

PIONEER DISTRICT, BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY
MINUTES
HOUSE OF DELEGATE'S MEETING
APRIL 28, 2006

CALL TO ORDER: District President Raleigh Bloch called the meeting to order in the Great Lakes Rooms 4 and 5 of the Radisson Plaza Hotel, Kalamazoo, Michigan at 1:45 pm. The meeting began with the singing of "The Old Songs."

QUORUM: Secretary Marvin Skupski announced that a quorum was present. Twenty-nine officer-delegates and chapter delegates out of a possible fifty-three were present. Among the signed-in guests were Past District President Earl Berry, Society Executive Vice President Noah Funderburg and Society Past President Roger Lewis.

INVOCATION AND MEMORIAL TO DECEASED MEMBERS: A tribute to the deceased members since the last meeting was given by Director of Member Services Brian Dunckel for the following members: Mike Bemet, Huron Valley; Bob Franke, Muskegon; Marty Hardenberg, Holland; Harley Hinkley, Gratiot County; Al Martin, Battle Creek; Peter Nelson, Traverse City; Brent Noordfjord, Traverse City; Art Sweeney, Jackson; Charlie Willcock, Detroit-Oakland; Bob Wisdom, Grosse Pointe.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Minutes of the October 21, 2005 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 Pioneer District Secretary Marvin Skupski, supported by Chapter Delegate for Saginaw Bay Chapter Ralph Brown. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Robb Smith had previously distributed financial data by e-mail attachment and indicated he would send the latest detail up-date by e-mail attachment after the convention if anyone wished to see it. Robb reviewed the receipt of billing in an unexpected amount from Kellogg Auditorium in Battle Creek for the Fall 2005 competition venue, reported that this year's COTS event had made \$1,700 and that for this convention pre-registrations were ahead by approximately fifty. Discussion was invited and there was none. A motion to receive the financial report was made by Director of Financial Development Al Bonney, supported by Grosse Pointe Chapter Delegate Ed Sauve. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE: District President Raleigh Bloch reviewed our COTS success and thanked the chapters for making Pioneer the envy of all other districts for the way our chapters support COTS. Raleigh then urged the chapters to get behind Harmony Round-Up the same way and make that a more successful event than it has been in the immediate past. No formal action was taken.

Raleigh asked Director of Membership Development Brian Dunckel to give the membership numbers and Brian reported that Pioneer District was one of only three districts society-wide to show growth in the last three months and one of only three society-wide to show growth in the last year. Raleigh then advised the chapters that there would be new information coming out to chapters to help with new member orientation. No formal action was taken.

President Raleigh reviewed Youth in Harmony. We had a young quartet perform for us at COTS; there were 64 in attendance at this March's Harmony Happening; and we had a booth in Grand Rapids at the Michigan Vocal Teachers Association. Raleigh announced that Brandon Mattson was coming on board to be Director of Youth in Harmony in 2007. No formal action was taken.

President Bloch reviewed some of the survey information and indicated that the survey findings were going to be shared with all other districts. Raleigh indicated the delegates should take a copy of the survey report back to their chapters because a good deal of the survey information was for use at the chapter level. No formal action was taken.

SOCIETY EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT NOAH FUNDERBURG: Our Society President's representative to our 2006 Pioneer District Spring Convention, Society Executive Vice President Noah Funderburg, addressed the delegates bringing greetings from Society President Drayton Justus and urged the delegates to read the letter from President Justus and to take the letter and the information back to their chapters to be acted upon. Noah reminded us that barbershopping is about having fun. Noah then reviewed the Pioneer District numbers and concluded "Yea, Pioneer, a job well done," but then reminded us that our focus must remain on membership, and that membership must happen at the chapter level, but with help from the District and from the Society and Society Staff when needed. Noah concluded by verifying to the group that the move to the Nashville, Tennessee area would probably be in August of 2007. No formal action was taken.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Consent Calendar Reports of the District Officers were submitted. No request was made to have any report pulled for discussion. Motion to accept the Consent Calendar Reports was made by Detroit-Oakland Chapter Delegate Terry Webner, supported by Past District President Earl Berry. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

FUTURE CONVENTION SITES: This agenda item was passed temporarily.

NEW BUSINESS

AWARDS: The PROBE Chapter Bulletin Contest winners were announced and certificates presented. 3rd place went to John Cowlshaw, editor of the Pontiac-Waterford Chapter Bulletin "Smoke Signals." 2nd place went to Art Lane, editor of the Holland Chapter Bulletin "Windmill Blade." 1st place went to Bob Rancilio, editor of the Grosse Pointe Chapter Bulletin "The Pitch Pipe." No formal action was taken.

Al Bonney announced that last year the Pioneer District chapters had given \$33,000 to Harmony Foundation and then presented the awards to the individual chapters for their financial support of Harmony Foundation. Al then introduced Ev Nau who is now on staff at Harmony Foundation and Ev reviewed the information in the brochure "the Power of Everyone," indicating all the district events that can be funded in part by Harmony Foundation and the fact that chapters and under the new "Donor's Choice" arrangement individuals can designate up to 30% of donations be returned to the chapter or to the district. No formal action was taken.

BUSH LEAGUE TASK FORCE REPORT: President Raleigh Bloch discussed the Bush League Task Force Final Report and Director of Financial Development Al Bonney discussed the Survey, how it was put together and the results, the fact that we had approximately 30% of the membership participating with 387 responses. Al pointed out that all the survey was trying to do is get answers to two questions: 1- why did you **not** go to Bush League and Harmony Round-Up; and 2 - if you were doing the planning for those events what activities would you have to have included in order to make it your perfect barbershop weekend. Al concluded by urging all chapters to get on board and talk up these district events at chapter meetings and get the troops fired up to go. No formal action was taken.

HOLLAND CHAPTER – “DOCTORS OF GOOD CHEER”: A group from Holland Chapter (including a quartet in costume) explained and demonstrated their newly created “Doctors of Good Cheer” activity. Consensus was that it is going to catch on like the “Singing Valentines” activity did, and every chapter will want to be doing it. No formal action was taken.

FUTURE CONVENTION SITES: In the absence of Director of Events Jerry Ditto, President Raleigh Bloch up-dated the group on future convention sites, fall of 2006 in Kalamazoo; spring of 2007 in Traverse City (with dates earlier in April than usual); fall of 2007 in Kalamazoo; 2008 is still under discussion and negotiation with Grand Rapids a possibility for spring or fall; spring of 2009 in Traverse City (if spring of 2007 goes as expected). No formal action was taken.

MISCELLANEOUS (not on the printed agenda): Past District President and Windsor Chapter Delegate (and all-around good guy!) Doran McTaggart reminded all of the International Send-Off Show in Windsor on June 9 and gave a run-down of who would be there performing and all other fun things that will be happening. No formal action was taken.

District President Raleigh Bloch (also an all-around good guy!), following Doran’s lead, reminded all of Harmony Round-Up in Lansing on May 19-21, and gave a run-down on all the fun things that will be happening. No formal action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn was made by Director Al Bonney, supported by District Secretary Marvin Skupski. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

MARVIN SKUPSKI, Pioneer District Secretary