

Minutes of the Board of Directors of the Pioneer District of SPEBSQSA, Inc.  
held on October 17, 2014, in the Ambassador Room of the Holiday Inn Muskegon-Harbor hotel

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)  
Cliff Dake (Director of Music & Performance)  
Brian Dunckel (Director of C&J)  
Paul Ellinger (Director of Membership)  
Roger Lewis (Director of Events)  
Dave Montera (Member at large)  
James O'Dell (Director of Mktg. & PR)---(late arrival)  
Mike Ridenour (Director of CS/LT)

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

Ed Bax (Member at large)  
Evan Boegehold (Director of YIH)  
Mike Hansen (Executive vice-president)

-----Guests:

Don Fuson (President-elect, Barbershop Harmony Society)

I. Call To Order:

President Dan Bezaire began the meeting at 10:33 a.m. by asking Chris Berry to direct the singing of "The Old Songs".

II. Adoption of Agenda:

.Chris Berry asked that a few items be added to the agenda. First, he noted that previous minutes indicate that approval of the Financial Review for 2012 had not been completed. He has also observed that the QCA cost for the 2013 Top Gun event was an uncompleted item of Old Business. Finally, he had four requests for approval of expenditures in the CDD area.

Chris Berry moved that the modified agenda be adopted. Cliff Dake offered the second. **Motion approved.**

III. Minutes of the BOD meeting on April 25, 2014:

The minutes had been previously distributed by the District Secretary. Brian Dunckel moved that the minutes be approved, and Doug Weaver made the second. **Motion approved.**

Dan Bezaire picked up from those minutes that there was a plan to invite music educators to this convention. He wondered if that had been done. Roger Lewis had not confirmed this with Nels Carlsen, so he was going to slip out during this meeting to check with Nels.

Larry Parker asked if discussion of the budget was included in the agenda. Dan indicated that he wanted to include that topic during the next item of business.

Brian Dunckel expressed concern about the reporting in the minutes of comments about chapters that were in trouble with regard to membership. He suggested that those chapters not be identified.

III. Minutes of the BOD meeting on April 25, 2014 (cont.):

Dan Bezaire indicated that there is one chapter previously named that is still in trouble, and the status of that group must be reviewed later in the meeting.

The secretary asked for clarification from Brian about the chapter that he was referencing, and learned that it was not the one that the secretary had in mind. It was noted that the minutes had now been approved, and therefore were set to go in their present language to Steve Sutherland for archiving on the District website. The secretary expressed doubt if anyone ever reads those archived documents.

**[Arrival of James O'Dell noted.]**

Don Fuson indicated that he enjoyed reading the details of the discussion at the previous board meeting. He agreed with Brian, however, that reports on the status of chapters can sometimes get too detailed, and may be best summarized if there are opportunities for membership and marketing support. If those aspects for building up the chapter are not present, the details don't have value.

The secretary mentioned that in instances where he is dealing with sensitive issues, he has sent an excerpt of that portion of the minutes to the person making comments and asked him if what is being said is consistent and appropriate. This practice is not done frequently, but is used on a situation-by-situation basis.

Brian commented that his remark was about the chapter being a "chapter of concern", and he thought the chapter might become alarmed if its members saw that.

Dan Bezaire referred to the problem noted in the minutes about chapters not submitting financial filings. He noted that Don Fuson has been focused on this problem. Dan asked if the situation is getting better. The secretary was of the opinion that is not, and may even be getting worse. Doug Weaver was optimistic that someone is at least watching the problem, and reminding the chapters that they need to get the filings done.

Don asked if the problem was one of chapters not knowing how to do the filings. Doug Weaver noted that the secretary has been providing info on what is required. Dave Montera agreed that the secretary has been doing that, and offered to assist.

The secretary pointed out that Dave's chapter is one of the few that are in compliance. This is due in part because Dave understands the system. Many chapter officers don't understand it. They think that they have done everything by filing with the State and the IRS, and don't do the follow-through with the Society. That aspect of the system is indeed challenging. The secretary has been working with Ashley Torroll to increase his knowledge of that aspect so it can be covered extensively in the Secretary Track at Leadership Academy.

