

Minutes of the Pioneer District Board of Directors of SPEBSQSA, Inc.
held on April 25, 2014, in the Harbor Springs Room of the Crowne Plaza Hotel
(originally slated to be held in the Board Room)

Attendees:

-----Members of the District Board of Directors present:

Dan Bezaire (President)
Jim McMahan (Secretary)
Larry Parker (Treasurer)
Doug Weaver (Immediate past president, and also Director of Financial Development)
Chris Berry (Director of CDD)---(late arrival)
Evan Boegehold (Director of YIH)
Cliff Dake (Director of Music & Performance)---(late arrival)
Paul Ellinger (Director of Membership)
Roger Lewis (Director of Events)
James O'Dell (Director of Mktg. & PR)---(late arrival)
Ed Bax (Member at large)
Dave Montera (Member at large)
Mike Ridenour (Member at large)

-----Members of the District Board of Directors absent:

Mike Hansen (Executive vice-president)
Brian Dunckel (Director of C&J)
(NOTE: The position of Director of CSLT was currently vacant.)

-----Guests:

Sean Devine (Director, Harmony Foundation)
Marty Monson (CEO, Barbershop Harmony Society)---(late arrival)

I. Call To Order:

President Dan Bezaire began the meeting at 10:39 a.m. by asking Evan Boegehold to direct the singing of "The Old Songs".

II. Quorum:

The secretary confirmed that a quorum was present by a narrow margin. Dan Bezaire noted that James O'Dell, Cliff Dake, and Chris Berry were currently involved in a promotional appearance at a local TV station, and would arrive later.

III. Minutes of the BOD meeting on January 12, 2014:

The minutes had been previously distributed by the District Secretary. Roger Lewis moved that the minutes be approved, and Dave Montera made the second. **Motion approved.**

IV. Treasurer's Report:

Larry Parker had previously distributed two reports electronically---a one-page Balance Sheet as of April 19, 2014, and a three-page Profit and Loss Statement for the period of January 1, 2014, to April 19.

Larry began with the Balance Sheet, and identified the balances in the different District accounts:

| | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Comerica checking: | \$10,572.97 | Flagstar checking: | \$10,844.69 |
| Flagstar savings: | 26,114.81 | Flagstar savings (QCA): | 4,408.79 |
| Security Benefits CD | 25,424.43 | | |

IV. Treasurer's Report (cont.):

The total of all of these accounts equaled \$77,365.69.

Larry reminded the board that a prepaid expense of \$1,489.88 for "convention—future year" still exists in the records. He didn't know to get rid of it, because it is money that does not really exist. The \$77,365.69 is the true amount in our account.

Roger Lewis asked Larry if he knew for which convention the pre-payments were made. Larry noted that he would have to review records for several years to determine that detail. Roger observed that the hotel that received those payments should have deducted them at the time, but must have failed to do so. Since this problem has been previously reported, Roger suggested that we must find some way to eliminate those payments from the record.

An idea that Roger offered was simply to call those payments an expense for this convention, but with a notation about their source. This may make this convention look worse than normal, but it would get rid of the problem.

Dave Montera acknowledged that the long way to solve the problem would be to go through all of the past records. The short way would be to follow Roger's suggestion. Since this would make this event look worse, Larry observed that it could be identified as a one-time expense.

Roger commented that he could review hotel contracts for previous conventions to find those that required advance deposits. However, he would not have invoices for those situations; Larry would have those. His final comment was: "We know what it is; just do it [i.e., write it off] and get it done".

Larry then referred to his second report---the Profit and Loss Statement for the beginning of the year. He noted that the District's income was \$17,787.22, and its expenses were \$14,227.01. The difference of the two numbers indicated a positive balance of \$3,560.21

Larry indicated that he had several checks for DVDs, Big Screen ads, and late registrations that have not yet been deposited.

The secretary recommended that discussion of Dale Hanson's financial review report be delayed until the current topic was completed.

Roger Lewis moved that the treasurer's report be received. Ed Bax offered the second. **Motion approved.**

Larry then distributed copies of the 2013 Financial Review report prepared by Dale Hanson.

Dale's review reported a discrepancy between what was shown in the Comerica checking account of \$6222.38, versus an adjusted balance of \$6022.38---a difference of \$200. A similar discrepancy was noted in the Flagstar checking account which showed a balance of \$12,146.89, vs. an adjusted balance of \$11,702.39---a difference of \$444.50. Larry has no idea why these discrepancies arose, and did not have the necessary documents available at the time Dale called him about the issue.

Larry mentioned that he was able to reconcile all of the records during 2013, and was able to do so for each of the first three months of 2014.

It was clarified that the total amount of the discrepancies was \$644.50, and that this figure indicates that the bank records and our adjusted records show we have more money than what we actually have.

Roger Lewis then suggested that, if our records have all balanced since the first of the year, then we could simply accept Dale's financial review report---since everything is OK otherwise. He moved that we accept Dale's report. Paul Ellinger offered the second.

IV. Treasurer's Report (cont.):

Dave Montera asked if everything reconciled correctly in the review of the 2012 records. Larry did not know the answer to the question because Robb Smith sent all of the records to Dale for review. Larry never saw a review of those records. The secretary did recall seeing a copy of that review, but indicated he would have to look for it.

Roger Lewis decided to withdraw his motion so he could talk to Dale about what he found in his 2012 review. Paul Ellinger agreed to withdraw his second. It was decided to wait until the next board meeting to make a final decision on this issue.

In a return to the Loss and Profit Statement previously received, Roger Lewis noted that there was income of \$500 from the two quartets that participated in the 2013 Top Gun program. However, there were expenses for that activity of approximately \$700. He asked if QCA paid half of those costs. Larry noted that QCA was charged with half (\$381) of the hotel cost. Roger indicated that he wanted to have further discussions with Larry and the QCA committee about how those costs should be managed.

V. Consent Calendar---board member reports:

Since all of the directors had submitted reports, Dan Bezaire asked if any of them wanted to offer any supplemental remarks.

---Financial Development:

Doug Weaver indicated that his report was all up-to-date.

---Events:

Roger Lewis advised the board members that they should not make reservations for their rooms at the Muskegon convention using the paper forms that have been circulated. He already has created a housing list for that event, and all of the board members are on it. The only thing a board member should do is to let Roger know if he is not attending. All of the reservations are for two nights---except for those persons who request the Thursday night before. Ed Bax was advised to use the paper form, however, to request the second room that he usually gets, and identify that request as being a "second room".

