

Minutes of the meeting of the House of Delegates of the Pioneer District of SPEBSQSA, Inc. held on April 25, 2014, in the Thornapple Room of the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, MI

I. Call to Order:

District President Dan Bezaire called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. He asked Evan Boegehold, District Director of YIH, to lead everyone in the singing of "The Old Songs".

II. Quorum & Agenda:

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

Dan Bezaire indicated that he wanted to make one change in the agenda provided. He asked that Sean Devine's report be moved up so that it could begin immediately. A motion to adopt the modified agenda was made by a delegate in attendance, and was seconded by another delegate. **Motion approved.**

X. Harmony Foundation Representative's Report: (out of order)

Sean Devine began by commenting that he had heard reports about many successful activities at the Pioneer Board of Directors meeting earlier that morning. He was glad that Harmony Foundation has received so much support from Pioneer.

He reminded the delegates that the President's Council giving program was born in Pioneer a decade earlier---specifically in the living room of Roger Lewis. He observed that there are currently about 1000 donors in the Society to the P-C. About 5 years ago, there were about 500 donors to the other giving program---the Ambassadors of Song. After a beta test of a "regional representatives" program in Pioneer, the number of members in A-O-S has jumped to 3500.

Sean was delighted that the Pioneer BOD had just approved a sponsorship---for the third year in a row---of the Youth Chorus Festival. The YCF is always held at the Mid-winter convention. Sean noted that the YCF began seven years earlier with 6 choruses, and then it jumped to 11, 15, and 19. Finally, at the most recent Mid-winter at Long Beach, the event had to be capped at 20.

Sean reported that there are 20 choruses coming to the 2015 Mid-winter in New Orleans. Again, Pioneer will be one of the sponsors for the event. There is a waiting list of choruses that are hoping that one or more of the 20 choruses that are slated to come will have to back out. Sean was pleased to note the effects and inspiration of a program that is only 7 years old.

Harmony University was another activity that Sean chose to emphasize. He noted that donations from Pioneer have sponsored approximately 100 scholarships each year. He reminded the delegates that H/U has been re-located to Belmont University in Nashville this year. The new location will give attendees an opportunity to visit "Music City", and the Society headquarters while they are there.

Sean summarized the kinds of H/U scholarships that are being offered. They include ones for directors and for quartets (via the "Bring Your Baritone For Free" program). There are numerous ones for music educators so these individuals can learn about the resources that BHS can offer them for their vocal music programs---on a "no-strings-attached" basis.

The next topic that Sean covered was the strengthened relationship that has been established with the American Choral Directors Association. He cited the recent article in the Harmonizer about this topic, and the follow-up that has been occurring. It was noted that approximately 20,000 choral directors at all levels have been informed of the new relationship. In addition, Society representatives have set up booths at an unspecified number of regional ACDA conventions where large quantities of materials were highly popular acquisitions by attendees. In some cases, quartets performed at the booths. The ultimate exposure was the performance by the Westminster Chorus at the Western regional conference of the ACDA in February 2014.

X. Harmony Foundation Representative's Report: (out of order) (cont.):

Sean referred to a brochure he had distributed at the spring 2013 HOD meeting which urged members to make donations to H/F. That brochure mentioned a goal of getting 5000 youth to attend Harmony Explosion camps. He noted that, in 2013, the number of students and music educators who attended such camps in districts or at H/U was over 12,000! A growth of over 25% is already projected for 2014.

Mention was made of the "Harmony-For-Life" concert that Paul Teska organized within Pioneer. The funds raised at that concert went to H/F in support of a sponsorship of the Youth Chorus Festival. Sean urged the attendees to enjoy the story that is told in the eight-minute video, and enjoy the legacy that Paul was creating.

Sean reminded the delegates of the opportunity to donate to H/F through the P-C or A-O-S programs. He asked for a show of hands of those in attendance who were already doing so, and thanked those who responded.

