

PIONEER DISTRICT, SPEBSQSA, INC.
MINUTES
HOUSE OF DELEGATE'S MEETING
OCTOBER 17, 2003

CALL TO ORDER: Pioneer President Al Bonney called the meeting to order in the Montgomery Room of the McCamly Plaza Hotel, Battle Creek, Michigan at 2:00 p.m. The singing of "The Old Songs" was directed by District VP of Contest & Judging Al Fisk.

QUORUM: Credentials Committee Chairman Dorn Burrill announced that a quorum was present. Forty-one officers and delegates were present as well as other guests. President Al Bonney acknowledged Society President and Board Member Roger Lewis and Society Board Member, Kalamazoo Chapter Delegate and Pioneer District EVP Candidate Raleigh Bloch.

INVOCATION AND MEMORIAL TO DECEASED MEMBERS: A tribute to the deceased members since the last meeting was given by VP Membership Services Brian Dunckel for the following members: William Bell, Battle Creek; Kelly Brummet, Huron Valley; Sel Burchenal, Grosse Pointe; Bob Farrington, DOC; Don Hein, Grosse Pointe; Doug Lonsbury, Flint; Richard Maier, Pontiac-Waterford; Chris Miller, Pontiac-Waterford. For each one the assembled members sang "Rest in Peace."

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Minutes of the April 25, 2003 House of Delegates Meeting was submitted by Secretary Marvin Skupski, all Delegates having been furnished copies by e-mail attachment two weeks prior to the meeting. No additions, deletions or corrections were asked for. Motion to accept the April 25, 2003 minutes as submitted was made by Lansing Chapter Delegate Larry Parker, seconded by Past Pioneer District President Earl Berry and carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: A Treasurer's Report was submitted to those present by VP of Finance Robb Smith. After explanation of the current financial status of the Pioneer District and the needs for the immediate future there was discussion. A motion to accept the Report as submitted was made by Society Board Member Raleigh Bloch acting as Kalamazoo Chapter Delegate, seconded by Huron Valley Chapter Delegate Dave Herge and carried unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR REPORTS: The Consent Calendar Reports were presented, all Delegates having been furnished copies by e-mail attachment two weeks prior to the meeting. Without discussion a motion to accept the reports as submitted was made by Past Pioneer District President Earl Berry, seconded by Gratiot County Chapter Delegate Jim McMahan and carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE: President Al Bonney advised on the Chapter Counselor program and thanked VP Chapter Support & Leadership Training Doran McTaggart for his hard work in making the program a success.

President Bonney welcomed new members to the Board of Directors, Jim Ryan as VP of Chorus Director Development and Al Fisk as VP of Contest & Judging, and welcomed anew members who will be changing jobs on the Board of Directors, current EVP Bruce Smith who will be Pioneer District President beginning 2004 and current Society Board Member Raleigh Bloch who will be Pioneer District Executive Vice President beginning 2004.

President Bonney next indicated that changes were being made in the convention events and in the way the convention was being run so that the emphasis would be on convening and having fun rather than on contests and competition. He invited all, both chapters and individuals, to submit comments as each experienced these changes and responded to the changes. No formal action taken.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business scheduled in the Agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

HARMONY HAPPENING UP-DATE: VP YMIH Dave Anderson informed those present that the name of our big District-wide YMIH event has been changed from “A Capella Blast” to “Harmony Happening.” It will be March 12 and 13, 2004 at the Comfort Inn in Okemos in the East Lansing area working with Kenny and Vicki Gibson and Jamie Carey, and the YMIH Harmony Happening group will get to sing at Wharton Center on March 13th on the Lansing Chapter Show. Our man from Kenosha will be in Pioneer all the prior week making visits to schools. There will be ads in the Troubadour and in the vocal music teacher’s newsletter and the event needs to be promoted at the chapter level in local schools. No formal action taken.

HARMONY ROUND-UP UP-DATE: VP Music & Performance Dan Bezaire announced Harmony Round-Up for May 14-16, 2004 with Night Life as the feature quartet, and gave details. Dan urged all chapters to have their members register early. No formal action taken.

GRANT WRITING UP-DATE: EVP Bruce Smith reported that Mike Moyer and he talked with the MCACA people and concluded that our application was too internal, that we must have chapters track the number of performances they do and the audience attendance numbers so we can give a statistical report in our application. We must explain the travel expense portion. We must also get letters of support from the organizations for which we sing to attach to the grant application, especially letters from someone who is recognized in the music area saying that we give quality performances and are constantly improving. With budget cuts in the State of Michigan our prospects are not good but we will submit a grant application for 2005 to be judged and let it be a learning experience. VP Smith also pointed out that this information was concerning the MCACA grant from the State of Michigan only, not to be confused with the Harmony Foundation grant. No formal action taken.

