

PIONEER DISTRICT, SPEBSQSA, INC.
MINUTES
HOUSE OF DELEGATE'S MEETING
APRIL 25, 2003

CALL TO ORDER: President Bonney called the meeting to order in the Michigan Room of Holiday Inn West, Lansing, Michigan at 2:00 p.m. The singing of "The Old Songs" was directed by Pioneer District VP of Contest and Judging Ed Fritzen.

QUORUM: Dorn Burrill announced that a quorum was present. Forty-two officers and delegates out of a possible fifty-seven were present. There were seven signed-in guests in attendance, including Society 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: Arnold "Barney" Coulter, Sault Ste. Marie; Tom Duncan, Sault Ste. Marie; Earle Dykema, Windsor; Jim Eads, Detroit-Oakland; Ed Kesterke, Benton Harbor-St. Joseph; Herb Marshke, Benton Harbor-St. Joseph; Kingsley Page, Wayne; Louis Reyner, Flint; Harley "Dutch" Stadelman, Wayne; Charles Shine, Benton Harbor- St. Joseph; Roger Shoudel, Wayne and Motor City Metro.

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 Pontiac Chapter Delegate Bill Pascher, supported by Past President Russ Seely. Motion carried unanimously.

INSTALLATION OF NEWLY ELECTED DISTRICT OFFICERS: VP of Chorus Director Development Steve Foster and VP of Finance Robb Smith who had been elected by the Board of Directors earlier in the day to fill existing vacancies on the Pioneer District Board were sworn in by the Society President's Representative to the Pioneer District Convention, Society Board Member Raleigh Bloch.

TREASURER'S REPORT: VP of Finance Robb Smith explained the budget was put together by contacting each District VP and getting a report of what programs each would be running and an estimate of the costs involved. After doing so, VP Smith then put the 2003 Budget together and gave us a status report indicating all is well and answering questions from the floor.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS: District President Al Bonney gave praise and thanks to VP of Events John Szewc and Huron Valley Chapter President Dave Herge for doing such a good job in adding value to the members' barbershop convention experience. President Bonney then reviewed our daily tasks indicating that our chapter counselors are adding value to the members' barbershop experience at the chapter level.

SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVE: Our Society Board Member Raleigh Bloch addressed the delegates bringing greetings from Society President Roger Lewis (who was present in person), the Society Board and the staff at Kenosha.

Raleigh reminded us once again that membership is the number one challenge we face. We are still experiencing a decline as of March with Society membership at 32,053, down 200 from a year ago, and Pioneer District membership at 1220, down 47 from the previous year, but 11 of 27 chapters have had an increase in membership in the last year.

9,100 are already registered for the International Convention in Montreal, and it is expected that it will be one of our bigger and better International Conventions.

Harmony Hall has been sold for \$1.6 million; the Sheridan Road facility is up for sale for \$1.1 million.

Grant Development Workshops are going well and in 11 out of 16 Districts 275 Chapters have taken part. Our Committee Chairman for Grant Writing is Mike Moyer from Gratiot County Chapter. Chapters interested in submitting grant requests should consult with him.

Darryl Flinn is retiring in 2004 and a search is under way for his successor.

A Marketing Task Force is looking to predict who potential members of our Society are and what motivates those who do join. It will be a continuing review.

Society Board Member Raleigh closed with Society President Lewis' motto, "Singing is life – the rest is just details," and he thanked us for taking care of the details.

CONSENT CALENDAR: VP Marketing and Public Relations Greg Humbel asked that his report be pulled and he reviewed the Society plans for a Live Wire 9/11 event and distributed information for chapters to use in formulating a 9/11 memorial event, and indicated the paper would be sent out through the cpres Internet Yahoo Group.

VP Young Men in Harmony Dave Anderson asked that his report be pulled and urged all chapters to recruit youngsters, high school students, for A Cappella Blast in May.

No additional reports were pulled from the consent calendar for further discussion, and no motion was made to receive the reports as submitted at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

FUTURE CONVENTION LOCATIONS: Events VP John Szewc confirmed that in the fall 2003 the District Convention will take place in Battle Creek with McCalmey Place as the headquarters hotel and with the contest side being once again Kellogg High School Auditorium. The District Convention for spring of 2004 will take place in Gaylord, then back to Lansing for the next four conventions.

Executive Vice President indicated the District Planning Session which would take place in August and urged the chapters to contact the district officers with their concerns and with their suggestions of how to make barbershopping better in Pioneer.

President Bonney announced that Alex Willox was retiring after serving fourteen years as Chairman of the Harmony Foundation Committee. President Bonney personally thanked Alex for his many years of dedicated service and read aloud a letter being sent to Alex on behalf of the Pioneer District Board of Directors.

AWARDS: Newly appointed Awards Chairman Jim Ryan announced the winning Editors of the PROBE Bulletin Contest: 1st place, Grosse Pointe's "The Pitch-Pipe," edited by Robert Rancilio (who indicates he shares the award with his wife Dot who is his associate editor), and the judges complimented them on a clean, crisp, neat looking bulletin.

2nd place, Holland Chapter's "Windmill Blade," edited by Art Lane; 3rd place, Pontiac-Waterford Chapter's "Smoke Signal," edited by John Cowlshaw.

The top two entries from the Pioneer District are eligible to enter the International Bulletin Contest.

CSLT VP Doran McTaggart presented Russ Seely with a certificate denoting that he had fulfilled all the requirements and was now a "Certified Chapter Counselor."

New at Harmony Round-Up: VP of Chorus Director Development Steve Foster indicated a Directors Workshop For Wanabe Directors would be conducted by Bob Piper from the Ontario District. In addition there will be a class for Assistant Directors, and Lynne Peirce will be teaching a class in the chapter politics that directors find themselves having to deal with. VP Foster indicated he needed the help of the Delegates present at the meeting to be sure this information about these new classes at HRU got out to the chapter members.

VP Doran McTaggart announced a new location for the International Send-Off Show on the 2nd Friday of June, and distributed groups of tickets to chapters in the southeast Michigan area.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION: Executive VP Bruce Smith supervised and facilitated.

VP Member Services Brian Dunckel summarized the effort to continue realizing positive gains from the Membership Summit conducted in conjunction with COTS this January past. 19 of 27 Chapters in Pioneer have filed plans, some long, some short. Brian indicated there is a model plan provided on the Web Site if a chapter to looking for somewhere to start.

Hillsdale Chapter indicated as to their very successful Guest Night, follow up and keeping in contact are two of the tasks that must be done in order to get guests to become interested and stay interested; re-invite people you have invited before who did not come; send letters with a telephone number for those who need a ride; follow-up calls for those who did not come.

Huron Valley reported perceiving membership as a result, not an event in itself. Using the 8 points brought back from COTS without fail at rehearsals to keep they interesting. They have two letters prepared for each invited guest, one saying glad you made it, we hope you enjoyed your time with us and want to come regularly, the other saying sorry we missed you but we will invite you again. The evening of the meeting the one letter is mailed to the guests in attendance and the other letter is mailed to those who did not come.

EVP Bruce Smith indicates each chapter should review why some did not stay after two years, what did the chapter fail to provide.

IPP Don Bazely indicates failure to follow up is the problem, follow up with the visitor who comes back as well as with those who do not come back.

ADJOURNMENT: Without formal motion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marvin Skupski, District Secretary