Roger noted that it has always been a practice (but not formalized as a District policy) that a stay in the convention hotel is supposed for be for at least two nights. However, there have been some persons who have only stayed one night. This has created a problem when the hotel is sold out---as was the case at this convention. This problem is being corrected at the Muskegon convention with a notice that a two-night-stay rule will be enforced.

Roger reported that he has received a request from the Muskegon chapter regarding the theater in which the competitions will be held. The Frauenthal theater has a seating capacity that is about double of what we will need. Because Muskegon has had so much success with its "Rockin' Barbershop" youth program, the chapter has requested that any student with a school ID can get in free. Roger expressed support for this concept. In addition, he proposed that every music educator in the Muskegon area be sent a letter that would allow them to receive two complimentary passes. Receipt of those letters at the theater entrances would facilitate tracking of the response we get.

Roger did suggest that students be encouraged to sit in the theater balcony, but they would not be mandated to sit there.

The secretary recommended that these complimentary procedures be approved with a motion since they represent the free distribution of privileges that would normally incur a charge.

With respect to the Muskegon convention, Roger moved that all students with a school ID be given free admission to convention events that would normally require a registration, and all music educators in the Muskegon/Holland area also be given two complimentary passes upon presentation of an invitation letter.

V. Consent Calendar---board member reports (cont.):

---Events (cont.):

Dave Montera asked if the phrase---"all students"---referred just to high school students. Roger replied that he was including elementary, high school, and college students---and even adults who were going back to school late in life!

It was noted that there are not many college students in the Muskegon area, but there are quite a few in the Holland area.

Roger mentioned that the persons who are stationed at the doors of the theater will have picture examples of the student IDs that they might see.

Dave requested confirmation that any student who is in a competing quartet or chorus must still have an all-events registration. In contrast to them, the secretary observed that there might be students who will be participating in chorus performances before or after competitions, but they would be included in the free admission category.

Mike Ridenour seconded the motion pending. The process of voting on the motion was begun, but was interrupted by a request for additional discussion.

Since there will be a lot of seating capacity at the Frauenthal facility, Mike then advanced the idea of inviting music educators from throughout the District. He suggested that we allow chapters to invite those music educators in their local areas. He envisioned that there would only a limited number from each chapter's area.

Roger supported this concept, but wanted to insure that we could track the participation of those who accept that invitation. He suggested that the letter from the Muskegon chapter could also be used for those invitations.

It was noted that each educator would have a letter with his/her name and address on it. Receipt of that letter at the door would allow us to track participation. Those that show up could also be given free music.

The secretary noted that this process was not included in the current motion, so a separate formal action would be needed. There was some confusion about whether a vote had been taken on Roger's motion, but it was established that had not been done. A vote was taken on the motion pending. **Motion approved.**

Returning to the issue of inviting music educators from throughout the District, Paul Ellinger asked how it would be determined that they were indeed that type of educator. Roger Lewis suggested that the chapters be empowered to verify the appropriate persons that should be invited. The chapters would then let us know the names and addresses to which letters would be sent. The secretary noted that this would give chapters a reason to contact educators in their areas.

Paul Ellinger observed that this process gives us an opportunity for make a follow-up with these individuals---whether they come or not. The letter could even mention resources that we can offer---such as free music.

The process was delineated for clarification. A chapter turns in a name, but the District sends the letter. Because the process has a strong relationship with the YIH activities being developed by Evan Boegehold, it was suggested everything be coordinated through him.

Dave Montera mentioned that he used to have a list of all of the music educators in the Detroit area, and he used it to send invitations to D-O-C shows. Evan reported that he is beginning to develop a similar list of contacts from throughout the state. The secretary noted that Joe McDonald is acquiring the names of educators in the central part of the state as a result of the Harmony Explosion camp registration process. Evan concluded that these databases will be expanded via the input from chapters.

V. Consent Calendar---board member reports (cont.):

---Events (cont.):

Roger Lewis suggested that the board did not need to make motions to define the process, but should merely identify who was going to handle it. The secretary expressed concern, however, about the financial aspect of the process. We would be giving away free admissions beyond those proposed for educators in the Muskegon area. Evan also questioned the extent of what we would be offering. Would it include all educators in an area, or just two per program? Dan Bezaire was of the opinion that having too many people accepting our offers was not going to be a problem.

Mike Ridenour moved that the District have a policy of giving 2 complimentary admissions to music educators so they could attend events at any time during a convention. Dan Bezaire asked if the motion was limited to just the Muskegon event, or applied to all conventions. It was decided that it was intended to be the latter.

Mike sought to establish greater clarity of his motion by declaring that he moved that the District have a policy that music educators in the state be allowed to attend---for free---the District's competitions. Doug Weaver offered the second. **Motion approved.**

Finally, Roger Lewis pointed out the one member of this weekend's judging panel---Kirk Young---will look like Al Fisk. Kirk had to cancel his plans to come. Doug Weaver indicated that his wife did not know that fact, and was searching for Kirk at the airport!

Larry Parker made a Point-of-Order comment in which he requested that future agendas for board meeting include an action at the start of each meeting to approve the agenda. That would allow items to be added to the agenda. Larry noted that he had some items that needed to be added later.

---Youth In Harmony:

Evan Boegehold linked his remarks to the earlier discussion about contacting music educators. He began by distributing a RP1 supplement to his previous workplan document. He noted that he intended to visit several schools and make presentations. He was hoping he could include live entertainment from local chapters when he makes those visits. His focus will be on a capella singing, but not exclusively on barbershop. During those visits, he will promote the Harmony Explosion camp, the Youth Chorus that is currently practicing, and the programs of nearby chapters. He will also work on developing contacts with music educators. He will be using tag singing and videos. Starting with the names we have, he will begin making contacts to request visitation times. He hopes to do 1-3 visits per month.

Evan reported that he was able to visit the MAD convention during the previous month, and to join with Gary Plaag in a Youth Adjudication Festival held on the Saturday of the weekend. The spring MAD convention is limited just to quartets, so Saturday morning is a free time in the schedule. Music educators in the area are encouraged to create quartets from their student population. The quartets come to the YAF, and get adjudicated by a panel of the judges who are there for the convention. The quartets receive an overall rating that places them in groups. They do not receive an exact numerical rating, but they do have evaluation sessions with the judges. Dan Bezaire observed that this program was like a miniature version of the Mid-Winter convention's Youth Chorus Festival.

