

Minutes of the meeting of the House of Delegates of the Pioneer District of SPEBSQSA, Inc.
held on April 19, 2013, in the Council Room of the Grand Traverse Resort & Spa

I. Call to Order:

District President Weaver called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. He asked Rob Pettigrew, District VP of CDD, to lead everyone in the singing of "The Old Songs".

II. Quorum:

District Secretary Jim McMahan announced that a quorum (30% of authorized delegates) was present. The secretary pointed out that the sign-in sheets indicated the number of delegates to which each chapter was entitled. This number is determined by the membership of the chapter as of 12/31/12.

[NOTE: Copies of the sign-in sheets were attached to the original copy of these minutes.]

III. Memorial to Deceased Members:

Paul Ellinger, District VP for Membership, led a memorial service to honor 32 members who had passed away since the last HOD meeting. He began the ceremony with the reading of "Passing of the Bar" by Alfred Lord Tennyson. Then he listed District members who were now known to be deceased:

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 (old Niles chapter and Benton Harbor-St. Joseph chapter)
Michael Simpson (chapter not identified)
Al Hansen (Detroit-Oakland chapter)
Derek Deakins (old Clinton Valley chapter and Macomb County chapter)
Jerry Smith (Kalamazoo chapter)
Bill Mulvihill (Lansing chapter)
Ed Lilly (Pontiac-Waterford chapter)
Laird Geyer (Grosse Pointe chapter)
Ken Hampel (chapter not identified)
Victor Long (Windsor chapter)
David Jensen (Gratiot County chapter)
Doug Beaver (Saginaw-Bay chapter)
Denny Gore (Grosse Pointe and Macomb County chapters)
Albert Fricker (Macomb County chapter)
Maynard Peacock (Gratiot County chapter)
Cliff Douglas (Pontiac-Waterford chapter)
Merle Schultz (Rochester chapter)
Dan Davey (Detroit-Oakland chapter)
Gene Herrington (Macomb County chapter)
Robert Westover (Gaylord chapter)
Austin Quinn (Pontiac-Waterford, Detroit-Oakland, Macomb County, Motor City Metro, and Wayne chapters, and the old Oakland County chapter)
Milt Darling (Macomb County chapter)
Dale Bekker (Holland chapter)
David Allen (Battle Creek chapter)
Dennis Dakin (Macomb County chapter)
Clay Shumard (Grand Rapids chapter)
William Shier, Jr. (Grosse Pointe chapter)

Paul concluded the ceremony by quoting a poem written by Linda Jo Jackson entitled "I'm Free". He noted that these 32 members would no longer be on the risers with us, but they'd be remembered for the part they played in the history of their chapters and the District. May they sing chords on high, and their friends and family remember the joy that barbershop music brought to their lives!

IV. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the meeting of October 19, 2012, had been distributed electronically by the District Secretary Jim McMahan along with the Second Notice of Meetings sent out on the cpres.Yahoo group and the PioneerBoard.Yahoo group.

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

V. Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's report had just been received earlier in the day from District Treasurer Larry Parker, and had been approved at the meeting of the District Board of Directors. Because Larry had been called away because of problems at the registration desk, he was not available to answer any questions about the report. This topic will be reviewed later in the meeting after he returns.

VI. Marketing Report:

Doug Weaver announced that some very exciting things were happening within the District. He had asked James O'Dell, District VP for Marketing, to speak first about his area.

James began by saying he was looking forward to the convention weekend. He noted that he did some singing around the hotel shortly after checking in on Thursday night. He was delighted to acquire the names of four individuals who might become members of the DOC or Traverse City chapters.

He was greatly impressed by all of the events that have been held in the District to celebrate the 75th anniversary. However, he felt that everything seemed to become anti-climatic the day afterwards. He challenged the attendees to think about what their chapters would be doing for the entire anniversary year. What were their chapters planning to do as further celebrations of the anniversary? How were they planning to engage their communities? He urged that we use the anniversary as an opportunity to expose people to our hobby. How are using each chapter meeting and each performance toward attainment of that goal?

James informed everyone that he was available to help chapters with their marketing efforts. He was planning to visit a number of chapters and interact with their VPs of Marketing.

