# Pioneer District SPEBSQSA, Inc.

# Product of the Planning Session held in Okemos, Michigan Saturday, February 1, 2003

District Officers present at the meeting were:

Al Bonney, Don Bazely, Bruce Smith, Stan Williams, Marvin Skupski, Doran McTaggart, John Szewc, Dan Bezaire, Dave Anderson, Greg Humbel, Brian Dunckel, Steve Foster, Ed Fritzen

Special Guests present at the meeting were:

Robb Smith, Doug Lynn, Larry Parker, Joe Serwach

The meeting was conducted in Meeting Room A of the Comfort Inn in Okemos, Michigan. President Al Bonney called the meeting to order at 10:00, a.m., and those present dealt with seventeen listed Agenda items as follows:

#### I CONVENTION RE-DO PROGRESS REPORT

Ed Fritzen and John Szewc submitted a written Committee Report addressing two main goals: 1. Making the Pioneer District Conventions attractive to all members, not just the competitors; and 2. How to improve various events at each convention.

The Committee Report advanced five action items:

- 1. Bring in a medalist quartet to do a special show and to conduct a Masters Class;
- 2. Survey chapters who do not normally compete to determine what the District can do at Convention to attract them;
- 3. Improve flow of contest, especially Saturday night;
- 4. Contest video tape survey resulting in continuing investigation;
- 5. Increase in number of quartets in Fall Contest indicates perhaps an earlier starting time for the Friday Night Quartet Contest.

After discussion of Agenda Item I it was determined that the following actions would be pursued to implement changes:

- 1. Don Kill will be the producer of the Saturday Night Show;
- 2. Eliminate lack of communication for Saturday night by scripting;
- 3. Move some events to a different time, events and times to be determined, specifically presentation of awards and Harmony Foundation Raffle;
- 4. Consider hiring a comedy quartet to appear after the competition;
- 5. John Szewc, Larry Parker, Stan Williams and Robb Smith will collaborate on an Event Planning Guide for the 2003 Spring Convention to be submitted by February 15th;
- 6. New Event: At the Spring Convention Don Bazely will preside in a Tag Singing Room with music provided at scheduled times and with main floor hotel room to be arranged for;
- 7. Negotiate with headquarters hotel for chapter hospitality rooms on the main floor with reduced beverage charge;
- 8. Macomb Chapter will present a show in the headquarters hotel ballroom on Friday night and will advertise through district mailing;
- 9. John Szewc will get with the people from Eastern High School and resolve what the rent charges will be for the Spring 2003 competition site;
- 10. John Szewc will do an EVP for the next two conventions by March 1st and distribute so the Board will have some sense of what to expect financially.

#### II SUPER COTS 2003 REPORT

Super COTS Coordinator Doug Lynn reported 144 initial registrations but with 10 cancellations and with Chapter Counselors attending free of charge, for a total income of \$9,000, and with costs estimated to top out at \$8,500 after all bills are in.

Super COTS was a resounding success even with some mix-up in room reservations because of clashing with the Membership Summit. There was some dissatisfaction with the inconvenience of the hotel personnel placing and removing room partitions between sessions and some classrooms which needed to be larger to accommodate attendees without crowding.

After discussion of Agenda Item II it was determined that the following actions would be pursued to enhance the program and implement changes:

1. Coordinator Doug Lynn will investigate including wives and other family members and providing other events besides just the officer schools;

- 2. The new venue was adequate, but Doug Lynn and John Szewc will continuing looking and report a location for the 2004 COTS to Al Bonney at Spring Convention;
- 3. An inquiry will be made to Mike Moyer on the possibility of seeking financial help for COTS through a grant;
- 4. Doug Lynn will investigate the opportunity to do another major event on Friday night to bring in more participants and enhance the excitement.

# III MEMBERSHIP SUMMIT REPORT

Membership Services Vice President Brian Dunckel reported that the event was a monumental success being attended by all our Chapter Counselors, plus 63 attendees from chapters and 23 chapters being represented, and that we ended up very close on the budget.

Society membership specialist Ev Nau was so impressed with Brian's work that he is submitting this Membership Summit plan for implementation in all districts of the Society.

With the Chapter Counselors a three-goal program was put in place for each chapter; 1. Create a membership growth plan for your chapter; 2. Have a good membership orientation plan in writing (for both new and old members); and 3. Goal of each chapter's choice, e.g., ladies night, membership night, chapter show.

After discussion of Agenda Item III it was determined that the following actions would be pursued to encourage chapter participation the program:

- 1. Brian Dunckel to continue following up with chapters on the homework assignments they were given by Ev Nau; twelve having reported at the time of this meeting; no additional summit planned at this time;
- 2. Doran McTaggart to report at the April BOD meeting on the progress of the three-goals per chapter plan;
- 3. District officers to inquire about membership growth activities when making their chapter contact calls prior to the April BOD meeting.