Evan was hopeful that we might be able to develop something similar at our conventions. We have a more difficult scheduling situation since we have both choruses and quartets at our events. Therefore, Evan suggested that we do this on Friday afternoon, and use a different panel of local talent, or nearby JAD or CAR talent, to do the adjudications. Really outstanding quartets could even be invited to sing at the regular quartet competition that evening as mic testers, or for scoring only.

Evan mentioned that sometimes the quartets he saw at MAD were mixed quartets. The quartets that were at MAD loved the preparation, the performing, and the evaluations. If the logistics can be worked out, Evan was hopeful that we could begin this activity at the spring 2015 convention.

V. Consent Calendar---board member reports (cont.):

---Youth In Harmony (cont.):

Next, Evan offered an update on the activities of the "Voice" youth chorus. He noted that they were seeing 20-24 boys at their rehearsals. Most of them are coming from Hillsdale, Mt. Pleasant, and Lansing. The quartets "Wavelength" and "G-Fours" are serving as the teaching quartets. Evan identified the three songs the chorus was learning. Their entrance fee for the Mid-Winter convention has been paid.

Evan has asked Aaron Pollard to provide a list of the short- and long-term goals that he hopes to accomplish with the group. Finally, Evan has been coaching Aaron on directing techniques. From all reports that Evan has gotten, Aaron and the chorus members are tremendously enthusiastic. Evan is planning to visit their rehearsals more often beginning in May.

Larry Parker mentioned that he had received a request from Ken and Vicki Gibson for monies to assist the group with their operational costs. Dan Bezaire noted that item was a topic he was going to cover under New Business.

Dan announced that he was suspending discussion of the Consent Calendar reports because three of the directors had not yet arrived.

VII. Chapter Contacts & Communications (out of order):

Dan began by acknowledging that Joe McDonald had submitted his resignation as Director of CSLT. However, Joe will continue to be involved in District-related activities through his management of the Harmony Explosion camp, and by taking over the responsibility from Greg Humbel of coordination of the convention's "Big Screen" program. Joe and Greg will be working together on that program this weekend so that we have a good transition.

Dan planned to go around the table and get reports from each board member on his experience(s) when he contacted his assigned chapter(s). It was noted that there must be a re-assignment of the two chapters to which Joe had been assigned.

Dan began by noting that DOC and Rochester are his two chapters. He did visit DOC, even though it was difficult because DOC meets the same night as Windsor. He went early so he could visit the DOC board meeting, but it did not happen because of lack of a quorum. Because DOC is finishing a three-year period as District champion chorus, Dan felt that the chorus was in good order.

Dan had not yet been able to visit the Rochester chapter because the chapter's board meetings are held on Wednesday nights. Dan has had a commitment on that night with the Windsor Symphony. That commitment will soon be over, and he will be able to visit the chapter on a Wednesday. He then learned from Dave Montera that the chapter has switched its board meetings to Monday!

Since Mike Hansen was not present, it was unknown if he had made any contact with the Alpena chapter. It is known that the Alpena chapter is facing a difficult situation.

[Arrival of Cliff Dake and James O'Dell noted.]

Larry Parker was asked if he had been able yet to contact Gratiot County and Flint. He indicated that he had not.

The secretary was asked about any contacts he had made. He reported that he had visited the Grosse Pointe chapter with a primary purpose of working with the chapter secretary. The secretary (Tony Schulte) is new in that role, and is quite enthusiastic about resolving a lot of legal issues in the area of Financial Filings. The good news was that a 2013 Certificate of Continued Existence had been filed with the State of Michigan, and a 2012 990N had been filed with the IRS. These documents had not been reported, however, to the Society. Extensive information was provided to Tony about how to handle these topics and many other items of chapter business.

VII. Chapter Contacts & Communications (out of order) (cont.):

After a 90-minute meeting with Tony, the secretary was able to attend the chapter's rehearsal. He was struck by the extreme range of ages represented at the rehearsal. Some were quite elderly and mostly sedentary, and then there were eight young persons between the ages of 12 and 24. That group indicates that the chapter has possibilities for the future.

The secretary had a great time at the rehearsal. He was very impressed by the directing skills of Steve Pauling. The secretary had never had an opportunity to see Steve's techniques up close.

The secretary mentioned that he plans to visit the Pontiac-Waterford chapter in May.

Cliff Dake indicated that he had not yet visited the Kalamazoo and Monroe North chapters.

[Arrival of Chris Berry noted.]

James O'Dell gave a fictitious negative report about his visit to the Windsor chapter, but revealed that he actually had a great time when he went.

When James visited the Livingston County chapter, he learned that the chapter's 2014 president is relatively new to barbershop. James observed that this individual is excited about his role, and is working hard to encourage attendance at conventions, and participation in activities outside of the chapter.

Although Brian Dunckel was not present, Dan Bezaire noted that Brian was assigned to visit the Saginaw Bay chapter---a chapter about which we are concerned. Mike Ridenour mentioned that Brian Dunckel had visited the Hillsdale chapter a few weeks earlier, and spent time with the chapter president. Mike indicated that he was only an observer, but he thought that Brian's visit went well.

Roger Lewis reported that had not made any contacts yet with Michiana-Metro and Benton Harbor other than by e-mail.

Dan drew attention to the fact that Joe McDonald had been assigned to Grand Rapids and Holland, so those chapters would need to be re-assigned.

Paul Ellinger reported that he had been talking with Evan about setting up a date to visit the Mt. Pleasant chapter. Paul felt that there was a renewed enthusiasm in the chapter since Evan took over as director. (The secretary asserted that Evan was wearing out the members with his physical intensity!) Paul concluded that a new feeling of having fun has been infused into the chapter, while still keeping the singing at a high level. Paul is still hoping to work out a time for a visit when schedules will permit a visit.

Paul observed that he was originally assigned to the Wayne chapter, so he had reached out to the group via the director. He had recommended to the director that they invite in a female coach who has advanced degrees in voice and vocal performance. The director, however, was skeptical that a coach could do anything to overcome the poor quality of one section of the chorus.

Evan Boegehold reported that he was scheduled to visit the Lansing chapter on the Tuesday of the next week. He had not made arrangements yet to visit the Battle Creek chapter.

As an aside, Dan Bezaire reported that he could not get a GoogleDocs link from Paul Ellinger to work. This link is supposed to show the chapter contact assignments.

Doug Weaver reported that he had not yet visited the Sault Ste. Marie chapter this year. He has had e-mail contact with them. He also reported little contact with the Gaylord chapter. He knew that they had seen some visitors, but they're still experiencing low attendance.