He mentioned that another component of our promotional efforts is the Scavenger Hunt program developed by Joe McDonald. He pointed out the unique tee shirt he was wearing right now that referred to the program. He noted that the S-H booklet is a device that each member can use to keep track of the special things he did in the anniversary year. He suggested that the booklet can become a keepsake record of the memories of this special year. He felt the program was an encouragement to everyone to do things with other barbershoppers that they had never done before.

Finally, James reiterated his offer of help to chapters with their marketing efforts. He provided his e-mail address and phone number to several who requested it.

VII. Music & Performance Report:

Doug Weaver then introduced Cliff Dake, the District VP of Music and Performance, to cover several topics in his area.

Cliff began by alerting everyone about how busy this year will be. He acknowledged that he began his year by learning the responsibilities of his position at the Forum. He was amazed at all of the programs that districts and chapters can do.

The first item that he got organized this year was the Top Gun quartet program. He identified that the purpose of this program is to build on the accomplishments of the top quartets within the District that are seeking to compete at the International level.

VII. Music & Performance Report (cont.):

He indicated that the program is a weekend event at which top coaches work intensively with the quartets. The recent event began on Friday night, and then continued for 13 hours on Saturday.

Cliff asserted that the intensive coaching helped both the quartets and the District. He noted that this was accomplished by throwing some fun things into the event. We were able to get a free venue for the training. It was a church in Canton that had many rehearsal rooms and a good auditorium. Usage of the church was obtained free in return for doing a show on Saturday night at which a free will offering was collected. The show consisted of performances by the quartets that attended, plus two extra District quartets. Over 200 people attended the show---most of whom were non-barbershoppers. Afterwards, 20% of the non-barbershop men in the audience asked about possible membership.

Cliff reported that the QAC will take over the organization of this activity next year---under the umbrella of sponsorship by the District. Jamie Carey will be the chairperson for the event. Jamie is starting to do fund-raising, and also is looking for helpers. Cliff urged the attendees of this meeting to get their chapters involved.

The next program that Cliff discussed was the Standing Ovation program. He indicated that it was nothing new to the District, but he was trying to bring it back. He reminded everyone that a S.O. reviewer examines every aspect of a chapter's show, and then provides an evaluation. The review is intended to be a positive experience.

Cliff is looking for people who would like to be trained as S.O. reviewers. We already have one person in the District (Al Fisk) who is trained. Al recently did a review of a show by the Lansing chapter. He was able to give a lot of positive feedback to that chapter. The ultimate goal is to make the public aware of what we can do well.

Another program that Cliff is exploring is a Top Gun coaching event for choruses. This would be similar to the coaching event that was provided for quartets, but will be offered to three or four of the top choruses. He hopes to have invitations sent out by September 14 of this year.

Just like the quartet event, this event will be a one-day session with international-level coaches. Again, the event will conclude with a show. Cliff was hopeful that we might get interest in joining a chorus from 40% of the non-barbershop men in the audience!

The next program that Cliff is seeking to establish this year is the Music Mentor program. There will be a financial commitment from chapters to do this---along with support from the District. The plan is to bring in up to three International-level directors. Each one would be assigned to a particular chorus. During a six to nine month period, the director would make visits. After listening to a chorus, the visiting director will offer two or three specific things on which to focus. (This assumes that he has previously talked to the director about the director's goals for improvement.) At a later visit, the visiting director will determine if those items have improved. He will also identify some new things to improve. Over a nine month period, the visiting director will make three visits. Hopefully, each chorus will demonstrate significant improvements.

In conjunction with Quartet Boot Camp, Cliff envisioned the creation of a Harmony Boot Camp. He has some classes that he felt could be offered at such an event, but he needs feedback from chapters on the topics that should be covered at this type of event. The date of July 20 has been set aside for this activity. The H-B-C will be held at the Okemos facility.

Cliff urged the attendees at this meeting to carry the details that he has been presenting back to their chapters. He observed that one dilemma he faces is that the names and contact info for chapter officers that is given on the Society website is often outdated or missing. He begged the leadership of chapters to work on solving this problem.

VIII. Scavenger Hunt:

Joe McDonald pointed out that he and James O'Dell were twins with different parents, since they were both dressed in Scavenger Hunt tee shirts!