Don contended that there were only four Pioneer chapters that had completed all of their filings with the Society. **[NOTE: There were actually five: Detroit-Oakland, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Mt. Pleasant, and Saginaw Bay.]** Don added that the two Ontario chapters had also not filed. Dan Bezaire mentioned that the Windsor secretary had shown him a document that indicated Windsor had an income of less than \$10,000---and did not have to file a report with the Ontario tax authority. Don noted that in that situation, Windsor should submit a statement to the Society on that particular item to indicate that fact. He was sure that Ashley was not aware of that exemption circumstance. He indicated that Chuck Alexander is monitoring the reporting of Canadian chapters.

The secretary asserted, from his review of the Michigan LARA .gov website, that many Michigan chapters have filed their Certificate of Continuing Existence (COCE) with the State. Don wondered if any chapter secretaries had sent their COCEs to the District Secretary and asked him to report them to the Society. The secretary indicated that he had not received any requests of that type, and didn't want to take on that task. He would prefer to teach the chapter secretaries how to do it. Nor does he want them to throw the task onto Ashley---which is what he had erroneously been teaching before in the Secretary Track!

III. Minutes of the BOD meeting on April 25, 2014 (cont.):

Don indicated that he was going to discuss this topic later on at the HOD meeting. Problems have been encountered when new chapter boards have taken over and began checking their records. Some of them have learned that 990s had not been filed with the IRS, and the IRS had declared they were no longer 501(c)(3) organizations. Sometimes, chapters have thought about organizing as separate 501(c)(3) organizations---rather than under the Society's umbrella. That can get very messy.

Marty Monson has realized that when he signs the 990 form for the Society, he is not on as firm a ground as he would like to be. It is important that all of the districts and subsidiaries are in compliance. It is an awareness issue on which it is hard to catch people's attention.

A question that Don raised was, "What is the district role, and Society role, if chapters are not in compliance with [the laws of] their state/province?" The chapter could be out of compliance with bylaws that were filed many years earlier. Should the district ask whether the chapter is eligible to appear as a chorus on stage if the chapter is not in compliance with its state or province, or has not done a financial review, or has not filed a tax form with the IRS or CTA?

Dan Bezaire observed that this is analogous to the situation where members who have not paid their dues are ineligible. Don rattled off the names of several Pioneer chapters who would be ineligible to compete at this convention based on this criterion. He suggested that observations of this type might help to get the attention of the chapters. He noted that the training that is done at Leadership Academy in the Secretary and Treasurer Tracks is a place where this might happen.

Roger Lewis reflected on the process that occurs when a chapter registers for a convention,. The chapter gets a notice of the number of members whose memberships will expire before the date of the competition. If those individuals do not renew, but compete, the chapter will be disqualified. He noticed that this situation follows along the same line.

Don emphasized that he didn't want to prevent chapters from competing; he just wanted them to get current, and then come well-practiced and well-coached, and to exist legally in their state or province.

Brian Dunckel observed that a convention could be quickly put out of business if this policy were implemented. Don agreed, and indicated that he was mentioning this concept to this board, but did not plan to state it at the HOD meeting. However, Don thought he might stay in Pioneer for a period of time and visit 18 chapters!

Larry Parker asked Don if he was going to announce anything when he emceed on Saturday. Don said "No", but that he might ask members of the 18 chapters to stand!

Don wondered if representatives of any of the 18 chapters would be at the HOD meeting. He was assured that there would be. He then wondered if they would understand if he said he wanted to love them, and embrace them, but couldn't find them! Don emphasized that it was important that the Board understood this is a serious matter. He compared as being like an iceberg that would cause little damage to a small ship (a chapter), but could cause major damage if a larger ship (the Society) hits it.

The secretary referred to Don's mention of the Grosse Pointe chapter. In that instance, he knew that the chapter has filed COCEs annually with the State. Unfortunately, they haven't been reported to the Society. It was noted that this is an easy problem to fix---if the chapter understands how to do it.