Chris Berry reported that he had not yet visited the Huron Valley chapter.

Ed Bax was asked about contacts with the Pontiac-Waterford chapter. Ed was surprised because he didn't know he was assigned to it! The secretary was surprised because that was his assignment!

VII. Chapter Contacts & Communications (out of order) (cont.):

Mike Ridenour reported that he had talked twice with a member of the Muskegon chapter by phone. That person indicated the chapter was quite excited about their program. They recently acquired two new members, and are looking forward to the fall convention. Dan Bezaire also noted that Marty Monson had visited the chapter the day before this meeting. Mike hopes to visit the chapter when it has its next board meeting.

Dave Montera reported that he had attended one of the Wayne chapter's Tuesday night rehearsals. The chapter was focused on preparing for a show that is now only two weeks away. He also attended a chapter board meeting which was held on a Monday night a few weeks earlier. He noted that the chapter is director-driven, and it does not have a lot of members with experience in managing chapter activities. Dave received a lot of questions about how the chapter could do other things, offer new programs to its membership, and form committees that had authority for planning.

A significant observation that Dave made was that the first half of their upcoming show was set, but the repertoire for the second half---then only a month away---was still undefined. He suggested that the chapter may need some "hand-holding"---if they are receptive to administrative and musical coaching. Dave mentioned that he spent a half hour after the board meeting with three of its members who were interested in getting that kind of help.

Roger Lewis assured everyone that part of the second half of the Wayne show will be filled by "Bucket List".

Paul Ellinger complimented the Wayne chapter for doing a lot of singing for the public. They get a lot of recognition from their community for doing that, and get a lot of good press coverage.

Dave mentioned that the Wayne chapter has an 800 number, and gets a lot of inquiries through it. A board member with whom Dave talked after the board meeting said, however, that the chapter does not have a good process for following up on those calls.

[Arrival of Marty Monson noted.]

Dan Bezaire noted that Joe McDonald had been assigned to contact the Grand Rapids and Holland chapters, so those two would need to be re-assigned. Paul Ellinger volunteered to take Grand Rapids. The secretary agreed to take Holland since he no longer had Pontiac-Waterford, and had fortunately not made a contact yet with P-W.

Dan emphasized that the chapter visits were important because they represent a new focus of the Society. He urged that board members do it on a regular basis---at least by phone or e-mail. Face-to-face visits are still the best.

The secretary relayed some information about a topic that may need to be mentioned when talking to chapters. The Society has become concerned about the mandatory Financial Filings that chapters are supposed to submit annually.

The secretary has been receiving 39 to 40 page reports from Don Fuson in Nashville. Page 31 of those reports covers just the chapters in Pioneer. It indicates if they have, or have not, provided proof that those documents have been submitted. The documents are (1), the Certificate of Continued Existence that is filed with the state or province; (2), the 990N (or 990M) that must be filed with the IRS (a CTA form is filed in Canada); and (3), the annual review that the chapter makes of its financial records.

The secretary displayed page 31 of a recent report. Everything printed in red was indication of a deficiency. There was a lot of red on the sheet.

The secretary is slowly going through the status of individual chapters. He has discovered that many Michigan chapters have filed their C.O.C.E. documents with the State; they just haven't notified the Society. He has been assuming that many chapters have filed 990N (or 990M) reports with the IRS (or the Canadian equivalent), but have again failed to notify the Society of their action.

VII. Chapter Contacts & Communications (out of order) (cont.):

It is suspected that many chapters have not made financial reviews---either through neglect, or from thinking that a review is an audit (which is expensive).

On a chapter by chapter basis, the secretary has been reviewing what records are on file with the State of Michigan, and then contacting the chapter's resident agent. The contacts are being made as teaching experiences to help chapters learn what documents must be submitted to the state or province, to the IRS or CTA, and finally to the Society.

When an e-mail is sent to a chapter's resident agent, the board member who is assigned the job of being the contact with that chapter receives a blind carbon copy of the e-mail.

Finally, the secretary alerted the board about an addition to the mandatory filings that may develop. Besides the three noted above, there has been discussion about annual submittal of the ASCAP licensing fee (or verification that none was due), and an annual statement that all BMI/SESAC (SOCAN in Ontario) paperwork has been submitted. While no decision has been made on this idea, the secretary was of the opinion that it would be a good idea.

Doug Weaver suggested that the topic of mandatory financial filings be mentioned at the House of Delegates meeting later in the day. The secretary was reluctant to discuss details of the topic at that meeting. It was suggested, however, that he at least alert the delegates that this is a problem they may have. They can then urge their resident agents to contact the secretary for assistance.

It was asked if the chapters receive any direct feedback on their deficiencies. The messages that have been received from Don Fuson have suggested that may eventually occur. Right now, everything is being sent to district secretaries and treasurers. The secretary is trying to be proactive by pursuing the topic locally before direct Society contacts must be made. In many cases, the chapters may have done everything right except to notify the Society of their actions.

V. Consent Calendar---board member reports (return to agenda) (cont.):

---Marketing & PR (cont.):

James O'Dell reported that he and Chris Berry gave away 20 tickets the previous evening to local Chamber of Commerce people. They got exposure of two barbershop videos. They also got two names of potential members for the Grand Rapids chapter. They found three people at the hotel who might also fall into that category.

He cited the excellent exposure that this convention has gotten in the local media. This was made possible because the local Convention & Visitors Bureau hired a PR company to set it up. The two ladies in the company had previous experience as broadcasters for FOX and NBC, respectively. They have been making all of the contacts for us.

James indicated that the current situation has raised three questions:

- (1) Do we like having this media presence?
- (2) Does it give us a good ROI?
- (3) If so, do we want PR services to be included in our contracts for future conventions, or do we want to budget for those services if the host community cannot arrange for them?

James pointed out that our organization does not have those relationships in the cities where we hold conventions.

As a cost comparison, James noted that the PR company that did the media work for us charges \$2500 for a six-week media blitz. Since our media blitz would typically be only two weeks and much more focused, he felt that our cost would be closer to \$1000. James was not asking the board for a decision to be made now, but he recommended that we think about it. It was suggested that we get feedback this weekend on the success of the media coverage that was arranged so we can make a decision later.

