

Minutes of the meeting of the House of Delegates of the Pioneer District of SPEBSQSA, Inc.
held on October 19, 2012, in the Branson Ballroom of the McCamly Plaza Hotel

I. Call to Order:

District President Weaver called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. The singing of "The Old Songs" followed.

II. Quorum:

District Secretary Jim McMahan announced that a quorum (30% of authorized attendees) was present by a narrow margin. **[NOTE: Copies of the sign-in sheets were attached to the original copy of these minutes.]**

III. Memorial to Deceased Members:

Paul Ellinger (Pioneer Management Team director for Membership) led a memorial service to honor 16 members who had passed away since the last HOD meeting:

Raymond Luce (Muskegon chapter)
Gene Beaty (Livingston County chapter)
Jerry Hammond (Saginaw-Bay and Flint chapters)
Gary Meldrum (Saginaw-Bay chapter)
Kyle Jurries (Holland chapter)
Donald Bartz (the old Niles chapter)
Michael Simpson (Michiana-Metro chapter)
Al Hanson (Detroit-Oakland chapter)
Derek Deakins (Macomb County chapter)
Jerry Smith (Kalamazoo chapter)
Ed Lilly (Pontiac-Waterford chapter)
Kenneth Sedlow (Flint chapter)
Laird Geyer (Grosse Pointe chapter)
Bob Mulvihill (Lansing chapter)
Ken Hampel (Muskegon chapter)
Victor Long (Windsor chapter)

IV. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the meeting of April 20, 2012, had been prepared by former District Secretary Joe Serwach. They were distributed electronically by the current DS Jim McMahan along with the Second Notice of Meetings sent out on the cpres.Yahoo group and the PioneerBoard.Yahoo group.

Two corrections were noted in those minutes:

1. Jim Sams (not Jim "Sans") was the Society Representative in attendance.
2. A reference to an election of officers had to be an inadvertent template carry-over from the minutes of the meeting at the Fall 2011 HOD meeting. Officers are always elected at the Fall meeting---not the Spring meeting.

A motion was received from a delegate in attendance that the minutes be approved. The motion was then seconded. **Motion approved.**

[NOTE: There was a request unrelated to this discussion that a sign-in sheet be provided for past DPs who are also attending the meeting as delegates.]

V. Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's report had just been received electronically that morning from District Treasurer Robb Smith, so it had not been distributed to the delegates. Since Robb was not present at this meeting, it would be impossible to answer any questions. DP Doug Weaver indicated that he would forward Robb's report to the Yahoo groups named above.

VI. President's Comments:

Doug Weaver described his adventure upon arriving at the hotel on Thursday. He had come directly to Battle Creek after visiting the Saginaw-Bay chapter the night before. He placed a large group of important papers atop his car at the valet check-in---and they were promptly swept away by the wind! He appreciated the help of the hotel staff in chasing those papers all over the street. He hoped that nothing important for the weekend was lost in the process.

Doug introduced three guests who were present. Mike O'Neill, music specialist for the Society, had accompanied Doug on his trip to the Saginaw-Bay chapter. The other two guests would be speaking later in the meeting---Jim Sams (Member-at-large on the Society Board), and Sean Devine (director of development for Harmony Foundation).

VII. Society Representative's Address:

Jim Sams indicated that it had been a privilege for him to attend the last two Pioneer conventions as a Society board member. He was hoping to come to the next convention in a different role---that of a contest administrator.

Jim reported that he had already had an opportunity to meet with Marty Monson, the new CEO for the Society. He knew that Marty had already visited conventions in three districts.

He directed everyone's attention to some recent publications that were sent to all chapter and district presidents. One of them was a letter from Alan Lamson, who is completing his term as Society president. That letter identifies important information from the Society Board that should be communicated to chapters.

The second publication was a report from Marty Monson to HOD meetings that has been generated in a new format.

Jim mentioned that several task forces have been created to consider some new topics:

1. A global strategy T/F that is working with the Society's affiliate organizations outside of the US and Canada. One possible outcome of that effort might be the creation of an 18th district located outside of North America.