IV. Financial Report:

Larry Parker had previously distributed two reports electronically---a one-page Balance Sheet as of September 30, 2014, and a three-page Profit and Loss Statement for the period of January to September of 2014. He asked if everyone had perused it.

**[NOTE: A copy of a proposed 2015 budget was apparently distributed as well, but the secretary did not receive a copy.]**

IV. Financial Report (cont.):

The secretary asked how the problem of the "Convention---Future Year" was finally resolved. Larry indicated that he had to make a journal entry. Don Fuson suggested that the entry be footnoted in the financial review for 2014 to explain why it did not have a backup invoice.

Larry asked Don if he needed copies of the two reports. Don confirmed that he made copies from the secretary's electronic distribution prior to the convention, and had put them in his computer. He did request a hard copy of the Balance Sheet.

Larry noted that the two documents were current as of September 30, but there had been some additional monies received since then in late registrations, DVD payments, etc., and some expenses paid on behalf of the judges. Consequently, the reported balance of ~\$80,000 was no longer accurate. He observed that a change in spending patterns or increased revenue will be necessary to prevent a further decline.

Don Fuson asked if there was a separate report on the expenditures of the last convention. Larry indicated that he had sent out the report for the spring convention back in July.

Dan Bezaire indicated that he had asked Larry to create a budget for 2015, and that would require input from the board members who were managing projects. Larry reported that he had not received anything yet. Dan observed that we have been using a cumbersome process to get funds for these projects. The request that Cliff Dake made during the summer for the funding the Top Gun quartet program was cited as an example. If that program had been defined as a budget item, the electronic vote approval process would have been unnecessary.

Chris Berry asked to be pointed to the four requests he had made for some CDD projects. Larry indicated that they were not entered since no monies were spent. Chris observed that those requests had gotten bogged down in the electronic vote process and were never approved. Since he still wanted to pursue the CDWI and Outstanding in Front projects, he needed that action. Dan noted that he should submit them as 2015 budget items.

The secretary commented that the budget Larry will create is a working document at this point, so action on these specific items would be unnecessary right now.

Dan Bezaire agreed that budgets are always a work-in-progress. However, if board members know of expenditures they want to make, now is the time to put them in the budget.

Paul Ellinger asked if the budget items should be sent to Larry, or if they could be brought up right now. Dan confirmed that figures could be cited immediately if they were known. Paul indicated that he had some with him. Larry asked if these would fall under "Membership and extension", and observed that only \$134 had been spent to date. Paul concurred that this was for his training expenses to date. Now he was asking for \$1500 for the Pioneer Superchargers, and \$300 for chapter visitations.

Larry pointed out that we already had \$1200 budgeted for miscellaneous travel expenses for board members, and that would normally cover chapter visitations. Dan Bezaire suggested that we didn't need to have travel expenses broken out for each board function, so the \$300 request could be eliminated.

Roger Lewis observed that creation of the budget was going to take some work by each board member. He suggested that we set a date by which info should be sent to Larry. He felt it would take too much time to assemble the info right now.

Based on our 2014 experience, Larry Parker noted that the income in his proposed 2015 budget was \$71,520. His figure for anticipated expenses was \$82,055. That is not a balanced budget at this point. He noted that a big item in that unbalance was the Youth Chorus Festival. Doug Weaver observed that when we look at the shape of our finances right now, we may need to consider taking off a year in our support of that program.

IV. Financial Report (cont.):

Dave Montera asked if the YCF accounting included chapter donations. Doug Weaver recalled that the 2013 donations were around \$5000. Assuming that much is received at the Parade of Checks today, we would still have to contribute another \$5000. Hopefully, we will get more as a result of promotions about P-O-C that were made this year. Dave observed that \$5000 today would knock out ½ of our 2014 shortfall, since that amount is not reflected in Larry's income column. The only amount that was shown there was a check from Harmony Foundation in the amount of \$1068 that was derived from donations to H/F by members. The income from the 2013 P-O-C was entered into that year's records.