A new two-sided brochure about H/F had been placed on the tables for the delegates to pick up. Options exist for renewal of existing donations to A-O-S, or to increase them. Those who were not planning to make any changes were encouraged to take a card anyway, and share it with someone else. Donors to the A-O-S program can always consider jumping to the P-C program.

The video that would be shown momentarily was touted as an amazing story. It was noted that it would also be shared with all of the convention attendees.

Sean emphasized that it was important that more opportunities for music educators to attend H/U be offered. Contributions to H/F can insure that this is possible, along with sending representatives to ACDA meetings, along with raising the cap on the number of choruses that can attend the YCF.

A reminder was made about the 501(c)(3) status of H/F, and the tax benefit that can be received as a result of donations. Another advantage of the P-C and A-O-S programs is the Donor Choice option that allows for up to 30% of gifts to be directed back to districts or chapters. Sean noted that the checks that went out recently from donations made between July 1 and December 31 of 2013 resulted in \$16,000 being returned to Pioneer and its chapters.

Sean cited his experience as a child of seeing the PBS radio and TV model of how to do fund-raising. Rather than showing commercials during breaks in special shows, there would be announcers that would urge the making of donations by offering a gift (a DVD of the show, for example). When Sean joined the H/F staff, he proposed that this technique be used. He cited DVDs called "The Harmony Foundation Presents---2009", or one called "The Greatest Shows" that have been given out. Sean is now carrying one called "Medal Moments---A Decade of Champions" that is the latest gift for H/F donors. For this DVD, championship quartets have submitted their two favorite songs that define their journey to the top spot.

Finally, Sean thanked the delegates for their time. He complimented the Pioneer BOD and HOD for what they have done so successfully

In preparation for the showing of the Paul Teska video, Sean observed that it had been captured and edited by Shawn York, the tenor of "OC Times". Shawn was so moved by the Paul Teska story that he volunteered to come to Michigan in March to videotape the essence of the story.

[The video "Harmony for Life" was shown.]

As a footnote to the video, Sean noted that it was now available on YouTube®, and can be downloaded to Facebook® accounts. He felt that the video really demonstrates why we do what we do, and why we make the music that makes a difference. "We do sing because we believe that the world's a better place with singing." He cited this situation as another way that people could give back through H/F. He was glad that H/F was able to "link arms" with Paul Teska in this instance, and was grateful that so many in the Pioneer District made the event a success.

X. Harmony Foundation Representative's Report: (out of order) (cont.):

A question was asked about the identity of the little girl in the video. A suggestion was made about who she was. Sean observed that if he had been doing the videotaping, he would have focused on the quartet that was singing. He was amazed that Shawn York instead had the insight to realize the girl was the moment of the piece.

Sean remembered that he had updated 2014 ribbons available for distribution to P-C and A-O-S donors. Those persons were advised to see him.

A question was asked about the names of educators that have been contacted when Harmony Explosion camps are being promoted in schools. Were those names being shared with the Society? Sean believed that this was being done to some extent. Successes similar to those of Pioneer are being achieved in other districts. Marty Monson confirmed this kind of sharing is increasing as investments are being made at conventions, and through youth camps. He cited the pin-map that shows the locations of the many camps and workshops scheduled for this year, and to which many educators are going.

It was mentioned that Joe McDonald is compiling a list of names of educators that have been contacted in conjunction with the Harmony Explosion camps and workshops.

III. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: (back to agenda order)

The minutes of the meeting of October 18, 2013, had been distributed electronically by the District Secretary Jim McMahan. Cliff Dake moved that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by John Noteware. **Motion approved.**

IV. Memorial to Deceased Members:

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":

Don Cline (Frank Thorne chapter)
 Tom Roozenburg (Saginaw Bay & Flint chapters; past member of Mt. Pleasant chapter)
 William (Bill) Kenney (Livingston County chapter)
 George Jackson, III (Huron Valley chapter)
 Paul Cooper (Battle Creek chapter)
 Gerald Twomey (Livingston County chapter)
 Demetri (Dee) Paris [not a member of Pioneer, but active in the creation of PROBE]
 Ike Hornbeck (old Oakland County chapter)
 Dick Johnson (Pontiac-Waterford chapter)
 Bob Wolf (Wayne chapter)
 Francis Scott (Muskegon chapter)
 Alex Willox (Wayne chapter)
 Ed Snell (Detroit-Oakland chapter)
 Bob Schwab (Detroit-Oakland chapter)
 Don Steward (Detroit-Oakland chapter)
 Paul Stotz (Monroe North chapter)
 Steve Cawood (Monroe-North chapter)
 Gray Simon (Wayne chapter)
 David Massie (Grosse Pointe chapter)
 Bob Reisinger [(Saginaw Bay chapter, plus Melbourne chapter (SUN))]
 Gilbert Steinman (Monroe North chapter)

IV. Memorial to Deceased Members (cont.):

Paul concluded the ceremony by quoting a poem written by Linda Jo Jackson entitled "I'm Free". He noted that these 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 that barbershop music brought to their lives!

Paul chose to add a tribute to some friends of the District. He first mentioned Mary Jane Bobier, the mother-in-law of Doug Weaver, who was a strong supporter of the Youth Chorus Festival program. Next, he alluded to the passing just the day before of Patty Smith, the wife of former District Treasurer Robb Smith. Roger Lewis then added the name of Joan King, the recently-deceased wife of past District President Larry King.

V. Financial Report:

District Treasurer Larry Parker had placed copies of two reports on the tables in the room. They were a Balance Sheet, and a Profit & Loss Statement. In the first document, he noted that the balance in the Comerica Bank checking account was \$10,572.97, and the balance in the Flagstar Bank checking account was 10,844.69. The District's balance in the Flagstar savings account was \$26,114.81. Another savings account at Flagstar held on behalf of the QCA had a balance of \$4408.79. Finally, the District's Security Benefit Insurance savings account was \$25,424.43. Consequently, the total assets of the District amounted to \$77,365.69.

Larry pointed out an item listed as "Convention---Future Year" in the amount of \$1489.88. It is a mystery item that has been in the records for some time, and needs to be eliminated. Our total assets do not actually add up to \$78,905.57; \$77,365.69 is the correct figure.

Larry then referred to the second page of the Profit & Loss Statement report which showed income and expenses for the period of January 1, 2014, through April 19, 2014. It was noted therein that the District had received income totaling \$17,787.22, and had incurred expenses of \$14,227.01. This produced a positive balance of \$3560.21.

VI. Consent Calendar Reports:

Dan Bezaire referred to the many reports from the District officers sent out electronically. He knew that people with .aol e-mail accounts had trouble receiving the reports because that system has a limit on the size of attachments. He did create a new mailing list for the distribution, because the old .cpres mailing list had so many incorrect names. To create his new list, he had acquired the names (if known) of the president and/or director of each chapter

Because a report was not supplied on behalf of the Music & Performance function, Cliff Dake was invited to comment of a specific item.

Cliff began by announcing that the District would again hold a Top Gun Chorus event in 2014. He noted that the 2013 event was very successful, and two choruses participated. Those two had asked if they could attend again. Cliff could not guarantee that, because the invitations are based on scores received in the spring competition. The highest scoring choruses are asked first. If they decline, Cliff moves down through the scores.

The purpose of the Top Gun Chorus event is to promote and build choruses to a higher level in preparation for International competitions. The Top Gun Quartet event is intended to do the same thing.

Cliff's purpose in announcing the T-G-C event was to let the delegates know that their chapter presidents should contact Cliff if they are interested in participating.

He mentioned that the event would be held again on the east side of the state. Unfortunately, it must stay there until someone can identify a venue where it can be held on the west side (or elsewhere). Such a facility must be able to handle around 150 attendees, and be able to provide food service.