Joe reminded everyone that their chapters had received S-H packets with some info about the program, 10 booklets, and a log sheet. He reported that some chapters had already responded.

He began by thanking all those who supported the program by taking out ads or patron listings. He mentioned that the idea for the program was born during a taxi cab ride he had with Roger Lewis in Las Vegas!

The purposes of the program are to have fun, to enjoy camaraderie, and to enjoy singing all year long. The idea of a scavenger hunt came about because of one that was held by the members of a social group to which Joe and his wife belong. Although the male members of the group initially rejected the idea, Joe admitted that the group found it to be quite enjoyable, and it was a great opportunity to become better acquainted.

Joe referred to the booklet that contains the general rules for playing the game. He emphasized that it is played on the honor system. There are activities that can earn each player up to 200 points. Anyone who attains 75 points will be entered into a drawing for prizes. More information on the prizes will be announced later. Each person who gets 75+ points will receive a lapel pin.

Participants can register by going onto the Pioneer District website. There is also a .pdf document that gives detailed info about the game to anyone who has questions. Registration can be done on-line on behalf of all chapter members who choose to participate, or it can be done individually.

Eventually there will be a link on the District website where participants can enter their personal scores. Joe will be the only person who sees the scores of everyone who enters data.

IX. Society Representative's Address:

Doug introduced David Calland, member-at-large on the Society Board, who is attending our convention for the first time in this role, and who also brought a good quartet with him to sing.

David began by extending greetings to the District from Society President Shannon Elswick. David noted that many wonderful things are happening at the Society level, and his purpose today was to share them with us.

He admitted that he didn't know all of the responsibilities associated with his role when he joined the Society board. He soon learned that he was obligated to wear a suit and tie to a convention. In all of his years in barbershop, this is the second convention that he has had to do so while not being on stage!

David observed that we are learning from Society CEO Marty Monson how to look externally to find answers for our problems. He acknowledged that we are very good at looking at ourselves internally, and coming up with the same results every year. We need to look "out of the window" to find new ideas from our communities that offer seeds to help us grow and excel. We are learning to collaborate with great leaders and thinkers, learning to ask the right questions, and learning to help others to enjoy our hobby.

Next, David turned his attention to the celebration of the 75th anniversary. He was delighted that so many chapters had done things for the event. He was intrigued by our usage of a "Celebration" chorus as the mic testers for the chorus competition. He commented on recent efforts in the Central States District to have shows that involve multiple choruses---especially since they can involve smaller chapters.

David observed that a lot of proclamations have been cited on social media such as Facebook. He noted that 51 states and provinces have issued those high level recognitions of our anniversary. All of those documents will be saved in the Society's archives.

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

He concluded his discussion of the anniversary by urging chapters to find ways to include the celebration in their activities all year, and talk about how it can be marketed

David changed to a discussion of the International convention in Toronto. He was excited to report that current registrations are at 119% over the number achieved at Portland. This represents a total of 5200 registrations to date. He mentioned that there will be several Harmony University classes that will be offered during the convention. One that was recently added was a "Director's Round Table".

He reminded everyone that Harmony University was coming up. Projected attendance is already above past figures. David noted that a lot of scholarships have been awarded. He congratulated Pioneer for the fact that three of our members had received those. He pointed out that the H/U keynote address will be given by Dr. Tim Sharp---the Executive Director of the American Choral Directors Association. Dr. Sharp will also be teaching a class called "Good Singing is Good Singing". The emphasis of his class will be that, no matter the genre of music being sung, having good technique is good technique.

David turned his attention to "Project 23K". He was pleased that several had heard of it. He explained that the program is an effort to get volunteers to contact every member of the Society---all 23,000+.

The first purpose of Project 23K is to ask questions. What do you love? What do you wish could be improved? What messages do you have for Society staff or the Society board? Its second purpose is to update our volunteer database to determine the skill sets that our members have. This will enable the Society to find our most talented members to execute special tasks that arise. The calls are expected to last 10-15 minutes.

The biggest challenge of this project is to find the manpower to make the calls. Shannon Elswick is looking for volunteers to do this. The task would be done by making a few calls per week, but not a set number in a given time period. An incentive for being a caller is that anyone who makes a total of 120 calls will receive a free registration to the next International. David asked that anyone who is interested in making calls, or knows of someone who would be interested, to contact him.