V. Consent Calendar---board member reports (return to agenda) (cont.):

---Marketing & PR (cont.):

It had been previously noted that Greg Humbel was relinquishing the big screen role. James urged that we might try to coordinate the marketing efforts with the big screen displays. He noted that we had an opportunity to advertise local restaurants on the screen at this convention, but it came too late. These were restaurants within a mile of the hotel that are affiliated with the C&VB, and we had permission to contact them about putting ads on the screen. James envisioned that we might earn \$500 to \$1000 in ad revenue by doing this, and the income could be used to pay for contracted PR services. Dan Bezaire observed that the whole process might be revenue-neutral. James had talked with Roger Lewis about putting this idea into our contracts if a C&VB has to hire a PR firm.

Doug Weaver pointed out that convention bureaus vary widely in the services they can offer. He was impressed by what Grand Rapids did---but it may not be typical.

Finally, James suggested that, if the PR services concept is successful in helping local chapters increase their membership and their visibility, we might want to consider having conventions in locations where the establishment of new chapters is desirable, or where existing chapters need help to become re-vitalized.

----Music & Performance:

Cliff Dake mentioned that he is again planning to organize a chorus Top Gun event. He noted that the 2013 event was very successful. One of the choruses that attended last year wants to come again. He was planning to promote the event at the HOD meeting, and try to find choruses that are interested. There is a physical limit to the number that can participate. However, he did discover in 2013 that some of the larger choruses already have their own coaching plans. He had to go down a ways in the scoring records to find choruses that did not fall in that circumstance.

Another program that Cliff hopes to roll out is a "coaching assistance program". This is a concept that was discussed at the recent Forum in Nashville. The goal of the program is to increase availability of more coaches. So far, Cliff has updated the Pioneer website to list all of the coaches known to be in our area. He asked the board members to determine, when they visit a chapter, if a chapter is looking for a coach. No matter what kind of a coach it is seeking, he suggested that the chapter be urged to give Cliff a call. Cliff was optimistic that he could find the one that was right for the chapter. He envisioned that the "coaching assistance program" would develop as a grass-roots effort.

Dan Bezaire commented that he felt many chapters do not know that the District has a list of coaches on its website. He was going to emphasize that detail at the HOD meeting.

Finally, Cliff referred to his oversight of the quartet Top Gun program---even though the QCA is in charge of this activity. He had not heard back from Jamie Carey about how successful the most recent program was---but assumed that it was. He will learn more from Jamie during the weekend.

Roger Lewis confirmed that quartet Boot Camp is scheduled for Saturday, July 19. Again, Cliff noted that this event is run by the QCA.

---Membership:

Paul Ellinger distributed a single-page, two-sided document that he was going to discuss later in his remarks.

He began by referring to a fundamental concept: "If a chapter is going to grow, the chapter is the one that has to decide to do that." Growth can't occur because of an order "from above".

However, he noted that if you have a chapter that wants to grow, and you give the right tools to its members, "their hands will get very warm because they sit on them".

V. Consent Calendar---board member reports (return to agenda) (cont.):

---Membership (cont.):

As an example, he cited his experience last year with the Fresno (CA) chapter. **[NOTE: That event was described in greater detail in the minutes of January 12, 2014.]** In that situation, he was asked to replace a coaching session with a demonstration at a public performance done by the group. He reminded everyone that the chapter had about 15 members, and he had asked them to do three things: (1), sing songs to which the audience can mouth the words; (2), sing one song at a time, and then stop for a few minutes; and (3), tell him what the chapter's altruistic purpose was.

With Paul doing all of the work for the chapter, he found 10 possible new members for them (plus two interested out-of-state visitors) as a result of a one-hour performance. Each prospect was introduced to the director during the course of the event.

A week later, Paul made a follow-up call with the director, and learned that calls were made to six of the prospects, but only 4 were actually contacted. They showed up at the next rehearsal.

A few months later, Paul made another follow-up call. He learned that no further efforts had been made to contact the remaining 6. The conclusion that Paul found from this exercise is that you can show people how it is to be done, and you can do it for them. However, if there is no support system in place when you leave, then it probably won't work.

Consequently, Paul has developed a plan that he calls the "Pioneer Superstars". He put out a call on the Pionet to find people who were interested in working on the program. Within a week he had 19 volunteers who were willing to help chapters, in any way possible, to grow. Paul's feels that we have the answers of how to help chapters to grow. The need is for people who can help them with the process.

Paul's list of 19 names included a lot of well-known barbershoppers from throughout the District. He plugged in their names in to a "multi-plotter" program that shows their locations. He noted that it would be nice if there were a few more people in the center, or middle part of the state.

The group of 19 had its first on-line meeting on the previous Wednesday evening. Paul noted a lot of excitement in the team. He acknowledged that this might be the first time a "team" has been created for the membership function. The group will meet again on the Saturday afternoon of the convention. Some restraint has had to be introduced so that media folks are only being contacted by one assigned person. Meanwhile, the team will look for chapters at the convention that want to grow. The goal will be to design a plan that fits the personality of the chapter. Team members will make visits, or do follow-up calls. Problems that are identified will be shared within the team, and documented on-line.

Paul intended to provide to the emcees (Sean Devine and Marty Monson) info that can be shared with the convention attendees about something that is available for chapters. Paul will also talk about the concept at the HOD meeting.

V. Consent Calendar---Confirmation item:

Dan Bezaire noted an item of business included in the Consent Calendar area was the confirmation of our electronic vote to purchase of two credit card readers at a cost of \$24.99 each.

The secretary observed that we did not have an approval of a meeting agenda (as noted earlier in Larry Parker's Point of Order comment---see page 5). Normally, this kind of item is approved automatically when the agenda was approved. If there is ever an item of this type that is in the Consent Agenda which a board member would like to discuss separately, that person must ask that the item be pulled out before the agenda approval motion is made.

To enter a confirmation into the records of this meeting of the electronic vote to purchase the card readers, Dan Bezaire exercised executive privilege and asked for that action. **Action approved.**

VI. Other reports: (There were none.)

VII. Chapter Contacts & Communications: (This was covered earlier out of order.)

VIII. Old Business:

A. Status of Alpena and Saginaw-Bay chapters:

It has been known for a while that the Alpena chapter was in trouble. Apparently Brian Dunckel has determined that Saginaw-Bay is also struggling with maintaining minimum membership.

The secretary had determined that the Alpena chapter has three board members: William Martin, who is the chapter's resident agent and its VP of Music & Performance; a treasurer; and one other board member. The chapter has seven dues-paying members---including persons like Dale Hanson who took out dual memberships just keep their numbers up.

