

**PIONEER DISTRICT, SPEBSQSA, INC.**  
**MINUTES**  
**HOUSE OF DELEGATE'S MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 18, 2002**

**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 Music and Performance Dan Bezaire.

**QUORUM:** Credentials Committee Chairman Dorn Burrill announced that a quorum was present. Forty officers and delegates were present. There were also guests in attendance.

**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: Bernard Kesterke, Alpena; Bill Essmann, DOC; Bill Juchartz, DOC; Leroy Lake, Gratiot County; Pete Coryell, Livingston County; Ray Crancer, Muskegon; Leon "Red" Shaw, Frank Thorne; Don Denoyer, Pontiac-Waterford; Tom Duncan, Sault Ste. Marie; John French, Wayne; Ken Bilton, Windsor. For each one the assembled members sang "Rest in Peace."

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** Minutes of the April 26, 2002 House of Delegates Meeting was submitted by Secretary Marvin Skupski. No additions, deletions or corrections were asked for. Motion to accept the April 26, 2002 minutes as submitted was made by Secretary Marvin Skupski, seconded by Detroit-Oakland Chapter Delegate Earl Berry and carried unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** A Treasurer's Report was distributed to those present by District Treasurer Stan Williams. After some discussion a motion to accept the Report as submitted was made by Society Board Member Raleigh Bloch acting as Kalamazoo Chapter Delegate, seconded by Gaylord Chapter Delegate Dale Hanson and carried unanimously.

**CONSENT CALENDAR REPORTS:** VP of Events Larry Parker asked to have the Events Report pulled. VP Parker advised that we will convene in Gaylord in the spring of 2004, and that after receiving bids for spring and fall of 2005, 2006 and 2007 it is the recommendation of the Convention Committee that in the spring and fall of 2005 and 2006 we convene in Lansing and that Lansing be given an option for spring and fall of 2007. A motion was made by VP Parker to accept the Convention Committee recommendation, seconded by Macomb County Chapter Delegate Dave Anderson and carried unanimously.

**PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:** A letter from Grand Rapids Chapter President Jack Schneider thanking all for their support over the last three years when Grand Rapids was our representative to the International Chorus Contest was read aloud by President Bonney.

A portion of a letter from Robert Morris, former Milford Chapter member, was read aloud, turning over to our Pioneer District Historian Dale Bekker the original Charter of Milford Chapter which was graced with the signature of O. C. Cash.

President Bonney thanked VP of Events Larry Parker, Kalamazoo Chapter and backstage manager Don Kill for their work at this convention and they were given a round of applause. President Bonney notified all present that Milford Chapter and Swan Valley Chapter are now gone and this could happen to any chapter. President Bonney then reviewed the importance of membership efforts and advised the Delegates of the Membership Summit which will precede the Super COTS in Okemos, Michigan the first weekend in January.

President Bonney indicated that the Board of Directors has not only begun planning for 2003 but that we are already implementing that planning by adding TOP GUN and other coaching, upgrading the old COTS to the new Super COTS and Membership Summit in 2003, and we will be aided now financially by the \$22,500 grant from Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs. President Bonney advised that the grant development effort is being led by Grant Writing Committee Chairman Mike Moyer who will soon be conducting training sessions to involve chapter members in grant writing to seek grants for their qualified chapter activities.

President Bonney then thanked all present for their support and encouragement of the Board in all these undertakings.

**CONSENT CALENDAR REPORTS:** A motion was made by Detroit-Oakland Chapter Delegate Tom Uicker to accept the Consent Calendar Reports as submitted, seconded by Grand Rapids Chapter Delegate Jack Schneider, and carried unanimously.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business scheduled in the Agenda.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**POLICY MANUAL REVISION:** The policy manual revisions were not ready so this Agenda item was passed.

**BUDGETING FOR 2003:** District Treasurer Stan Williams distributed the proposed 2003 Budget with changes as recommended by the Board of Directors at the BOD Meeting earlier in the day. After explanation and discussion a motion to accept the budget as submitted was made by Treasurer Stan Williams, seconded by Grosse Pointe Chapter Delegate Russ Seely and carried unanimously.

**UPDATE ON COTS:** COTS Committee Chairman Doug Lynn reported an upgrading to Super COTS by adding the Membership Summit and TOP GUN Quartet Coaching Clinic, both starting on Friday, that it will all take place at our new location, the Holiday Inn Express in Okemos, Michigan and be self-contained within that facility with the price remaining at \$75 per attendee. Chairman Lynn advised all to read his article in the Troubadour for further details.