David observed that this was his third Pioneer convention. His first one was thirty years earlier when he competed with a collegiate quartet (out-of-district) at Kalamazoo. Since he had attended the operational team and board meetings earlier in the day, he had been impressed by the District leadership, by the innovation displayed, and by the direction of purpose. He urged the chapters to take advantage of what is being done at the District level, and enter into partnerships. He suggested that visits to nearby chapters, or contacts with District leadership might lead to solutions to problems. He offered a reminder that, by calling others, we acquiring benefits for the Society.

David ended his remarks with a quote: "We may not have a membership problem in the Society; we may have an orientation/retention/engagement problem." The implication that he sees in this insight is that we must be in tune with our members, and that we give them what they need every week. "We do this barbershop thing because it makes us feel good." David advocated that by doing this, membership will not be our problem.

He closed with an invitation for members to contact him during the weekend if there was anything that he could do for them to solve problems, or to celebrate their successes, or to convey messages back to the Society.

In answer to a question about the name "23K", David indicated that it is based on the fact that we have approximately 23,000 members in the Society. It was revealed that three persons in the room had already received a "23K" call. David indicated that the program has only been in the "beta testing" phase, but it will soon go full-scale.

X. Harmony Foundation Report:

Doug Weaver introduced Sean Devine, Director of Development for Harmony Foundation, as the next speaker, but noted that Clarke Caldwell, the Executive Director of H/F, was also in the room.

Sean began by having everyone sing "Happy Birthday" to barbershop.

As an opener, Sean extended greetings from the Nashville staff. He was also pleased that his boss, Clarke Caldwell, was able to attend his first Pioneer convention.

Sean was excited to recognize Pioneer for some wonderful things---individuals, chapters, and accomplishments. He also announced that some great happenings are occurring within Harmony Foundation and in Sing Canada. He expressed enthusiasm for the opportunity we will have to celebrate the 75th anniversary in Toronto. Because of a recent visit he made to the Toronto venues, he believes they will offer a great place for a celebration.

Among the many celebrations that have recently occurred, Sean had the privilege of being at the event that was held in NYC, and which was shown on a webcast. The "Ringmasters" sang at the event, along with several local choruses and quartets. He described the whole experience of singing in Times Square as a "flash mob". The actual show that was webcast was held in a theater a block away.

Sean repeated David Calland's comments about proclamations, and noted that Mayor Bloomberg issued one on behalf of NYC. Sean hoped that Bloomberg's proclamation was reprinted on Facebook for all to read.

Sean revealed that he had just learned that three directors from Pioneer will be going to Director's College at Harmony University on H/F scholarships. He noted that the average age of H/U attendees is going down as more young members begin to attend.

Another connection between H/F and this District has been made through the support given to youth camps---such as the Harmony Explosion camp scheduled for July. Sean also noted that H/F provides support for collegiate quartets going to International.

Sean reported that there are 144 Pioneer members who support the Ambassadors of Song program. He distributed brochures about the program, and then noted that 24 Pioneer members support the companion program known as Presidents Council. The latter program involves a pledge of \$10 per month until a total of \$1000 is donated. Sean invited those present to sign up for donations to either program via regular deductions from a checking or debit/credit card account.

Sean mentioned that he had been approached by a lady at the convention who asked, "Did you get your [Harmony Foundation] raffle ticket yet?" He extended her question to his own question about whether members had signed up for Ambassadors of Song yet.

It was noted by Sean that contributions to the A-O-S or the P-C lead to monies coming back to the District and chapters. He pointed out the location in the brochure where donors can select "Donors Choice", and direct up to 30% of their donations back to the District or to their chapter(s).

In 2012, Sean indicated that \$18,802 came back to Pioneer and its chapters. Approximately \$4000 of that came to the District. He reminded everyone of the "parade of checks" that was held at last fall's convention----an event that will be repeated at the Fall 2013 convention. He observed that the combination of those checks, some donor choice monies, and support from the District allowed the District to be a sponsor of the Youth Chorus Festival early this year in Orlando.