VI. Consent Calendar Reports (cont.):

Cliff is willing to hold T-G-C events at other locations. He cannot travel around, however, to check out possible venues. He asked for recommendations from others. He felt that T-G-C is an awesome activity. It brings in top-notch staff from across the Society, and they convey incredible knowledge to the participants.

VII. Other Reports:

Roger Lewis spoke about the fall convention in Muskegon. He extolled the theater where the event will be held. He noted that registration forms are available at this convention. He emphasized, however, that hotel reservations for the fall convention cannot be done on-line. A paper form must be completed and mailed to the hotel. Alternatively, paper forms can be submitted before this convention is over so they can be hand-carried back by Muskegon chapter personnel. The paper form will soon be available for download from the District website.

Evan Boegehold was invited to give an update on YIH activities. He reported that he was working on a presentation to be taken to schools to expose students to a cappella singing and barbershop. It will include vocal presentations and live singing. He is hoping he can supplement it with live entertainment from nearby chapters.

Evan is trying to work out the details to hold a youth quartet adjudication festival at the spring 2015 convention. Teachers in Michigan schools will be invited to organize quartets (male or female) to attend this event. Evan had the opportunity to see this type of festival done recently in the Mid-Atlantic District.

The youth chorus ("Voice") was reported to be doing well. The group is averaging about 20-24 singers at each practice. It meets in Lansing on the third Sunday of each month, and is working on three songs. The chorus is one of the twenty that are confirmed for the 2015 YCF.

VIII. President's Remarks:

Dan Bezaire reflected back to an effort made by the Society in 2011 to learn what chapter members really want to do. The program was known as the Chapter Visitation Program. From the visits that were made to every chapter in the Society, five focus areas were identified. They were: assistance with recruitment, visitations by Society and District staff, coaching help, planning for shared activities with other chapters, and modernization of our music. The latter area has been taken on by the Society. However, Dan wanted to review what has been done within Pioneer.

With regard to coaching help, he noted that there is a section on the District website that provides links to coaches that are available in the District. He noted that some of the coaches charge a fee, while others do not. It is planned to expand that list to add names of individuals in other districts.

Dan observed that there are a lot of inter-chapter activities within Pioneer. Specifically, he mentioned Bush League, the Windsor Sendoff, Canada Night, Uncle Sam Night, and the Baker corn roast. Pioneer has the advantage of being a small district, so it is easier for chapters to get together.

Finally, for chapter visits it has been mandated that every board member is assigned to visit or contact one or more chapters on a regular basis. This is something that has been done in the past, but not consistently.

Dan reminded the delegates that his motto was "Bringing Joy through Singing". He noted that members already experience joy by attending chapter activities. He observed that "bringing joy" can also refer to the effect we have on others outside of ourselves. He urged the delegates to think outside of their chapters, and bring joy to their communities. He felt that we should be known for doing that. He declared that this is part of our "branding".

VIII. President's Remarks (cont.):

Dan asserted that music is a life-changer. We have all been touched by it, and it is something we want to share---with the whole world. We must always keep our audiences in our minds. This includes both our musical audiences and our general audiences. It is important to let them all know how much fun we are having.

IX. Society Representative (CEO) Report:

Dan proceeded to introduce Marty Monson, the CEO of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Marty began by observing that he was attending his first Pioneer convention. He noted that Dan's remarks indicate that the District is embracing the broader good and joy of what we have to offer. He observed that it was unfortunate that there were no windows into the room where the HOD was meeting. This meant that people are not able to see and hear about what barbershoppers do.

Reference was made to the video seen a few minutes earlier that revealed the impact that barbershop can have on someone. Marty cited a comment he had heard in another district where someone observed that a unique aspect of barbershop is "that we do change lives, and we just don't know, because, someday, that life might be your own". Marty said, "It is the beautiful thing about what singing does, and what harmony does, and the gift of singing, and the joy of singing."