BUDGET ITEM FOR APPROVAL: VP Finance Robb Smith advised that we did not receive the \$20,000 grant as we did last year. Replacing some of the funds with the expected convention registration fee increase the budget is still \$1,000 more in expenditures than income.. The increase is figured into the budget and if the increase does not pass the budget will be \$8,000 more in expenditures than income. The Pioneer District needs to do \$8,000 more to build up the reserve we should have. VP Finance Robb Smith explained the reason for increase in registration rather than increase in dues. Wayne Chapter Ed Bax made a motion to increase all events from \$20-\$25 to \$25-\$30 and the single event price from \$12 to \$15, seconded by Past District President Earl Berry. Discussion followed. An intervening motion to make the increase to \$30/35 for all events and to \$18 for single event was defeated. Further discussion followed on the motion to increase all events from \$20-\$25 to \$25-\$30 and the single event cost from \$12 to \$15. Vote taken, motion carried unanimously.

2004 BUDGET: VP Finance Robb Smith reviewed the budget recommended by the Board of Directors at their meeting earlier in the day with the increased convention registration fee schedule in place but with more changes to be made.. More discussion. Motion by Gratiot County Chapter Delegate Jim McMahan to accept the budget which will result when VP Finance Robb Smith makes the changes that were explained, seconded by Battle Creek Chapter Delegate Dorn Burrill, motion carried unanimously.

GOVERNANCE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE REPORT: President Al Bonney reviewed the report of the Task Force which he had chaired indicating that the bottom line is that the same things need to be wanted and worked toward by the Society Board, the District Boards, the Chapter Boards and the individual chapter members. There must be an alignment so all, from the Society Board to the individual

member standing on the risers each week, are working toward the same goals. No formal action taken.

COTS UP-DATE: COTS Coordinator Doug Lynn advised COTS would be in Okemos, Michigan again this year and there would be a reduction in costs to the chapters and the district. Forms were distributed to all chapters present. Send registration to Doug Lynn but hotel reservations directly to the hotel with a copy of the tax-exemption letter. Overflow will be at the adjoining Comfort Inn and there will be a TOP GUN Quartet Coaching Clinic on the same week-end so there will be another joint after-glow. No formal action taken.

ELECTION OF PIONEER DISTRICT OFFICERS FOR 2003: Immediate Past President Don Bazely, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, placed in nomination the slate of candidates for the District Offices recruited by the Committee:

Bruce Smith, President
Raleigh Bloch, Executive Vice President
Marvin Skupski, Secretary
Robb Smith, Vice President of Finance
Dan Bezaire, Vice President of Music and Performance
Jim Ryan, Vice President of Chorus Director Development
John Szewc, Vice President of Events
Al Fisk, Vice President of Contest & Judging
Doran McTaggart, Vice President of Chapter Support and Leadership Training
Brian Dunckel, Vice President of Membership Development
Dave Anderson, Vice President of Young Men in Harmony
Greg Humbel, Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations

No other pre-qualified candidates having previously come forth, the nomination process was declared closed. A motion was made by Past District President Earl Berry that the slate presented be elected by acclamation, seconded by Saginaw Bay Chapter Delegate Bob Winters and carried unanimously.

PURSUIT OF AWARDS: Acting Awards Chairman Jim Ryan passed out information folders to all chapters detailing how to enter the PROBE Bulletin Editor contest and discussed some of the past successes in that area in Pioneer District. No formal action taken.

RETIREMENTS: President Al Bonney acknowledged retiring Treasurer Stan Williams after many years of faithful service to the Pioneer District, and read aloud a letter from the Pioneer District Board of Directors thanking him for those many years of faithful service.

President Al Bonney acknowledged retiring Immediate Past President Don Bazely after many years of faithful service to the Pioneer District, and read aloud a letter from the Pioneer District Board of Directors thanking him for those many years of faithful service. No formal action taken.

SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVE: Society President Roger Lewis addressed the delegates bringing greetings from the Society Board and the staff at Kenosha. As he did at the Spring 2002 Pioneer District Convention, Roger again thanked Russ Seely and his wife Shirley for acting as his task force behind the scenes at most Society events. He also thanked all the Pioneer District people who served in Society jobs and on Society committees.

Roger reviewed the Society Vision Statement, indicated that as always membership is the number one concern and then gave a rundown of all those who will be doing the Society's work next year.

Roger reviewed the move from Harmony Hall to the Sheridan Road facility, reviewed the current goings-on with ASCAP and indicated that because of the ASCAP involvement it is crucial that all chapter

secretaries and treasurers attend COTS this coming year because whatever we want to happen must happen at the chapter level.

President Lewis closed by stating his theme, "Singing is life - - - the rest is just details," and then thanking all in attendance for taking care of the details. No formal action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: After thanking Society President Roger Lewis and all in attendance, President Al Bonney entertained a motion to adjourn this portion of the meeting by Sault Ste. Marie Chapter Delegate and Immediate Past President Don Bazely, seconded by VP Music and Performance Dan Bezaire, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm. "Keep the Whole World Singing" directed by District President Al Bonney.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION: The Round-Table was replaced by an address by our current EVP and 2004 President-elect Bruce Smith. See separate minutes.

ADJOURNMENT: The second portion of the meeting was closed at 3:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,

MARVIN SKUPSKI, Pioneer District Secretary

Attachments to the original House of Delegates 10-17-03 Meeting Minutes on file:

Officer and Delegate Sign-In Sheets

Treasurer's Report

Consent Calendar Reports

Governance Management Task Force Report

2004 Budget