Sean summarized the statistics of the most recent YCF. He noted that there were 19 choruses. Of the over 700 youth that attended, about 2/3 of them were singing barbershop for the first time. Sean pointed out that a ripple effect is occurring in the Society as a result of these youth choruses. Membership data is changing, and a larger presence of youth is being noted in chapters and at conventions. A youth movement is happening!

X. Harmony Foundation Report (cont.):

Sean proceeded to hand out checks to chapter representatives that reflected the return of Donor Choice monies. Checks were given to these chapters:

Lansing	Huron Valley
Saginaw-Bay	Holland
Grosse Pointe	Mt. Pleasant
Hillsdale	Grand Rapids
Macomb County	Detroit-Oakland

Finally, Sean gave the largest check (\$2039.50) to the Battle Creek chapter and a check for \$1309.50 to the District.

Sean clarified that there are two distributions of checks---one in the spring and one in the fall. The distribution made at this convention is from donations received between July and December of the previous year.

The next distribution that Sean made was of certificates that recognize the per-man giving of each chapter. The total contributions made by the chapter and its members are divided by the number of members to get this number. The certificates are issued for Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum levels.

In the Bronze category, he handed out certificates to these chapters, and announced their per-man giving:

Kalamazoo	\$29.03
Monroe-North	33.89
Pontiac-Waterford	37.31
Lansing	40.25
Huron Valley	61.47
Michiana-Metro	61.53
Detroit-Oakland	75.44
Hillsdale	91.53

In the Gold category, he handed out one certificate:

Rochester	243.04
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For the Platinum category, Sean noted that he had been to four conventions already, and had not handed out any certificates in this category. However, he was going to get to present two of them here.

Battle Creek	554.68
Grand Rapids	884.76

Sean summarized the events that just happened demonstrated what has been sent, and what has been brought back in a "culture of philanthropy". He urged that those who had not done so to become members of the A-O-S or the P-C.

At a 75th anniversary celebration he had attended, Sean heard people talking about looking back at the last 75 years. He suggested that we instead look forward to the next 75 years.

Finally, Sean distributed a card that described a special 75th birthday gift that can be made to Harmony Foundation. It is called the Diamond celebration. The giving levels are defined as various multiples of \$75. When an individual makes a donation, his/her signature is captured on the card. It will then be transferred to a very large birthday card which will hang in the Society headquarters. In addition, donors at the \$750 level will receive a special diamond pin. At the Johnny Appleseed District convention the week before, Sean report that 41 persons made donations at the \$75 level or higher. He offered a challenge to those at this convention to "beat Ohio" with more than 41 donors!

XI. President's Comments:

Doug Weaver began his remarks by looking forward to having an exciting convention at Traverse City. He apologized to those who were prevented from getting in some golfing because of the snow!

Doug reminded everyone that they had heard today from several board members of numerous accomplishments we have made in Pioneer. He felt that the District has an incredibly strong management team. What was heard today was just a sample of what is being offered. Programs are being offered for directors, top quartets, top choruses, new quartets, and individuals. Persons are being sought to become judging candidates, and evaluators for the Standing Ovation program. Members and chapters are encouraged to take advantage of these offerings.

Doug urged chapter secretaries and chapter treasurers to utilize the District Secretary (Jim McMahan) and the District Treasurer (Larry Parker) as resources to help them with their chapter duties.

The Scavenger Hunt described earlier by Joe McDonald was cited as something new that has never been done before in any chapter or district.

A new and unique resource was recommended by Doug---a book entitled "Visions of Excellence" ---that has just been published by the Society. The subtitle of the book is "A Dialogue with the Finest Directors from the Barbershop Harmony Society". The book is a collection of ideas, strategies, and reflections from 25 of the very best directors in the Society. Doug described the book as a "treasure". He urged everyone to get a copy, and share it with your directors and other leaders.

Doug was pleased to announce that a board opening had been filled today. The position of VP of Youth in Harmony has been open for several months. Doug reported that Evan Boegehold from the Mt. Pleasant chapter has accepted the position. Doug described Evan as young, enthusiastic, and energetic. Doug had asked Evan to talk with James Estes in Nashville to learn about programs that are available. After doing that, Evan was encouraged to talk with the VPs of YIH in the different District chapters, and find which ones want to make a difference. Those VPs will be asked to look for choral directors in their areas that want to work with us. Those directors can be provided music, coaching, and other resources. Hopefully, Evan can make these things happen.