He noted that, when we look at the numbers, we often wish we had more members. He urged that we take that wish and do something about it. We have the choice every day to look at that wish and state it again---or go do something. Marty declared he was happy with our organization. He didn't want to change a thing because what we've got is good. We have 67 years of proof and results of how singing changes one's life.

Marty was especially pleased with the chapter visitations that were done in 2011. He was glad that process obtained feedback about what members wanted via a grass-roots effort. He asserted that is not what is done by the Society or by the districts that is important, but what is done in communities every day. He noted that the efforts of chapters are on a par with other community groups such as the Lions, Rotary, Boy Scouts, etc.

He mentioned the knowledge he acquired the night before at the Muskegon chapter rehearsal. He learned then that one member has been working with the Chamber of Commerce to arrange for the chapter to do two performances for that group.

Marty admitted he loved hearing stories of chapter interactions in communities---such as the singing of a patriotic song---celebrating what we do well!

Reference was made to the article in the Harmonizer about the work on the five goals. Marty focused on the concept of branding. Because of the efforts being made in this area, he hopes to see a red line drawn through the phrase about barbershop chapters being known in their communities as "the best kept secret". He sensed the excitement in chapters that are doing something about that issue.

He emphasized that we still have a lot of work to do, and a lot of lives to be touched. There are a lot of people who need our assistance and help. As an example, he cited the needs of music programs in the public schools. While we don't use that locale as a platform, he noted that if those programs disappear, the Society will not exist in 50 years. Giving music educators some materials and support is one of the easy things we can do.

Another focus of the Society leadership is financial independence, and a re-structuring of the dues program to insure support for all of the Society's programs. He pointed out that our music is the "heart and soul" of why we exist. Without that music, we are not an organization. He mentioned that BHS is the largest distributor of music in the world. We have 7000 arrangements. On average, we provide one copy a day. We can solve much of our financial problems if people sing more of our music. This technique is known as "cause-marketing". By selling one piece of music, the profits can go toward creating more music for non-profit activities.

IX. Society Representative (CEO) Report (cont.):

Marty offered up for imagination the financial impact of just one of our songs being sung in a year by the 272,000 choirs in the U.S. Then he alluded to the impact that might be achieved beyond the U.S. market. He felt that we have a lot of good music to offer, and we have more coming. Some of them are renditions of the "old chestnuts", and some of them are of new songs, and some are of those in-between. He lamented that there is never enough time to do arrangements.

He declared that "it's about the music; it's our love for music, and our hunger to sing more music." He urged the delegates to be inspired. "Go back; learn more music; conquer it; pick another piece; get another quartet going; get a family quartet going". He observed that mixed quartet barbershop harmony is really taking off. Even though we focus on the activities of male groups, he asserted that it is really the music.

As his third point, Marty stressed the importance of our relationship with Harmony Foundation. He emphasized that's what has kept the Society going for the last ten years. He was most grateful that the generosity of members to H/F has kept us moving forward. Fortunately, the results of that support are very tangible. He expected that the impact of that partnership will continue to be broadcast.

The final aspect of the Society that he chose to emphasize was the leverage of 23,000 members with a common singing platform. Our ability to go anywhere in the world where there are barbershoppers, and sing together, is unique. He declared there is no other activity in the world where one can do that. It is a combined leverage of cause, and the beauty/joy of singing. The ability to team up with other altruistic groups in communities makes a difference.

Marty asserted that he was proud to be here to broadcast information about the Society to people who have never heard about us and our activities---just like those who heard the radio show earlier that morning. He extolled the performance that was done by a quartet as a part of that broadcast. He noted that the radio host was completely amazed by what he heard. That host has become one more person who will be a champion for us.

