

**PIONEER DISTRICT, BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY**  
**MINUTES**  
**MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING**  
**APRIL 28, 2006**

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Raleigh Bloch called the meeting to order in the Fields Room of the Radisson Plaza Hotel, Kalamazoo, Michigan at 10:35 a.m. The first order of business was the singing of "The Old Songs."

**ATTENDANCE:** Secretary Marvin Skupski reported that a quorum was present. The total attendance was all nine Management Team Directors, all five District Officers, plus a number of guests, including Society Executive Vice President Noah Funderburg, Society Past President Roger Lewis and Past District President Earl Berry.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** Minutes of the Management Team Meeting of October 21, 2005 had been previously distributed by District Secretary Marvin Skupski by e-mail attachment. Discussion and comments were invited and there were none. Motion to accept the minutes as submitted was made by Director Al Bonney, supported by Director Brian Dunkel. Motion carried.

Product of the February 11, 2006 Management Team Planning Session had been previously distributed by District Secretary Marvin Skupski by e-mail attachment. This Product constituted the "Minutes" of the February 11, 2006 meeting. Discussion and comments were invited and there were none. Motion to accept the Product of the Management Team Planning Session of February 11, 2006 as submitted was made by Executive Vice President Jim Kunz, supported by Immediate Past President Bruce Smith. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Financial Reports had been previously distributed by District Treasurer Robb Smith by e-mail attachment. Explanation and some detail was given by Robb Smith as to the billing received from Kellogg Auditorium in Battle Creek for Fall 2005 competition venue. Discussion and comments followed, including discussion of the costs related to COTS. Robb further reported in response to questioning that going back to March 31<sup>st</sup> we currently have a fund balance of approximately \$29,000 which exceeds our goal. We have a year-to-date excess of expenditures of about \$5,300. We have approximately \$22,000 of real cash in the checking and other liquid accounts, \$10,000 in government securities and \$2,000 on deposit with the travel agent. Cut-off date for early registrations has been moved up and now comes about two weeks sooner. Motion to receive the Treasurer's Report as submitted was made by Immediate Past President Bruce Smith, supported by Director Dan Bezaire. Motion carried.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:** Director Dave Anderson updated the Young Men in Harmony report with everything positive. We were entertained by a young quartet at COTS. Next was Michigan Vocal Teachers Association Meeting in Grand Rapids where we had a booth and were assisted by our Past District Champion Quartet Wildcard. A little more costly in Grand Rapids than in Ann Arbor but well worth it, and we should maintain a presence at this event. After that was Harmony Happening in February with the young people appearing on the Lansing Chapter Show to climax their week-end. Brandon Mattson will take over as Director of Youth in Harmony next year, already starting by getting a Harmony Happening event going this fall in Muskegon. No formal action was taken.

Brian Dunkel reviewed that we were one of only three districts to grow in membership in the last three months, and in the last twelve months. He has received membership recruitment plans from seven chapters. No formal action was taken.

Society Past President Roger Lewis proposed that when we are getting in touch with lapsed members we should introduce them to the Frank Thorne Chapter where they could maintain their membership but not be tied to a working chapter if their time was tight and they were unable to devote time to a district chapter. No formal action was taken.

Director of Events Jerry Ditto reported we will be in Kalamazoo again for Fall 2006, October 13-15; we will be at Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City for Spring 2007, April 12-14; we will be back in Kalamazoo again for Fall 2007, October 26-28; Spring 2008 still being negotiated and could be in any of three places; back to Kalamazoo for Fall of 2009, October 16-19. A long discussion of future convention dates, contest venues, hotel rates, negotiated options and negotiated contract terms was had. Past International Society President Roger Lewis suggested we begin using the society issued contract which has no forfeiture clause for cancellation. No formal action was taken.

Director of Music and Performance Matt Tipton reported that Top Gun was very successful in its new forum and not restricted to just top quartets by invitation only. It will have a new date in the future. Harmony Round-Up will have an on-line sign-up option and brochure. There will be three distinct tracks at this year's Harmony Round-Up rather than just the pick-and-choose your classes approach. No formal action was taken.

Director of Contest & Judging Al Fisk encouraged all to come sing in Joe Barbershopper Chorus under the direction of Jay Giallombardo. He indicated that Pioneer District is down to just two candidate judges but that both Dorn Burrill and Ron Eubank were practice judging this week-end. Fall of 2007 will be the recruiting time for the next three-year cycle and he will be out there inspiring members to become a part of the judging community. No formal action was taken.

Executive Vice President Jim Kunz wants Management Team members and Board members to link in with the CSLT functions. The CSLT program is struggling in every district but our goal is to continue the functions CLST has been doing and rely on Management Team and Board members for district out-reach and for feedback. There was a leadership class at the last COTS but it was not very well publicized and had only three attendees. We need to be in touch with the chapters and identify the up-coming chapter leaders as well as up-coming district leaders and get them all into the leadership class that will be offered at the next COTS. No formal action was taken.