# IV YOUNG MEN IN HARMONY

YMIH Vice President Dave Anderson reported good results from the Michigan Music Educators Convention in Ann Arbor in mid-January where the District had a YMIH booth where literature was distributed. Bill Rashleigh from Kenosha attended Friday and presented a demonstration using high-schoolers from the Traverse City area resulting in

very positive responses from the convention attendees.

Some inquiries were made about the college quartet contest, and Executive Vice President Bruce Smith reported having contacts afterwards about forming high school quartets.

All Michigan colleges have been notified about the college quartet contest by Kenosha.

After discussion of Agenda Item IV it was determined that the following actions would be pursued:

- 1. Promotion for A Capella blast ads are out, second planning meeting set for the second week in February;
- 2. East and west dates are working for District visit by Bill Rashleigh with central and north dates to be set as well;

### V CHORUS DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT

CDD Vice President Steve Foster reported three CDWIs are planned, March 22nd hosted by Holland Chapter, April 12th hosted by Gaylord Chapter and July 26th hosted by either Huron Valley Chapter or Detroit-Oakland Chapter.

Steve wants to start chorus director coaching workshops and something for assistant directors, director-wannabes and section leaders. Bruce Smith indicated discussing possibilities with the Society people at the Mid-Winter in Albuquerque; there is a pilot program in this area in the Ontario District under Barry Towner and Pioneer should continue pursuing the matter.

Pioneer District now has six certified directors. Steve Foster wants the awards certificates presentations to qualifying directors to be more visible.

After discussion of Agenda Item V it was determined that the following actions would be pursued:

- 1. Steve will start a database to track directors' progress;
- 2. Promote the Standing Ovation program for all chapters;
- 3. Devise incentives to attract directors to Directors College;
- 4. Increase District budget to accommodate tuition for three applicants to Directors College;
- 5. Have a system for continuing education of directors to enhance their listening and fixing skills;
- 6. Have a core group of possibly ten directors to fill in when a chorus loses their director;
- 7. Within five years every chapter have a member with music

background being groomed to take over when the time comes;

#### VI MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE

Music and Performance Vice President Dan Bezaire submitted a written report on the successful Top Gun Quartet Coaching Clinic which was conducted in conjunction with COTS. VP Bezaire reported that the faculty for the mid-May Harmony Round-Up has been finalized and medalist quartet has been booked. The price per attendee will be \$110, the same as last year.

The faculty for the March 1st Chorus Coaching Day in Lansing is finalized but there is still one spot open. If the spot remains opened it may be offered to a college quartet.

Some quartet and chorus coaching may have to be cut if the grant money we were awarded gets cut back because of State of Michigan financial deficit problems.

After discussion of Agenda Item VI it was determined that the following actions would be pursued:

1. President Al Bonney requested an Event Planning Guide be submitted for Harmony Round-Up.

#### VII 2003 CONVENTIONS OVERVIEW

The convention overview material was covered with Agenda Item I.

#### VIII MARKETING

Marketing and Public Relations Vice President Greg Humbel proposed a booth at the Michigan State Fair for two weeks in September manned by quartets and chapter members.

"Pioneer Gear" apparel for the Barbershop Shop to be supplied by the host chapter with the profits going to the host chapter was discussed; the Pioneer District Brochure which was proposed at COTS was discussed.

After discussion of Agenda Item VI it was determined that the following actions would be pursued:

- 1. Greg will present a projection for the booth at the Michigan State Fair for the BOD to review before making a decision;
- 2. Continue investigating the possibility of "Pioneer Gear" for the Barbershoppers Shop at Convention;
- 3. Continue working on a Pioneer District Brochure which will be

classy and tell about the chapters and the functions of the chapters and district.

### IX DISTRICT OFFICER CALLS TO CHAPTERS

After discussion of Agenda Item IX it was determined that the following actions would be pursued:

- 1. CSLT Vice President Doran McTaggart will send a reminder to each District Officer four weeks before convention;
- 2. District Officers will determine from their calls whether there are any items that the chapters want placed on the HOD Agenda for discussion;
- 3. District Officers will report on the health of the chapters by oral report at the BOD Meeting.

### X CHAPTER COUNSELOR PROGRAM

CSLT Vice President Doran McTaggart indicated an effort to integrate chapter programs with District programs that needs 15 chapters actively working with the CCs and with Brian Dunckel's membership people.

After discussion of Agenda Item X it was determined that the following actions would be pursued:

- 1. Reports to Doran from the CCs on COTS results, Doran to compile and forward to the Society, President Bonney and VP Bruce Smith;
- 2. Doran will give a "state of the District" report at BOD Meeting and HOD Meeting;
- 3. Development of a Yahoo e-mail group for Chapter Counselors;
- 4. Investigate possibility of leadership development consultation; Society man Dick Powell already in contact with Doran about this.