Marty wrapped up his presentation with a remark about how great it was to be at the Pioneer convention, and that he was looking forward to meeting and singing with attendees. He reminded the delegates that his visit was sort of a "return home"---since he lived in Kalamazoo for two years, and his wife is from the St. Joseph/Benton Harbor area.

VII. Other Reports (return to):

Since Doug Weaver had returned to the room, Dan Bezaire invited Doug to speak on the topic of Financial Development as it relates to District giving to Harmony Foundation.

Doug reiterated the news given earlier that the District board had voted that morning for the District to be, once again, a sponsor of the Youth Chorus Festival. When one adds together the District sponsorship, the one in Paul Teska's name, and two others, there will be a total of four sponsorships from our District.

Doug indicated that he was planning to visit chapters in the coming months to talk about making donations to Harmony Foundation. He was intending to encourage those who are already donating to increase their Ambassador of Song amount, or jump to the President's Council category.

Doug asserted that Pioneer is a "pioneer" in its giving to H/F.

Dan Bezaire mentioned to the delegates that there would again be a "Parade of Checks" at the fall convention in support of the YCF sponsorship.

Paul Ellinger was then invited to speak about Membership function.

Paul referred to the recent announcement on the Pionet of the development of a group known as the "Pioneer Superstars". The goal of this group is to help chapters find new singers.

VII. Other Reports (return to) (cont.):

The team is composed of volunteers from throughout the District, and has 20 members. The concept is that chapters can ask for help, and the team will design a customized plan. The team will then support the chapter as it goes through the plan. A key element of each plan will be creation of opportunities to sing in public locations so that others can hear what we do. Part of each plan is an opportunity for people who hear these performances to go afterwards to a Facebook® page called "I Just Got Barbershopped" and write their comments. Paul suggested that there are "bonus points" to this technique if you get someone in the audience to sing with you.

Paul reported that James O'Dell had gotten Facebook® entries as a result of some singing his quartet did the night before. In addition, James reported that on behalf of the Grand Rapids chapter, he got two prospects from a pub crawl, and three more at the convention hotel.

Paul planned to have the availability of the "Superstars" mentioned by the emcees during the convention. He emphasized that the group was ready to help the chapters in their grass-roots efforts.

VIII. President's Remarks (previously covered)

IX. Society Representative (CEO) Report (previously covered)

X. Harmony Foundation Representative's Report: (previously covered):

XI. Old Business:

(There was no Old Business to consider.)

XII. New Business:

The secretary reminded the delegates that chapters have a requirement to do annual filings with the Society of three documents. These "Financial Filings" must be reported to the Society through the chapter's webpage on the .ebiz website.

Recently the secretary has been receiving reports from Don Fuson (Society Board Member-at-Large). **[NOTE: He has since been designated as the Executive Vice-President.]** These very long reports are a listing of every chapter in the Society, and a record of each chapter's compliance with the reporting requirements.

The three reports that must be provided are: (1), the annual Certificate of Continued Existence that must be filed with the State of Michigan on or before October 1 of each year; (2), the 990N/990M document for the chapter's fiscal year that must be filed with the IRS on or before May 15 of the following year; and (3), the internal review of the chapter's financial records for the fiscal year that must be provided to the Society on or before May 15 of the following year. **[NOTE: Canadian chapters have different filing dates for the equivalent first two documents.]**

The reports that the secretary has been receiving from Don Fuson are about 46 pages long. The secretary had printed out just page 39---which listed all of the chapters in Pioneer. Every place where a chapter was delinquent on providing one or more of the required documents was reflected by text that was in **RED**. A copy of page 39 was displayed to show how much of the page was in red!

The secretary has discovered that many chapters have filed their C.O.C.E. documents with the State; they just haven't reported that fact to the Society. This is good---because it means that the chapter is legal with the State. There just hasn't been a follow-up. Hopefully, those same chapters have been filing 990Ns or 990Ms with the IRS. Again, there may be a lack of follow-up.