Larry clarified that his total income for 2014 was stated as of the end of September. Don Fuson wondered if there were additional income items (based on prior experience) that could still be listed as 2014 projections.

Dave Montera advocated that those numbers also be included as projected income in the proposed 2015 budget.

Larry pointed out that he had included \$20,000 as registration income for both the fall and spring conventions in his proposed 2015 budget. His projection for income from member dues was also based on an assumption that an increase in dues would be approved later in this meeting.

Dan Bezaire concluded that there were no more ongoing projects to be financed in 2014. Therefore, he asked the board members to provide their budget requests to Larry by December 1, 2014. That should allow the 2015 budget to be approved at board meeting on January 18, 2015.

Don Fuson asked if a dues increase was scheduled for action at this meeting. He was concerned that this be done soon enough to allow changes to be reported to the Society by November 1. The item was confirmed as being on the agenda.

Roger Lewis observed that the 2014 Profit & Loss Statement showed income for Bush League, but no expenses. He wondered if expenses for B/L judges were being rolled into convention expenses. Larry indicated that he had missed entering those details as Bush League items, but they were shown later in the Music & Performance expenses. He pointed out an amount of \$1446.98.

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

V. Consent Calendar:

(There were no items to cover under this topic.)

VI. Other Reports:

---Events:

Roger Lewis pointed out that Muskegon is a rather new convention location. There has not been a convention at this site in the memory of anyone present. The hosting chapters (Muskegon and Holland) have never hosted an event before. Like many chapters, these chapters don't have a lot of experience of even attending conventions. Many of the workers from the host chapters aren't aware of the duties they will have. Therefore, Roger urged that we give them lots of support, help, and forgiveness.

Roger declared that the staff members at the hotel have been wonderful. He singled out the work of two primary staff members who have never dealt with a convention like ours. Nevertheless, their work has been beyond comparison!

VI. Other Reports (cont.):

## ---Events (cont.):

The local convention bureau has arranged some really unique things. One of those is a \$6.00 pancake breakfast on Saturday morning on a World War II LST that is set up as a museum. The ship landed on Normandy Beach on D-Day with 28 Sherman tanks aboard. This ship is one of two such units still in existence. Attendees at the breakfast can stay as long as they like, and tour the ship. A tour is normally \$8.00, but is included in the \$6.00 price.

The convention bureau has also organized a walking tour of downtown Muskegon that will begin at 1:45 p.m. on Friday afternoon. A representative of the bureau will be the guide.

Another event that is planned is the "Amazing Great Chili Dog and Tag Contest Party". It will be held between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Saturday afternoon on the 3rd floor of the Frauenthal Center. This event was suggested in lieu of a pizza party like was done at a previous convention.

These chili dogs are unique to Muskegon. The hot dogs come from Chicago, but the chili sauce is a specialty of a Muskegon family that has Greek roots. Roger and James O'Dell checked out the chili dogs at the business that sells them. They discovered that the product is not like coney dogs. The price is \$7.00 per person, and there is no limit on how many a person wants to eat. Roger mentioned that all of the members of "The Voice Barbershop Chorus" will be there.

Roger asserted that the tag contest will be a lot of fun. The winner's prize will be a badge that says "I won".

Larry Parker asked about how the providers of the chili hot dogs will be paid. It was indicated that a \$125 deposit has already been made. Since Larry writes all of his checks on a computer, it won't be easy to pay the remaining amount (approximately \$700) that way. An attendance of around 100 people will be necessary to break even.

Roger asked Larry if he could pay with a credit card. Larry indicated that he could.

On the topic of student attendance at the convention, Roger reported that Nels Carlsen had sent out 300 letters to local schools, and then made follow-up calls to insure they were received. If a student brings a letter to registration, he/she will be given an entrance badge. That letter will provide us a record of the student's name and school. If the letter is submitted by a music educator, a different box will be checked on the letter.

Roger mentioned that the "Rockin' Barbershop" program has been strong in the Muskegon area. Often there have been around 180 youth who participate. Hopefully, a lot of those students will attend.