# XI 2003 WORK PLAN DISCUSSION

President Al Bonney advised on the drafting and posting of the reports required of district officers by the Society. We have the opportunity for in-put to the Society's Five Year Plan now but they will soon be converting to a two-year plan.

After discussion of Agenda Item XI it was determined that the following actions would be pursued:

1. District Officer Reports due on the 15th of May, September and December will be forwarded to Al Bonney and Bruce Smith by

the 8th of the due month; some discussion can be had, some changes made, and then Al Bonney will post the reports together for each reporting period to the Society on the 15th of the due month.

- 2. District Officer Reports for May 15th and September 15th should be used without consultation and forwarded to District Secretary Marvin Skupski as the reports to be included in the April and October BOD and HOD consent calendar agenda items;
- 3. Reports need not be sent to the District Officers' Society Chair;
- 4. President Bonney will forward requests to District Officers for in-put on the Society's Five Year Plan to the Society Chairs.

# XII GETTING CHAPTERS AND THE DISTRICT CLOSER TO EACH OTHER

Discussion centered on the current lack of communication between chapters; the current lack of support for a chapter event by near-by chapters (currently being dubbed "a good-old-days event"); the problem of having no near-by chapters (Traverse City, Gaylord, Sault St. Marie); the utility of regional associations of chapters such as SMAC (Southeast Michigan Association of Chapters); and what is the District's role in all this.

After discussion of Agenda Item XII it was determined that the following actions would be pursued:

- 1. Chapter Counselors are in the best position to initiate communication so each chapter knows what is going on in their area and Chapter Counselors should do so;
- 2. Encourage chapters to form regional associations;
- 3. Urge chapters to contact VP Marketing Greg Humbel for assistance;
- 4. Have District Officers present at regional events;
- 5. Present District Proclamation to hosting chapter at regional events;
- 6. Schedule District Board of Directors Meetings in other places with other events.

#### XIII PROVIDING SUPPORT TO CHAPTERS

Discussion centered on our successes, no programs cancelled by the District in the last ten years but many new programs begun. We currently have coaching for quartets and choruses, COTS, Harmony Round-Up, Chorus Director Development Clinics, Standing Ovation and conventions with many activities. The question remains: do these activities enhance the members Tuesday night on the risers experience.

After discussion of Agenda Item XIII it was determined that the following actions would

# be pursued:

- 1. A continuing article in each issue of the Troubadour reviewing the District's participation in events in the District, especially the District's participation in events sponsored by chapters, and soliciting responses from the chapters and the membership;
- 2. Creation of a Speakers Guild for any District Officer (or other Society person with a particular expertise) to speak to chapters and their members upon request.

#### XIV TROUBADOUR

New Troubadour Editor Joe Serwach reported with new software the cost per issue will be reduced from \$1,500 to \$1,000 + or - \$100. Ads are too cheap and the editor was also in charge of selling ads. A separate person is needed to solicit advertising from quartets, chapter shows and business people in our convention cities for pre-convention issues.

After discussion of Agenda Item XIV it was determined that the following actions would be pursued:

- 1. An advertising solicitor will be recruited;
- 2. Information pieces in order to be published must conform to the District Editorial Policy and not be individual opinions.

# XV CHAPTER INCORPORATION REPORTING

Secretary Marvin Skupski reported that all 27 chapter presidents had been contacted and that as of February 1st only 6 had responded. Robb Smith suggested that a check of the State of Michigan Corporate Web Site by the District Secretary would be a more efficient way of determining which chapters are in compliance and which are not.

After discussion of Agenda Item XV it was determined that the following actions would be pursued:

1. The inquiry to each chapter president would stand but the District Secretary would investigate using the State of Michigan Corporate Web Site.

#### XVI SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITORS

Discussion centered on what to do to support our competitors at International Convention in Montreal in addition to big screen power point items in the Headquarters Hotel lobby. Pioneer District pins or Pioneer District ribbons.

After discussion of Agenda Item XVI it was determined that the following actions would be pursued:

- 1. Support would be not only for our Pioneer District Competitors but also for our own Roger Lewis, serving his second year as Society President;
- 2. We will go with ribbons, 500, with our competitors's names on the ribbons.

# XVII MISCELLANEOUS

District Secretary Marvin Skupski will include with the e-mailing of the Notices of Meetings prior to the Fall Convention a Notice for the QCA Show to be held on Friday night at the Headquarters Hotel ballroom after the Quartet Preliminaries. Greg Humbel will secure 200 Pioneer District pins, some for sale and some for give-away, to be determined separately for each venue and event.

August Board retreat date is changed and is now: Saturday August 9, 2003 It will be in Lansing or Okemos. VP of Events John Szewc will make the arrangements and notification will be sent by the District Secretary.

The 2003 Pioneer District Planning Session was declared closed by President Al Bonney at 2:30, p.m.

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