It is suspected that the one document that chapters have not been doing is the generation of an annual financial review.

XII. New Business (cont.):

The secretary is going through the list to identify deficiencies, and then contacting the resident agents for the chapters involved. Each R/A is being provided with info about what has been learned, and using the contact as an opportunity for guidance, and teaching of the chapter secretary and treasurer as well. It was indicated that it would take a while to go through all of the information. In some cases, it is suspected that documents have been submitted to the Society manually, but not recorded.

The delegates were invited to let their chapter officers know about this problem area. Assistance can be provided by the secretary on the procedures involved. A recent visit to the Grosse Pointe chapter by the secretary was cited as an opportunity where 1½ hours were spent before the chapter meeting with the chapter secretary/treasurer, and a lot of problems were resolved.

As another item of New Business, Greg Humbel asked if a successor had been found to take over his role with managing the “big screen”. Dan Bezaire confirmed that Joe McDonald had agreed to handle the task, even though Joe has had to resign from the board because of new job responsibilities.

XIII. Announcements:

Doran McTaggart distributed to chapter representatives a packet for the Windsor Sendoff show on Friday, June 13. He reminded the delegates that the packet should go to the person in the chapter who handles tickets. Doran mentioned that this will be the 37th year that Windsor has been sponsoring the Sendoff. For anyone who didn't know, he indicated that the purpose of the show is raise funds to assist the quartets (regular and collegiate) and chorus that will represent the District at the International competition, and at the Mid-winter convention (the Senior quartet).

Doran emphasized that choruses could sing at the Sendoff if they have sufficient numbers. There is a date in the packet by which the chapter must let Doran know how many will be attending. The tickets are \$21 each, and over half of the revenue goes to support the quartets and chorus. The venue for the Sendoff can hold 400-500 people.

The status of the “jug” was questioned. It was indicated that circulation of the “jug” had been suspended within the Detroit-Oakland chapter because of illnesses, but it is expected to start moving again in July

A special invitation was made to Marty Monson to attend the Sendoff for the first time.

Roger Lewis reminded the delegates that the QCA had raffled off performances last year by the three championship quartets within the District at the time. He cited the fact that a member of the Kalamazoo chapter was one of the winners. That chapter would be having “Majestyx” perform--for free--at its upcoming show.

He announced that the first prize for this year's raffle is round-trip airfare from Michigan to Las Vegas for the International convention---plus a free registration---plus seating in the VIP section. The second and third prizes in the raffle are performances by “Majestyx” and “Playlist”

Ticket sales for this raffle have been coordinated with the H/F raffle, so a \$15 ticket gets the buyer a QCA ticket, and six H/F raffle tickets. Anyone who can prove they have already bought a H/F ticket can get a QCA ticket for \$10.

Roger mentioned that if someone needs to buy a second registration for a spouse or companion, it will be arranged so that person is seated with the holder of the free registration.

XII. New Business (return to):

Because of a question asked by John Cowlshaw during the distribution of the Windsor packets, the secretary explained the important role of a chapter's resident agent. He noted that the R/A is the one person that the IRS and the State of Michigan can find. The R/A does not have to be a chapter member, nor does the R/A have to be a male. The R/A simply must be a person who has a fixed address through which governmental agencies can find the chapter.

Chapters should insure that they have a continuation of someone in the role of R/A, and know that he/she is still there on behalf of the chapter. For example, when John examined the records of his chapter, he discovered that the R/A who last filed a report with the State of Michigan was now deceased. That explained why their last report was done in 2011.

The secretary recommended that chapter boards always know who their R/A is, and follow through with appointing a replacement when it becomes necessary.

XIII. Announcements (previously covered)

XIV. Adjournment:

At 2:50 p.m., a motion to adjourn the meeting was received from a delegate in attendance, and was seconded by another delegate. **Motion approved.** Marty Monson was asked to lead the group in "Keep the Whole World Singing".

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