

PIONEER DISTRICT, SPEBSQSA, INC.
MINUTES
HOUSE OF DELEGATE'S MEETING
APRIL 23, 2004

CALL TO ORDER: District President Bruce Smith called the meeting to order in the Oak Room North of Treetops Resort Lodge, Gaylord, Michigan at 2:00 pm. The singing of "The Old Songs" was directed by Pioneer District VP of Music and Performance Dan Bezaire.

QUORUM: Secretary Marvin Skupski announced that a quorum was present. Thirty-eight officers and delegates out of a possible fifty-four were present. Among the signed-in guests were seven past district presidents, Society Executive Vice President Drayton Justus, Kenosha Staff Member Ev Nau and Society Immediate Past President Roger Lewis.

INVOCATION AND MEMORIAL TO DECEASED MEMBERS: A tribute to the deceased members since the last meeting was given by VP Member Services Brian Dunckel for the following members: Matt Calderwood, Detroit-Oakland; William Clark, Frank Thorne; Art Jones, Grosse Pointe; Jim Mudgett, Traverse City; Henry Plantenga, Holland; Frank Richards, Lansing; John Schell, Detroit-Oakland; Dave Shrader, Lansing; John Smith, Pontiac-Waterford; George Van de Veld, Pontiac-Waterford, Grosse Pointe and Macomb.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Minutes of the October 18, 2002 House of Delegates Meeting had been previously distributed by e-mail attachment and by posting on the Pioneer District Web Site. Discussion and comments were invited and there were none.

Motion to accept the Minutes as submitted was made by Saginaw Bay Chapter Delegate Bob Winters, supported by IPP Al Bonney. Motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: VP of Finance Robb Smith distributed and commented on the 2004 financial statement through March 31, 2004. VP Smith indicated that we had ended 2003 \$6,170 to the good. No formal action taken.

ROADSHOW: Both Ev Nau from the staff at Kenosha and VP of Marketing and Public Relations Greg Humbel reviewed the up-coming Roadshow happening in Pioneer District the day after spring convention, pointing out the purpose and advising how each society member could contribute to the success of the operation. No formal action taken.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS: District President Bruce Smith reserved his time to speak to the district board of director-management team reorganization and the Youth Fund, both items scheduled for later in the agenda.

SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVE: Our Society President's representative to our 2004 Pioneer District Spring Convention, Society Executive Vice President Drayton Justus, addressed the delegates bringing greetings from Society President Rob Hopkins, the Society Board and the staff at Kenosha. EVP Justus lauded Pioneer District for providing men like Al Bonney who chaired the Governance Task Force and Roger Lewis our Immediate Past Society President.

EVP Justus reminded us once again that membership is the number one challenge we face. We stand at 31,352 as of March of this year, a drop of 701 from same time one year ago. Pioneer membership stands at 1,217, down by only 3 from the same time one year ago. EVP Justus indicated our new Executive Director Don Harris has a sound marketing background in our type of organization and we can expect more creative and more aggressive membership recruitment activities.

EVP Justus passed out and discussed a report on the Society Board planning meeting and indicated that, as indicated in the convention program, he would be available immediately after the chorus contest on Saturday afternoon to meet with members in groups or one-on-one at the contest site.

No formal action taken.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Consent Calendar Reports of the District Officers were submitted. No request was made to have any report pulled for discussion. No formal action taken.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no unfinished business items scheduled in the meeting agenda and none were added.

NEW BUSINESS

AWARDS: VP Jim Ryan announced that the Bulletin Editor of the Year Award for Pioneer District went to Bob Rancilio for the Grosse Pointe chapter bulletin "The Pitch Pipe," second place going to Art Lane for the Holland Chapter bulletin "Windmill Blade." The bulletins from these two editors will be forwarded for entry into the Society-wide chapter bulletin contest.

A separate category this year was recognition of the on-line bulletin editors. That award went to Paul Howe from Lansing Chapter. His on-line bulletins will be submitted to the Society-wide contest. No formal action taken.

HARMONY FOUNDATION RE-INVENTED: EVP Al Bonney reported on the reorganization and relocation of Harmony Foundation from Kenosha to Chicago. Professional fund raiser now in charge and professional grant writer on board to restructure and have the Society's needs, the districts' needs and the chapters' needs be the focus of fund raising and grant awarding. There will be a new VP for Harmony Foundation in each district and the focus will be to teach the districts and chapters how to raise their own funds and how to write grant applications.