The secretary did determine that the chapter had filed its 2013 Certificate of Continuing Existence with the State of Michigan, but had simply failed to notify the Society. William Martin is being urged to get a copy of the document mailed to Ashley Torroll.

Dan Bezaire cited remarks from Brian that indicated that Saginaw-Bay members are enthusiastic, but low in numbers.

The secretary also reported that Saginaw-Bay was current on all of its Financial Filings with the Society. Marty Musolf and one other officer are doing a good job of managing that task.

Doug Weaver reported that there were 10-11 members at a Saginaw-Bay meeting that he attended a year earlier. James O'Dell recalled a visit he made in 2013 where there were 13-15 present.

The secretary noted that our immediate concern was Alpena, since the chapter has fallen below the minimum membership requirement. It was pointed out that merger with another chapter was not feasible because of Alpena's distance from other chapters (Gaylord, Sault Ste. Marie, and Traverse City).

From talking with William Martin, the secretary learned William knew Alpena needed to file a notice with the State of Michigan to declare its dis-incorporation. William was directed to the Michigan website for the form that must be submitted, but the secretary has seen no action.

Doug Weaver wondered if we should wait for the chapter to move, or should we initiate action. It appears obvious that something must be done. The secretary was not familiar with how chapter chapters are to be revoked by the District. He does know that the State requires that a dis-incorporation form be submitted. The chapter's assets should be coming back to the District (per Standard Chapter Bylaws).

Since Mike Hansen is the board member assigned to Alpena, it was suggested that he be asked to get involved with this situation. Mike can meet with any board members that still exist, and help them get started on the process. He can inform them about the procedures for filing dis-incorporation with the State and surrendering their charter. Another idea offered was to have Paul's Superstars work with them to work towards growing back.

It was noted that the District board can't be making decisions without input from the few Alpena members that remain. Nevertheless, they must be informed that they must do something!

The secretary offered to recover the e-mail communications he and William Martin have had, and then share those with Mike for background.

Meanwhile, it was concluded that we must keep an eye on Saginaw-Bay. Perhaps getting that chapter connected to the Superstars program may be helpful.

VIII. Old Business (cont.):B. New resident agent for the District (extra item---not on agenda):

Several weeks earlier the secretary had advised some board members that Robb Smith is currently designated as the resident agent for the District. It might be logical to designate a current board member (the treasurer, the secretary, or someone else) to hold that role.

While the change can be decided at this meeting, the secretary recommended that notification to the State of the change be delayed until we file our Certificate of Continued Existence on or before 10/01/2014. That way, we only pay one \$20 fee.

Since we won't have another board meeting until after the October 1 deadline, it was urged that a decision be made now on who will become the new R.A. as of October 1.

Dave Montera volunteered to take on the responsibility of becoming the R.A. in conjunction with his role of legal counsel for the District. Doug Weaver moved that Dave Montera be appointed as the R.A. for the District. Chris Berry made the second. **Motion approved.**

Dave recommended to Larry Parker that, when he receives paperwork from the State in August, it be forwarded to him. Dave will then do everything on-line.

IX. New Business:A. Board make-up:

Dan Bezaire noted that there was an opening on the board because of the resignation of Joe McDonald as the Director of CS/LT. Dan proposed that Mike Ridenour be appointed to that position. It was discovered that Mike did not know the primary duties of the position. He was advised that the main duty of that role is the organization of the annual Leadership Academy. Mike was informed that Joe has most of the info about the planning of the event on a flash drive.

There was some uncertainty about whether Mike could be appointed to the position by the District President, or if a vote should be taken by the board. Doug Weaver observed that several of the current members of the board were appointed by him during his tenure as District President.

The secretary reported a conversation with Joe about how much he had done in preparation for the 2015 L/A, and if the date and venue had been confirmed. Joe was reminded of the discussion at the January 12, 2014, board meeting where there was consideration of going back to the tradition of having L/A on the first weekend in January 2015, or staying with the second weekend in 2015. That weekend, unfortunately, is the time of the Mid-Winter convention. The second weekend has the advantage that it has less conflict with the holidays, and seems to promote better attendance. Going with the second weekend would mean, however, that we could not hold a District board meeting that weekend because of the absence of several key members.

Although the minutes of the January 12 meeting indicate we had decided to go with the second weekend, Joe was under the impression we had made no decision. Therefore, he had not arranged for usage of the venue at CMU. It is known that CMU's facilities would not be available for the first weekend in January, and we would have to use the Okemos facility. The secretary admitted that he liked the CMU site better as a place to conduct instruction.

Dan Bezaire asked for a confirmation vote of his appointment of Mike Ridenour as the new Director of CSLT. **Appointment confirmed.**

Although Joe had resigned from the CSLT position, it was reported that he had asked to take on the responsibility for managing the "big screen" at conventions. This position has become open because of Greg Humbel's impending move to Florida.

IX. New Business (cont.):B. Parade of checks:

Dan Bezaire asked if we wished to support the Youth Chorus Festival at the fall 2014 convention with a "Parade of Checks". It was noted that approximately \$7000 was donated by chapters in 2013, and this was an increase from previous years. That increase was attributed, in part, to the contacts that have been made with chapters to tell them about the event.

Although there needed to be motion to formalize this kind of support, Doug Weaver asked if we should first consider how we were going to support the youth chorus ("Voice") that is preparing to go to the YCF. Do we support that group instead of the Festival, or do we support both?

Larry Parker referenced a handout from the youth chorus that indicates that they're asking for \$9000 for the bus to take the group to New Orleans. The chorus is planning to seek additional support from individuals for their other costs.

It was noted that the group would be traveling non-stop to New Orleans, but there would be a cost for two nights lodging for the bus driver(s) who cannot drive more than 10 hours (ICC regulation). It was observed that 20 members of the chorus might be able to go by air for less---assuming \$400/person.

Dan Bezaire asked if our payment of \$9000-10,000 for the travel expenses for the chorus would count toward a YCF sponsorship, or did it have to go directly to Harmony Foundation. It was determined that the latter situation had to occur. Sean Devine confirmed that H/F takes care of the registration, food, housing, etc. expenses for YCF attendees. Travel costs must come from other sources.

Dan suggested that a motion was needed in order to begin discussion about support for our youth chorus. Doug Weaver observed that the group was asking for a specific amount for a specific expense. He was not sure if that was what they should be doing right now.

Paul Ellinger moved that the board support an expense of \$11,495 for the youth chorus. Dave Montera offered the second.

Roger Lewis was concerned that we were supporting something very nebulous. He wondered about the impact of our decision if the actual cost was much lower.

