materials. He hoped that more schools will be adding barbershop into their concerts.

A question was asking about the names of the six schools. They were: Warren De La Salle H.S., West Bloomfield H.S., Bloomfield Hills H.S., Marysville H.S., Farmington H.S., and Farmington Harrison H.S.

It was reported that Milford schools had also added barbershop to its program. This is a seventh school that is not on the original list.

As an aside, Aaron mentioned the TVBC is representing 12 schools. At the group's last rehearsal, eight new members were welcomed.

Dale Hanson realized that he forgot to bring the Bush League info for distribution at this convention. He announced that 2016 will be the 70th anniversary of B/L. The dates are August 19-20. It will be held again at the E-Free church. The hotel has changed, however, to Treetops Resort. The room cost is just under \$100. All of the judges are coming from Canada.

13. Adjournment:

At 2:53 p.m., the meeting was adjourned. Dave Montera (Director of Music & Performance) was asked to lead the group in "Keep the Whole World Singing".