

**PIONEER DISTRICT, BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY  
MINUTES  
HOUSE OF DELEGATE'S MEETING  
APRIL 17, 2009**

**CALL TO ORDER:** District President Brian Dunckel called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm. The singing of "The Old Songs" followed.

**QUORUM:** Secretary Joe Serwach announced that a quorum was present. Twenty-eight officers and delegates out of a possible fifty-three were present.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Minutes of the October 2008 House of Delegates Meeting had been previously distributed by e-mail attachment. Discussion and comments were invited and there were none. Motion to accept the Minutes as submitted was made by Lansing's Larry Parker, supported by Doug Weaver of Grosse Pointe. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Robb Smith reported the District continued to be in the black, spending less than had been budgeted.

**PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:** President Brian Dunckel said member losses are greater than before but noted the Society began during the depths of the Great Depression and grew quickly. Organizations that focus outwardly rather than inwardly can grow. He recognized chapters for generous support to charities. Bronze recognition went to Traverse City, Rochester, Lansing, Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo. Silver recognition went to Detroit-Oakland, Grosse Pointe and Hillsdale. Gold level recognition went to Battle Creek.

**SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVE BILL BIFFLE:** Our Society President's representative to our 2009 Pioneer District Spring Convention, Bill Biffle addressed the delegates bringing greetings from the Society. Bill said Society membership as a percentage of the U.S. population has been falling since 1950 but the main issue wasn't recruitment as much as retention since 30 percent of members drop out after one year and 50 percent don't renew after their second year. The Society's membership is now down to 27,000 members with the average age of a society member climbing to age 62. Bob reviewed the Pioneer District numbers and indicated that as of September 30, 2006 the Society had

**CONSENT CALENDAR:** Consent Calendar Reports of the District Officers were submitted. Motion to accept the Consent Calendar Reports was made by past Society President Roger Lewis, supported by Grosse Pointe's Dough Weaver. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Dave Anderson moved that delegates approve a new job description for the District Historian's post. Motion carried. Del Sparks gave an update on efforts to begin a new chapter in Jackson. So far, there are many dual members but about 16 men are attending regularly. Matt Tipton described a proposed new event for June: Extreme Barbershopping. The Pontiac Chapter won both awards for the best chapter bulletin and the best Public Relations efforts/

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn was made by Secretary Marvin Skupski, supported by President Brian Dunckel. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:24 p.m.