Larry Parker pointed out the first paragraph of the second page of the handout defined the \$9000 cost for the bus as the only expense that the chorus was seeking to be paid by the District. They are planning to ask other individuals or sources to assist with their other costs.

It was clarified that the travel to New Orleans would only involve one bus, but required two drivers.

James O'Dell wondered if we should first determine how much total support we would give to our youth chorus before we make a decision on support of the Youth Chorus Festival. It was pointed out that the motion, as it stood, was for an amount larger than what the chorus was asking. They intend to get the difference between \$11,495 and \$9000 from other sources.

Dave Montera did a quick on-line price check for Delta Airlines flights from Detroit to New Orleans. He found a price of \$378. When he multiplied that number by 25 persons, he got a cost of \$9450. Air travel, however, would eliminate the cost of meals enroute---another expense that the chorus would have.

Evan Boegehold reported that Aaron Pollard would be at the convention on Saturday, and that would be a good time to talk with him about details.

Doug Weaver remarked that the last time we had a youth chorus from Pioneer, a private donor paid for the cost of that group's travel.

IX. New Business (cont.):B. Parade of checks (cont.):

Cliff Dake was reluctant to underwrite the chorus's expenses with a "blank check". He felt that the group should have goals that define how they are going to cover all of their costs.

As he reviewed all of the expenses that the youth chorus, Roger Lewis suggested that we should first move to cover the costs of their rehearsal facility (approximately \$720). He also favored allocation of money from District chapters as going first to support of the chorus rather than to support of the Festival.

James O'Dell concluded that we might be trying to endorse a specific amount from a plan, yet most everyone was uncomfortable with the plan. He favored a statement of support for the chorus, but without having specifics tied to it. While he did favor putting financial support from the District and its chapters first toward the chorus, he felt we must talk to the group about their plan. He felt that there were better ways of doing things.

Doug Weaver suggested that we turn down the pending motion, and then talk to the group about the details. After they have redefined their plan, we can then specify that we will underwrite the shortfalls they identify after they have gotten support from their other sources.

Paul Ellinger offered a philosophical question about whether the group was just seeking to cover the expenses for a trip, or were they going to sing. He was looking for a sense of ownership that is also demonstrated by personal contributions toward the costs. He wanted to see the chorus members and their families finding ways to get to the Festival.

Dan Bezaire called the question on the motion pending. **Motion defeated.**

Dan observed that just don't have enough information yet to make a decision on the issue. He suggested that we consider that the topic is tabled until a team can talk to the group's leadership. Doug emphasized that we should let them know we are supporting them; we just need more information.

Larry Parker reported that he had attended one of their rehearsals, and learned they were paying for the room out of their own pocket. Roger Lewis knew that the facility they are using is on the MSU campus, and costs \$120/session. It was wondered why they couldn't find a non-profit facility.

Dave Montera pointed out that they are responsible for designing their practices. He urged that we not attempt to give input on that aspect of their efforts unless we think they are overspending any monies that we give them. He added that he had recalculated Delta airfares for 35 members (based on tee shirt planning), and got a cost of \$13,230. Adding in their other estimated costs, and he was getting a total close to \$15,000. We still need to know how much of that they were going to raise from other sources, and how much from the District.

Paul Ellinger asked for some time frame info so that he could do further calculations. Sean Devine noted that the first call for the group is for 4:00 p.m. on Thursday.

Dan Bezaire offered to draft a letter to Aaron Pollard and Ken Gibson that would voice our concerns and emphasize that we were still in support of their efforts---but we could not provide unlimited financial assistance.

Meanwhile, Paul Ellinger reported that he had come up with an alternative flight option that cost \$268 (round trip). Larry Parker also identified the MSU facility being used as the Hanna Center.

Dan re-iterated that he would circulate a draft of his letter to the board members for input prior to it being sent to the chorus leadership.

IX. New Business (cont.):B. Parade of checks (cont.):

Dan Bezaire asked for a motion to initiate discussion of the original topic on the agenda---whether the District was going to be a supporter of the Youth Chorus Festival. The secretary asked if the monies from the Parade of Checks were being directed toward this support. Dan observed that this issue was not yet defined. It was noted that historically the P-O-C monies have gone to Harmony Foundation for this purpose.

The secretary reminded the board of the previously-announced YCF sponsorship from the Paul Teska benefit, and the promise of two matching \$10,000 sponsorships if the District provides a sponsorship. This could mean a total sponsorship from District sources of \$40,000.

Paul Ellinger moved that the District give a \$10,000 YCF sponsorship. Evan Boegehold made the second. Dan Bezaire then invited further discussion.

James O'Dell indicated he was uncomfortable with assigning a dollar value to a YCF sponsorship without more information. It was clarified, however, that a sponsorship is a fixed amount.

Paul Ellinger then asked for clarification about the Parade of Checks. Would those monies go to the sponsorship, and would the difference come from the District? This was confirmed as the plan. Roger Lewis concluded that any support for the youth chorus (potentially between \$9000 and \$15,000) would be over and above this \$10,000. Dan Bezaire confirmed that this was a correct interpretation, and it was consistent with our past practices.

Doug Weaver reported that the two matching sponsorships were going to happen anyway, so that detail should not influence any decision of the current motion. It was again summarized that we were proposing to continue our sponsorship of the YCF with the Parade of Checks and supplemental funds from the District.

Cliff Dake asked for re-statement of the motion with these details included. The wording offered by the secretary was "The District will support the Youth Chorus Festival with an amount of \$10,000---with the monies coming from the sum of the Parade of Checks and supplemental funds from the District".

Although Dan Bezaire proposed that that this language be offered as an amendment, the secretary noted that he was presenting it as a statement of what he was hearing the board members say.

Dan asked for a vote on the motion pending. **Motion approved, with one dissenting vote.**

C. Charitable donations at conventions (extra item):

Mike Hansen had e-mailed an idea to Dan Bezaire about a concept used at some chapter shows of asking attendees to bring a donation of items, or make a cash donation, for a local charity. Dan felt the concept was a good example of "looking outside of the box". The secretary was aware of many groups that ask attendees to bring non-perishable food items. Another example cited was the bringing of hair care products for the military.

It was suggested that the charity be selected by the host chapter for the convention. All convention attendees, however, would be invited to participate. The host chapter would handle the local PR for the program.

Dave Montera asked about how the concept should be handled when the host chapter is not the local chapter. No definitive answer could be offered to his question.