Gold, Silver and Bronze awards to the various chapters were announced and awarded by EVP Bonney.

No formal action taken

FUTURE CONVENTION LOCATIONS: Events VP John Szewc confirmed that in the fall 2004 the District Convention will take place in Kalamazoo with Radisson Plaza as the headquarters hotel and with the contest site being the hotel ballroom. The District Convention for spring of 2005 will also take place in Kalamazoo with Radisson Plaza being both headquarters hotel and contest site, but the date has been changed and it is scheduled for April 29-30, May 1, 2005. VP Szewc indicated suites will be available as well as single rooms.

The fall convention for 2005 will take place in Battle Creek October 20-22, 2005. McCamly Plaza will be the headquarters hotel and Kellogg Auditorium will be the contest site.

Kalamazoo Chapter will host the Fall 2004 Convention in Kalamazoo; Macomb County Chapter will host the Spring 2005 Convention in Kalamazoo; and Lansing Chapter will host the Fall 2005 Convention in Battle Creek.

EVP Raleigh Bloch, being from Kalamazoo, gave us a verbal tour of the hotel and all the eating spots within a half block, this being a convention where you can park your car in the hotel parking garage when you arrive and not have to move it or use it until you are ready to leave on Sunday.

No formal action taken.

INTERNATIONAL SEND-OFF SHOW: VP Doran McTaggart announced the International Send-Off Show will be on the 2nd Friday in June at the new location used for the first time last year, and distributed groups of tickets to chapters in the southeast Michigan area. No formal action taken

EVENTS VICE PRESIDENT: It was announced that we are seeking someone to fill the position of Vice President of Events beginning 2005 as John Szewc is stepping down as of that time. No formal action taken.

DISTRICT REORGANIZATION: President Bruce Smith explained that under the new guidelines issued by the Society each district will divide its present board of directors into two units, (1) the district board itself and (2) the management team. In Pioneer the Board will be made up of president, immediate past president, executive vice president, secretary and VP of Finance. The management team will be made up of the remaining current VP positions and the board members. Both board and management team members will be nominated by the Nominating Committee. The board members will be elected by the House of Delegates at the fall convention and the remaining management team members will be appointed by the District President. This is a move to streamline the operation of the districts and is not a move contemplated to reduce costs. No formal action taken.

PIONEER YOUTH FUND: President Bruce Smith announced that the Board of Directors at their meeting earlier in the day approved the concept of establishing a Pioneer Youth Fund and recommended that it be brought before the House of Delegates for action.

District President Bruce Smith proposed the creation of a Youth Fund to subsidize the Pioneer YMIH activities. First raise several thousand dollars and then start using it for district youth activities and chapter youth activities. VP Dave Anderson indicates Harmony Happening needs \$4,000 to operate. Donations will be solicited from chapters, quartets and individuals, perhaps eventually building up to an endowment fund. The establishment of this fund will give the opportunity to seek “matching funds” when making grant applications. A small committee of district officers will be established to determine the mechanics of how to raise funds and to review requests from chapters seeking funds for youth activities. President Smith indicated the Board of Directors earlier in the day established an initial goal of \$5,000 to begin the fund. If the fund does not accomplish the goals to be set it can be disbanded by the House of Delegates and the House of Delegates can direct the Board how to use any left-over funds.

After discussion a motion was made by Kalamazoo Chapter Delegate David Dolph to proceed and establish the fund as proposed, support by Macomb County Chapter Delegate Roy Gurney.

After further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR REPORTS: Motion was made by Secretary Marvin Skupski to accept the Consent Calendar Reports which had been reviewed earlier, support by VP Dave Anderson. Motion carried unanimously.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION: Executive VP Raleigh Bloch supervised and facilitated. The attendees were seated at tables with a Chapter Counselor at each table. The subject matter of the discussion was how to become more well known in your community and how to help out in your community. Each table listed ten things to do to interact with the community. After discussion each table was asked to pick one of their listed ways to interact with the community and create a plan to implement that community interaction. With time running short each table was asked to write out the interaction plan and turn it in to EVP Raleigh Bloch who will see to it that the plans are published in the Troubadour.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn was made by Past District President Russ Seely, support by Secretary Marvin Skupski. Motion carried unanimously.

“Keep the Whole World Singing” was directed by EVP Raleigh Bloch.

Meeting adjourned at 4:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marvin Skupski, Pioneer District Secretary