Roger indicated that a local high school female quartet will perform right after the quartet contest on Friday night, and another female quartet will sing on Saturday night before the quartet finals. Both of these quartets are from Mona Shores High School. Nels Carlsen has reported that both groups are good.

Roger was hopeful that we will see lots of students, and that they will fill the balcony. It is planned that any student who comes on Friday and then requests a ticket for Saturday will be given one. Extra tickets (letters) are being printed for that purpose.

The intent of these activities is to build up youth interest in barbershop in the Muskegon area. This also has implications for the long term future of the Muskegon chapter.

Roger reported on his experience while attending the Sunshine District convention a week earlier. At that event, he got a free registration because he has over 50 years of membership. A special ribbon was put on his name tag that identified him as a 50+ year member. Roger observed that he and Paul Ellinger had already talked about honoring our 50 year members on Saturday night. The plan is to have all 50+ members come on stage to be recognized, and then Paul will introduce all of those members who are receiving their 50 year pins this year.

VI. Other Reports (cont.):

---Events (cont.):

It was noted that this all began Allen Pixley (Monroe North chapter member) couldn't attend the International convention to get his 50 year pin. Allen asked Roger if it could be done at this convention.

Roger determined the source of the 50+ name tags used at Sunshine, ordered some, and got them almost immediately.

Roger pointed out that the registration name tags at Sunshine had code blocks on them that could be scanned to record that an individual had attended the convention.

---Chapter Support and Leadership Training:

Mike Ridenour reported that he was progressing well on the planning for Leadership Academy. He appreciated all of the help he has received from Joe McDonald. He noted that the event date would be on January 17, 2015. This later-than-usual date was chosen because of unavailability of the facilities at CMU on the weekends before.

He also reported that he had gotten prices the night before from the Soaring Eagle Waterpark on housing. He didn't want to announce the prices until he completes a new L/A bulletin during the coming week.

It was mentioned that Barry George, Larry Parker, and Jim McMahan have agreed to teach the President, Treasurer, and Secretary Track classes, respectively. Unfortunately, Mike had learned that Paul Ellinger would not be available to teach a membership-related class. Mike has gotten suggestions from Paul and the Society of persons who could serve as a substitute.

Don Fuson asked for verification that our only out-of-District instructor for L/A would be the person who will substitute for Paul.

Larry Parker advised Mike that the Soaring Eagle Waterpark hotel should still have the sales tax exemption paperwork from last year's event. Those forms are good for four years, so they shouldn't have discarded them. Roger Lewis observed that some hotels deliberately throw away those documents to prevent identify theft.

Mike asked for confirmation of the scheduling of the next BOD meeting. It was noted that it would be on the Sunday after L/A.

---Charitable events at conventions:

Dan Bezaire noted that Ed Bax could not be present to report on this topic. Dan had learned that Ed had tried to contact the host chapters about setting up this activity. However, he got no response. Dan was still convinced that this is something we should do at future conventions. One option is canned food donations to a local food bank, or whatever the local chapter determines is best. He was hopeful that the host chapter at the Battle Creek event could organize something.

VII. "The Voice Barbershop Chorus":

Dan had wanted to have a representative from this group in attendance at this meeting to answer questions. In the absence of anyone, Doug Weaver volunteered to speak to the topic.

Doug and his wife visited one of the group's rehearsals, and have been in contact with the group's leadership. The group has been doing some fund-raising. Some chapters are sponsoring individual members of the group. The Mt. Pleasant chapter is planning for them to perform on its show, and will be giving them a donation of approximately \$1000 (but not as a performance fee).

VII. "The Voice Barbershop Chorus" (cont.):

Doug reported that the family of a recently-deceased member of the Traverse City chapter (Dan Decker) had chosen to give a \$1000 donation in his memory to the group. Friends of his family have also donated around \$100-200.

It was mentioned that the boys in the chorus will be at the doors with buckets after their Saturday night performance. When Doug introduces them, he will inform the audience of the opportunity to donate money to them. A private donor has agreed to match the total of the donations received in the buckets.