Doug's ultimate goal is to see more Harmony Explosion and Rockin' Barbershop camps, and then to send another chorus from Pioneer to the Youth Chorus Festival. He noted that it was a thrill to send one to the YCF in Las Vegas two years ago.

Doug reminded those at this meeting of our sponsorship of the most recent YCF in Orlando. That was achieved by using the "old-fashioned" parade of checks at the last fall convention. As a result, Pioneer provided a \$10,000 donation. It was reported that the Board of Directors, at its meeting that morning, had approved another parade of checks to be held at the fall 2013 convention. This action was taken in recognition that these festivals are a key part of the continuing success and health of the Society.

Doug acknowledged that YCFs are a personal passion of his. He asked the chapters to work toward supporting the sponsorship of the next one by planning to make contributions to the next parade of checks in the fall so that we can again meet the goal of \$10,000. A unique incentive for that particular event will be the commitment of two donors in the District to match the \$10,000 from the District with their individual donations of \$10,000 each. In other words, \$10,000 from the District becomes \$30,000!

The delegates had heard earlier about the numerous celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the Society. Doug mentioned two specific events that occurred on the actual anniversary on the previous Thursday. In the rotunda of the state capital, a state representative presented the District with a resolution from the Michigan state legislature declaring the week to be Barbershop Harmony Week. Later that evening, both the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo chapters held celebratory events that drew large crowds. The following night, the Kalamazoo chapter attended a city council meeting and sang "I've Got A Gal in Kalamazoo".

XI. President's Comments (cont.):

Doug reported that the Celebrate Harmony show held in March in Lansing had 70+ men from six chapters. Similar shows by the Holland and Grand Rapids chapters will be held in April, and the Gratiot County show will be held in September. All four of these shows are using the Celebrate Harmony package of songs. All Pioneer members, if not singing in those shows, are still encouraged to attend.

Earlier, David Calland had mentioned Society CEO Marty Monson. Doug emphasized that Marty has had an immediate impact on the Society in only a few months. Marty is an outstanding business man and marketer. He has great energy and ideas. First and foremost, he is committed to barbershop. Doug predicted that members will be impressed by him.

Marty has said frequently that we spend too much time looking in the mirror, when we should be looking out the window.

Doug noted that because Marty has worked to establish a good working relationship with the ACDA, we are going to see greater cooperation between school programs and the Society. This trend fits perfectly with the model we have been using in Pioneer. "If you want to keep the whole world singing, it is time to let the world know."

Before the meeting moved on to the next item of business, Doug pointed out an ice bucket that was beginning to circulate around the room. He noted that the donations collected therein would go toward our sponsorship of the YCF.

XII. Structural Change of the Board:

Doug Weaver reviewed the organizational structural of the District that had existed for several years. There were two boards: a Management Team, and voting Board of Directors that consisted of the President, the Immediate Past President, the Executive Vice-President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. Under that structure, the Management Team members did not have a vote. While this has been the organization of most of the Society's districts, in the last few years there has been a movement away from this pattern.

Doug had felt for some time that Management Team members should have a vote since they are actively contributing to the leadership of the District. At the meeting of the Board of Directors meeting during the Leadership Academy in January, a motion was approved to combine the two boards into one. This change must now be submitted to the House of Delegates for approval. If this action is approved here, there will be only one board meeting at subsequent conventions---beginning with the October one.

There were no questions from the delegates about the proposed change. A motion was received from a delegate in attendance to approve this change. The motion was seconded. **Motion approved.**

V. Treasurer's Report (return to agenda item skipped earlier):

Since Larry Parker had returned, this item of business could be covered. Larry distributed copies of a balance sheet, and a profit and loss sheet, but apologized that he had only brought a limited number of copies. He indicated that the bottom line on the District's finances was that we had a balance of \$97,011.55 in assets. At the fall convention, he expects he will be able to bring more copies of those documents. He also noted that he had brought a few copies of the District budget. Those who wish to receive a copy should see him after the meeting.