2. An info technology T/F that will be working on an expansion of the Aptify® software system that powers the Society's **.ebiz** website.

3. A T/F that is exploring the creation of an affiliate to create opportunities for competitions by mixed quartets.

4. A home-school-focused T/F that will seek to offer music resources to the 2.5M youth who are home-schooled. It has been conceived that learning tracks could be provided to these children.

The next topic he addressed was conventions. He reminded the delegates of the Mid-Winter convention in Orlando---where it anticipated that even more youth choruses will be competing. He reminded the many individuals in the room of the International convention next summer in Toronto that will be conveniently close for members of Pioneer.

VII. Society Representative's Address (cont.):

At this point, Jim returned to a serious problem cited in Marty Monson's CEO report. It was noted therein that some chapters are non-compliant in their annual filing of three mandatory financial reports. (Some of this non-compliance may be due merely to a failure to report two of those filings to the Society.)

Those reports are: (1) the Certificate of Continued Existence (filed with the state or province); (2), the 990N report (filed with the IRS); and (3), the annual Financial Review form (submitted to the Society).

Chapter officers can check to see if all of their documents have been reported by looking at the "Financial Filings" link on the .ebiz website.

VIII. Consent Calendar Reports:

Doug Weaver noted that only three reports that had been distributed prior to this meeting. They were identified as:

- The 2012 CSLT Work Plan
- The 2012 Financial Development RP2
- The Membership RP 2012 Fall

There had been no requests to pull any reports from the Consent Agenda for separate review.

Doug observed that there had been a significant turnover in the District staff, so some of the newer staff members had not yet been able to generate any kind of meaningful report.

He identified the officers who are remaining in their current roles:

- Doug Weaver* District President
- Dan Bezaire* District Executive VP
- Brian Dunckel* District Immediate Past-President (and also the Management Team director for Financial Development)
- Paul Ellinger* Management Team director for Membership
- Joe McDonald* Management Team director for Chapter Support & Leadership Training
- Ron Eubank* Management Team director for Contests & Judging
- Jerry Ditto Management Team director for Events

He extolled the contributions of Jerry in his role for the last 14 years, and noted that his work has given the District a significant benefit in holding down costs.

Doug then introduced the persons who were stepping into new roles:

- Jim McMahan* District Secretary
- Larry Parker* District Treasurer (replacing Robb Smith who is stepping down at the end of 2012)
- James O'Dell* Management Team director for Marketing & PR
- Rob Pettigrew* Management Team director for Chorus Director Development
- Cliff Dake* Management Team director for Music & Performance

Doug noted the position of Management Team director for Youth in Harmony is currently vacant, but that Doug Lynn has expressed interest in taking on the job.

It was reported that all of the eleven individuals whose names are starred above will be going to the Forum leadership training event in Las Vegas during the period of November 9 through November 11. Roger Lewis will also be attending, but in a different role.

In a change of subject, Doug noted that a topic of major concern to our District is membership. We are fortunate to have all of our chapters signed up for the "Operation Harold Hill" program. His question to the delegates was, "Have you heard from him?"

VIII. Consent Calendar Reports (cont.):

Chapters that haven't heard from their OHH contact were urged to take the initiative, and call him.

Chapters were also urged to follow-up with members who are overdue on their renewals, and to encourage them to get renewed.

Another topic that Doug presented to the delegates was the fact that 2013 is the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Society. A celebration package show has been developed by the Society. So far, there are plans for joint show that will done four times in 2013 involving the Lansing, Grand Rapids, Gratiot County, and Holland chapters. Lansing has initiated the development of this four-chapter joint show idea.

A motto that is being associated with celebration shows is "Let Them Know". Chapters are urged to use this opportunity to find new audiences.

IX. Leadership Academy:

Joe McDonald described some of the details about this event. He indicated that it is scheduled for Saturday, January 5, 2013, and it will be held again at Okemos. He asked the delegates to promote L/A to both their officers and their members. Joe anticipated that new approaches to the management of these events will be developed at the Forum.