Director of Marketing and Public Relations Ralph LeRoy is working with Steve Sutherland to get a web site for templates for brochures that will be available to chapters and to members. He also is working on certificates to be presented to chapter members for various accomplishments, and business cards from four-color process that can be produced at PCs for very little cost. No formal action was taken.

**PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:** This agenda item was passed.

**DISTRICT OFFICER CHAPTER CALLS:** This agenda item was passed.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**UP-DATE ON KENOSHA MOVE TO NASHVILLE AREA:** Society Executive Vice President Noah Funderburg advised us that the Nashville, Tennessee area is the place. Contract negotiations are under way and headquarters expects to move sometime this fall. Why Nashville? Nashville is one of the fastest growing municipal areas in the country and a center for all things musical. No formal action was taken.

**UP-DATE ON SOCIETY WEB SITE OVERHAUL:** Society Executive Vice President Noah

Funderburg advised that the overhaul is necessary in order for the Society to have an integrated system. The overhaul is about half completed and should be finished by October. Noah further pointed out that with all things new and changed – there is no change in our basic task, and that is membership and membership recruitment. No formal action was taken.

**BUSH LEAGUE TASK FORCE FINAL REPORT:** Director of Financial Development Al Bonney, acting in his capacity as Chairperson of the Bush League Task Force, detailed how the questions for the survey were professionally created to generate meaningfully and usable feedback. The plan worked and we now have a consensus of what each responder would like a harmony oriented week-end to be, and for most that turned out to be a fun week-end where I can improve my singing skills and sing with four other guys in a quartet. It is now up to us to make it happen the way the troops say they want it. It has to be a fun week-end at Bush League and Harmony Round-Up because most of those responding indicated that time restraints keep them from attending. That turns out to be just a matter of priorities. We have to make the harmony week-end top priority in the minds of our members. Bush League will continue to be a chapter function, not a district function, but the quartet coaching aspect which was added several years ago will continue to be a district function, with the Pioneer District QCA members contributing their time and talent. Bush League for 2006 is already scheduled by Gaylor Chapter for August 18-19. There will probably be no changes this year as a result of the report. No formal action was taken.

Task Force Member Jim Kunz indicated that the competing quartets wish to have the scores not published, and Director of Contest & Judging indicated they could post first, second and third place with scores and all others are in fourth place with no scores for fourth place posted. No formal action was taken.

**HOLLAND CHAPTER – “DOCTORS OF GOOD CHEER”:** President Raleigh Bloch advised us that because of the lateness of the hour this Management Team Meeting presentation will be passed because the same presentation is being made at the House of Delegates Meeting. Raleigh pointed out that this endeavor fills that wish of the members to have an opportunity to sing in a quartet just as the Singing Valentine program does. Raleigh indicated that inquiries are coming in from all the districts for information on this program. No formal action was taken.

**GRANT APPLICATION WRITING:** President Raleigh Bloch advised that our current grant app writer Al Bonney advised that he is unable to continue and we need to find a new grant app writer for next year. Grant Writer Al Bonney then reviewed the grant application for this year which he had just put in the mail prior to coming to convention, reviewed the needs and the problems we are facing when putting together a grant application, and the difficulty we are having getting the chapters to compile and furnish yearly performance statistics for the grant, and the difficulty we are having getting the chapters to solicit letters of support from credentialed people managing the organizations before which our chapters perform. No formal action was taken.

President Bloch then assigned the Nominating Committee, in addition to nominating candidates for district officer positions, to recruit a grant writer to work under the jurisdiction of the Director of Financial Development. No formal action was taken.

**DISTRICT OFFICER CHAPTER CALLS:** This agenda item was passed earlier. Those officers who had made their calls reported on the conditioning and functioning of the chapters they contacted. No formal action was taken.

Immediate Past President Bruce Smith advised that the Lansing Chapter Annual Show is now a “Traveling Show,” and the plan is to seek out several local venues during the year and perform the current chapter show three or four times during the course of each year. No formal action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn made by Director Al Bonney, supported by Director Al Fisk. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marvin Skupski, District Secretary

Date of next Pioneer District Management Team Meeting to be determined. .

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### **WORK ASSIGNMENTS RESULTING FROM THIS MEETING**

**FOR ALL:** Inspire all chapters collectively and all members individually not only to think about membership but to take some action and bring in some new members.

Every chance you get, hype COTS, Harmony Round-Up, Bush League and our conventions to all chapters and to all individual members, emphasizing that barbershopping is fun to do and this is where the fun will be found.

Give whatever assistance is requested by Brandon Mattson (our new Youth in Harmony Director) as he organizes and produces a Harmony Happening event in the Muskegon area in the fall of 2006.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** With the withdrawal of Grand Application Writer Al Bonney, the grant application writer position is vacant and the Nominating Committee is assigned to add this position to the list of positions for which they are to seek candidates to fill officer and director positions for 2007.

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