A question was received about how our income and expenses compare with previous years. Larry admitted that he was still too new to the job to be able to answer the question.

XIII Consent Calendar Reports:

Doug Weaver reminded the delegates that they should have received the Consent Calendar reports from all of the District directors when the Second Notice about this meeting was sent out. If they did not receive those documents, they should notify Doug.

XIV. Unfinished Business:

Doran McTaggart passed out envelopes to delegates from the different chapters that usually get tickets for the Windsor Sendoff show. He asked that chapters who did not get an envelope to contact him by e-mail. The show will be held on Friday, June 7, in the same location in Windsor where it was held last year.

The tickets are \$21 each. Doran reminded the delegates that purchase of a ticket will help the quartets and chorus going to the International in Toronto. He commented that he gets a call soon after the fall convention from the winning chorus to say that a bus has been reserved, and then is asked, "What's the date?" Often, the bus can pick up extra riders who live along the route to Windsor.

Doran noted that the chorus going to Toronto was determined at the fall convention, and the collegiate and District quartets that go will be determined this weekend.

As usual, the meal will be a pasta dinner. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m., and the meal will be served around 7:15 p.m.

He alerted everyone that they will see a wonderful view as they enter Canada because of the preparations for the construction of the new bridge. Although it will take two years for the construction to be completed, Doran observed that \$0.5 billion of goods already come into the USA every day at this point of entry. Construction of the bridge will result in the creation of 20,000 to 30,000 jobs.

He stressed that chapter leaders encourage their members to attend the event. He felt that most Michigan members of the District have had time to get the necessary passports or enhanced driver's licenses that would allow them to come.

Before the next topic was discussed, Doug Weaver reported that the ice bucket passed around earlier had collected \$163 toward the YCF sponsorship.

Greg Humbel indicated that the Troubadour was now available as a hyperlink in the Society's Constant Contact library. If someone wants to see the on-line document, he does not have to download it as a 65+ page file. Instead, he can sign up for access to the library.

Doug Weaver used this moment to compliment Greg, John Cowlshaw, and Tom Ennis for doing a spectacular job of presenting the Troubadour in its new format.

Roger Lewis, District VP for Events, reminded the delegates that some unique activities were occurring at this convention. He referenced to the winery tour that was happening as he spoke. He alerted everyone to the performance by the Traverse City West High School chorus that was slated for the following evening.

Roger then commented on the hotel registration process for the fall convention in Kalamazoo which will be done completely on-line; don't try to contact the hotels directly. He mentioned that a sheet is available at the registration desk at this convention that explains the process.

While convention locations have been defined for all conventions out to 2019, Roger noted that he was looking for host chapters for the fall of 2015 and the fall of 2016. He was corrected by a delegate who indicated that Hillsdale had just sent out an e-mail requesting to host the one in the fall of 2015.

Now that Roger has taken over the role of VP of Events, this convention is the first one in many years that Jerry Ditto has not had a major involvement. Doug Weaver asked the delegates to observe how relaxed Jerry was this weekend!

Joe McDonald, District VP of CSLT, took a moment to announce that the date of the Harmony Explosion youth camp being hosted by the Mt. Pleasant chapter was July 11-13. Registration for the event is open, and more information about the camp can be found on the Mt. Pleasant chapter website. There is a video on the website that explains to students, educators, and barbershoppers about what the camp will offer.

XIV. Unfinished Business (cont.):

Dale Hanson announced that Bush League was scheduled for August 23-24.

Doran McTaggart shared info about an exciting singing activity that is happening in Canada. Info about it can be found on www.musicmonday.ca . Chris Hatfield, a Canadian astronaut, is currently in orbit. Chris and Ed Robertson (bass of "Bare Naked Ladies") have created a song that they have recorded along with a high school chorus. By signing up for "Music Monday" (the first Monday in May), schools in all six time zones in Canada will be able to receive the music and learning tapes. On that particular day, students will be able to sing along with them.

XV. New Business:

(There were no items for consideration.)

XVI. Awards:

(Awards were done earlier during the comments made by Sean Devine.)

XVII: Adjournment:

At 3:00 p.m., Doug Weaver adjourned the meeting by asking Dan Bezaire to lead the group in "Keep the Whole World Singing".

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