**UPGRADE ON GRANT DEVELOPMENT:** Grant Writing Committee Chairman Mike Moyer was unable to be present. District President Al Bonney advised an effort for a District grant for the Membership Summit plus three six-hour writing workshops will be conducted by Chairman Mike Moyer in December and January, one up north, one east and one west, and with invitations to attend being issued to Sweet Adeline Chapters and Harmony, Inc. Chapters as well as all Pioneer District Chapters.

**MEMBERSHIP SERVICES SUMMIT MEETING:** VP of Membership Services Brian Duncel indicated that this meeting is a coaching session for chapter membership people in an effort to reach new heights in membership growth. VP Duncel passed out flyers for the delegates to take back to their chapters

President Al Bonney pointed out that membership is our most immediate problem and that it must be dealt with at the chapter level.

**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:

Al Bonney, President  
Bruce Smith, Executive Vice President  
Stan Williams, Treasurer  
Marvin Skupski, Secretary  
Dan Bezaire, Vice President of Music and Performance  
Gene Hanover, Vice President of Chorus Director Development  
John Szewc, Vice President of Events  
Ed Fritzen, Vice President of Contest & Judging  
Doran McTaggart, Vice President of Chapter Support and Leadership Training  
Brian Duncel, Vice President of Membership Services  
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 Past District President Mike O'Donnell and carried unanimously.

**EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION FOR VP OF EVENTS LARRY PARKER:** President Al Bonney read aloud a letter of appreciation to Larry Parker acknowledging his work for the Pioneer District in the many district offices he has held beginning in 1990. Larry was given a well-deserved standing ovation by all present.

**SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVE:** Society President Roger Lewis addressed the delegates bringing greetings from the Society Board and the staff at Kenosha. Roger thanked Russ Seely and his wife Shirley for acting as his task force behind the scenes at most Society events, and he announced that Pioneer President Al Bonney is Moderator of the 2003 District Presidents' CSLT Advisory Board and that Denny Gore will be serving on the Society Member Services Committee in 2003.

President Lewis advised there were changes coming in the CSLT training area which is being expanded to cover leadership training and that there is a new Society youth policy. He is pleased with the upgrade to Super COTS, especially with the Membership Summit which is sorely needed because membership retention and recruitment continues to be our most immediate problem, and doing something about it is our most important job.

The Society is looking for a replacement for Gary Stamm who is no longer with the Society and Harmony Foundation. In the future Harmony Foundation will be limiting its grants to chorus director development and to districts and chapters within the Society that reach out to youth in the community.

The Registrations for Montreal in summer of 2003 are ahead of all previous conventions except Calgary.

The Society's Representatives at the fall House of Delegates Meetings in all sixteen Districts are asking three questions which all members should answer:

1. What do you feel is the greatest need your chapter has?
2. What is the greatest problem facing your chapter?
3. What do you look for to make 2003 an exciting year for your chapter?

President Lewis closed by thanking all in attendance and then stating his theme, Singing is life, the rest is just details.

**NEW TROUBADOUR EDITOR SOUGHT:** President Al Bonney announced that Troubadour Editor Gary Simon wishes to be replaced. He will produce the issue currently in progress and one more issue after that. A vote of thanks was given to Gary whose publication, it was agreed by all, is the best district

publication in the Society.

**ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION:** Executive VP Bruce Smith supervised and facilitated, assisted by VP of Membership Services Brian Dunckel, while the delegates and guests at each table endeavored to provide answers to the following three questions posed in the separate Agenda that was provided for the Round-Table Discussion portion of the House of Delegates Meeting:

1. What causes men to join a chapter?
2. What causes men to leave a chapter?
3. How do we, individually and collectively, strengthen the causes for joining and eliminate the causes for leaving.

Results of the Round Table session will be issued in a separate document by Executive VP Bruce Smith. The Round Table session was concluded with the introduction and playing of a new membership recruitment tool by VP Brian Dunckel, the “Singing is Life Video,” and an explanation of various ways it can be used.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Upon the singing of “Keep the Whole World Singing” directed by VP Dan Bezaire, the meeting was adjourned at 4:12, p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marvin Skupski, Pioneer District Secretary

Attachments to the original House of Delegates 10-18-02 Meeting Minutes on file:

Treasurer’s Report

Consent Calendar Reports

2003 Budget