IX. Parade of Checks for Youth Chorus Sponsorship:

As a prelude to this activity, Sean Devine described the situation in 2003 when it was observed that the Society's educational programs for youth were hurting. It was decided then that service projects for youth should be developed. (Parenthetically, it was noted that the earliest of such programs was created within the Pioneer District.)

Perhaps as a consequence of such programs, and despite overall membership declines in the Society, Sean also observed that our greatest growth in membership in recent years has been in the under age 19 category.

Sean reported that approximately 4000 members have become donors to Harmony Foundation---either through the President's Council or the Ambassadors of Song giving programs. He mentioned that H/F regional representatives like himself have been to all of the chapters in Pioneer. It has since been learned that 17% of the Pioneer District membership has contributed to the aforementioned giving programs. Sean reminded the delegates that up to 30% of donations to these programs can be returned to either to the donor's chapter or district.

He then presented checks to representatives of these chapters: Saginaw-Bay, Kalamazoo, Gratiot County, Muskegon, Rochester, Lansing, Grand Rapids, Flint, Traverse City, Mt. Pleasant, Macomb County, Detroit-Oakland, Grosse Pointe, Hillsdale, and Pontiac-Waterford.

Sean described an unusual six-day matching-of-donations event that was held at the Portland convention. For that event, the goal was to reach \$75,000; the total amount that was raised was \$106,000. In connection with that fund-raiser, 100 new donors were added to the President's Council.

While he has been visiting chapters in Pioneer, Sean has been mentioning another matching donation opportunity that has come from Rob Henry (member of the "Gas House Gang"). Rob has offered to donate \$100,000 for support of the Youth Chorus competition that will be held in conjunction with the Mid-Winter convention. To assist with this opportunity, the "Parade of Checks" activity is being resumed at many District conventions.

It was noted that the upcoming Youth Chorus event will be the 6th annual competition. Already, 17 youth choruses have registered---including one from Kenya!

IX. Parade of Checks for Youth Chorus Sponsorship (cont.):

The goal of the "Parade of Checks" program is to get \$10,000 from each district that supports it. An important aspect of Rob Henry's offer is that all donations must be received by the end of 2012.

At this point, checks were given to Sean by representatives of the following chapters:

- Battle Creek \$700
- Hillsdale \$400
- Kalamazoo \$220
- Grand Rapids \$500
- Muskegon \$122
- Detroit-Oakland \$500
- Lansing \$500
- Rochester (*) \$1200

[* NOTE: The donation from Rochester was received earlier as a result of a drawing made at a previous convention.]

X. Unfinished Business:

(There were no items for consideration.)

XI. New Business:

(There were no items for consideration.)

XIII. Election of Officers:

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Brian Dunckel identified the persons that were being placed in nomination for elective positions on the Board of Directors.

He noted that both Doug Weaver (as District President) and Dan Bezaire (as District Executive Vice-President) had been previously elected to their roles for two-year terms. Each of them will be fulfilling their second year of service in 2013.

The new nominees were:

- Secretary Jim McMahan
- Treasurer Larry Parker

It was clarified that Brian continues in his role as Immediate Past-President until Doug completes his second year.

A motion was received from a delegate in attendance that the nominations be closed, and that the nominees be elected by acclamation. The motion was then seconded. **Motion approved.**

XIV: Adjournment:

A last minute comment was offered about the availability of the "digest version" of the Pionet. This option allows recipients of Pionet e-mails to get all of their messages at one time, and be able to delete immediately the ones about which they have no interest.

A plea was made for members to read the on-line edition of the Troubadour. This resource was cited as a place where everyone can get constant contact with District information on its website. It was noted that individuals can submit a form which will enable them to receive the Troubadour automatically. It was observed that the last on-line edition of the magazine contained 52 pages---far more info than could ever be printed and mailed out with cost-effectiveness.

XIV: Adjournment (cont.):

Finally, it was reported that the on-line registration form for the next convention will incorporate some major changes.

At 2:30 p.m., a motion for adjournment was received from a delegate in attendance. The motion was then seconded. **Motion approved.**

Minutes prepared by Jim McMahan, Secretary, Pioneer District of SPEBSQSA, Inc.