It was also asked if Mike Hansen had a statement he would make sometime about the concept. No one was aware of him planning to do that.

IX. New Business (cont.):C. Charitable donations at conventions (extra item) (cont.):

The secretary was of the opinion that no board action was necessary for this to be done. The host chapter could merely be invited to do it if they chose to do so. The chapter could sort out the definition of what constitutes "local".

Dan Bezaire appointed Ed Bax to coordinate the development of the concept with the host chapters of future conventions.

D. Planning for future Chorus Director Development events (extra item):

Chris Berry referred to his work plan in which he indicated that he wanted to hold two CDWI events (Level 1) and one CDWI (Level 2) throughout the state, & an Outstanding-in-Front program at the fall convention. In his report he had suggested some costs. Those costs could change---depending on the locations that could be used and the cost of travel by the facilitators.

To place the item on the table, Chris moved that the District offer two CDWI (Level 1) events---one in the Detroit area, and one somewhere else. He expected the total cost of those two events would be \$2000. Dave Montera offered the second.

Cliff Dake asked if the directors who participate will contribute toward the cost. Chris noted that he really wanted to get directors to come. Since Pioneer has not held any CDWIs in a few years, he hoped that a no-fee basis might be an encouragement. From his experience with Top Gun events, Cliff noted that having some payment from the participants helps to establish ownership.

James O'Dell asked if the motion and the costs of the event could be provided in a written format so that more of the details could be reviewed prior to a vote.

Dan Bezaire suggested that the motion be tabled until that information is available so that it can be handled with an electronic vote. Chris consented to tabling the item until it could be completed via an electronic vote.

Larry Parker indicated he would send Chris a copy of the event budget form that should be used for this purpose.

Chris stated that he would also submit for an electronic vote on his two other proposals. He added that the cost of the CDWI (Level 2) would be \$1000. He indicated that the details for that event would also be covered on a budget form.

Finally, Chris wanted to arrange for a presenter at the fall convention for an Outstanding-in-Front program. That event was also projected to cost \$1000.

Doug Weaver suggested that one of the judges for the convention might be qualified to run that program. In response to a question, Chris noted that the O-I-F event would run about 1.5 hours. Roger Lewis suggested that Chris talk to Brian Dunckel about which of the fall judges might be the best one to do this program. Since Kirk Young was not going to come for this convention, Roger observed that Kirk still has a ticket purchased by Pioneer. Kirk may well be coming for our fall event, and he is qualified to run O-I-F.

It was summarized by the secretary that the three items would eventually be handled by electronic vote motions.

Doug Weaver complimented Chris for his initiative in getting these programs started.

X. Harmony Foundation report:

Sean Devine expressed his thanks for Pioneer's support of the Youth Chorus Festival. He reported that the last one at Long Beach was completely sold out. It was impossible to take one more student--- which was both exciting and sad. He spoke enthusiastically of the finale with the Westminster Chorus and the students all on stage together.

Sean observed that the concept of the President's Council was born in Pioneer in the living room of Roger and Sue Lewis.

He noted that focus on growing the Ambassadors of Song program began about four years ago. Since then, membership in A-O-S has grown from 500 to 3500. That growth was started with a beta test of a "regional rep" program in Pioneer.

Sean commented on the fact that Pioneer is supporting the YCF for the third year in a row. He felt that Pioneer is generating a significant "ripple effect".

It was noted that the donor's choice checks had been mailed out. He reminded the board that the donor's choice portion of monies donated through PC and AOS programs between July 1 and December 31 is distributed around the time of the fall conventions, while the portion from donations made between January 1 and June 30 is distributed at the spring conventions. Checks are now being mailed to avoid placing the H/F reps in awkward liability situations. He mentioned that the total amount of donor's choice monies that just came back to Pioneer and its chapters was over \$16,000.

Sean chose to highlight the Paul Teska video. When Sean asked if everyone had seen it, Dan Bezaire noted that it would be shown at the HOD meeting and also during the convention. Sean noted that he is incredibly moved every time he sees it, and he recognizes the legacy it represents. He noted that \$10,941 was raised at that event. Additional money still is coming in its aftermath.

It was reported that Shawn York (member of "OC Times" with Sean) volunteered to create the video.

Sean mentioned just under \$2000 in donations have been received in memory of George Jackson III. George was recently recognized with a plaque at the Society headquarters.

Acknowledgement was made of the recent loss of another great supporter of the District and of the Youth Chorus Festival (Mary Jane Bobier).

Finally, Sean noted that he was thrilled with the success of last year's Pioneer Parade of Checks. His message concluded with thanks to the District for its hospitality and its encouragement.

XI. Report from Marty Monson:

To save time, Marty announced that he would defer his remarks until the HOD meeting. He did express enthusiasm about the media PR session in which he was involved earlier in the day. He admired the handling of this BOD meeting.

Marty revealed that he was a member of the Mall City Chorus from 1989 to 1991, but he never got to attend a Pioneer convention during that period. This weekend will be his first time to do that.

XII. New chapter in Marquette: (extra item):

Larry Parker reported that a District member (Peter Stephens-Brown) recently moved to Marquette, and has stated that he wants to start a chapter there. However, he wants the chapter to be in Pioneer District, and not in Land-O-Lakes. Peter is looking for a Pioneer chapter or District personnel to assist in this effort. Larry did advise him to get a new chapter packer from the Society.

The secretary wondered if a Marquette chapter can be guaranteed to be assigned to Pioneer, since there is already one Michigan/LOL chapter in nearby Gladstone (Escanaba area).

XII. New chapter in Marquette: (extra item) (cont.):

Paul Ellinger asked Larry to give him Peter's contact information, and Paul will help him to initiate the start-up of a chapter.

Marty Monson noted that he did not know anything about the chapter assignment process, so he felt that he could not make any comments at this time. He indicated that he would try to learn about it, since the topic is related to some automation technology that he had recently requested.

XIII. Miscellaneous (extra item):

Ed Bax reported that Patty, the wife of former District Treasurer Robb Smith, had passed away just the day before. Although Patty was not a member of the Society, Paul Ellinger indicated that he would mention her during the memorial service that afternoon at the HOD meeting. It was also urged that Mary Jane Bobier be recognized in that service.

XIV. Adjournment:

At 12:54 p.m., Roger Lewis moved that the meeting be adjourned. Cliff Dake seconded the motion.
Motion approved.

Minutes prepared by Jim McMahan, Secretary, Pioneer District of SPEBSQSA, Inc.