Doug concluded that these monies will assist the group to get to New Orleans. However, they will still fall short. He proposed that the District approve a donation to make up the difference---up to a limit of \$2000.

Dan Bezaire asked for an estimate of how close the group is to covering their costs. Doug admitted that he had not been successful in getting detailed info from the group's leadership. He guessed that they were currently about \$4000 short. He hoped that they would raise approximately \$1000 on Saturday night---which would be matching with another \$1000. He noted that his announcement on Saturday will encourage choruses and quartets to put IOUs in the buckets; they will be matched when received. This is why Doug was advocating that the District add to the group's total---up to \$2000.

Chris Berry recalled that the group had asked the District for \$9000 at the last board meeting, and that request was rejected. It was noted that figure was derived from plans to use buses to transport the group, and that would have required usage of two drivers. The group is now going by air.

If any youth choruses are created in the future, Doug advocated that they be required to meet some written guidelines in advance that define what we expect of them. For instance, he felt that there should be a definition of what each member is contributing as his share of the trip. He felt it was unrealistic for them to think that the entire trip is being paid by others.

Dan Bezaire thought that this message was given to this group early on. Doug asserted, however, that it didn't happen. The message was told to one person; it didn't get shared with others.

Roger Lewis observed that the members of the chorus should have personal expenses for food. To avoid the creation of a "free ride" expectation, Doug agreed that there should be guidelines that state that the District will provide help, but that some things are still the responsibility of individuals.

Doug suggested that without such guidelines in place, the District should insure that their costs are covered this time. However, this will be the last time this happens.

Dan Bezaire reported that Craig Pollard was startled by the plans for the Parade-of-Checks monies to go to the YCF sponsorship. He didn't understand the difference between those monies, and monies that might be contributed by the District.

Roger Lewis reported that the group had received an extra \$600 donation recently. In addition, he learned from Vicky Gibson that she did not include the \$1000 donation from the Mt. Pleasant chapter when she calculated their \$4000 anticipated shortfall. This was done because the \$1000 was a promise to pay, but the money had not actually been received yet.

Roger announced that the group will have a table set up at the hotel lobby on Friday for receiving donations, and will then move it later on to the convention venue. This activity should provide exposure to potential donors. They are hoping to get a lot of small donations as a result. Doug urged that the youth in the chorus also be at the theater doors all evening.

Roger pointed out that the convention program has them listed as the first group in the chorus competition on Saturday afternoon, and they will compete for scoring only. He noted that they'll perform again on the Saturday night pre-show right after the girl's quartet. At this time, they will do all three of the songs that will be done at the YCF.

VII. "The Voice Barbershop Chorus" (cont.):

The secretary expressed surprise that the amount of the donation from the Mt. Pleasant chapter had been announced. He thought this figure was only known by the chapter leadership. However, it was confirmed that a chapter leader had communicated it to Doug. The original plan had been to indicate that an amount would be donated (not given as a performance fee) at a November 1 show, but the figure would not be revealed until then.

Don Fuson asked if other chapters had arranged for the group to perform. Doug Weaver was not aware of any. The secretary noted that most chapters have already hosted their fall shows. However, Don suggested that chapters schedule the group to appear on spring shows. The chapters could offer to advance 50% of a performance fee or donation, and the group would guarantee that 90% of the members will participate when they perform. Don advanced this concept as a way of keeping the group together after the YCF is over, since they would have to 'return to the pot'. They must understand that they are not done after they have competed.

Doug Weaver wondered if we were sure that the chorus would continue to exist. Roger Lewis was confident that they would.

Dave Montera asked for confirmation that they have a three-song set. He noted that his chapter (Detroit-Oakland) has a show scheduled for February. DOC had decided to go to just one guest quartet in 2015. Dave was thinking about asking the DOC board if they could add the group while it is still fresh from the YCF.

Doug Weaver moved that, after the completion of this weekend, the District commit to donating up to \$2000 in support of the group's expenses. Dave Montera offered the second.

Dave then proposed that we amend this motion to place constraints on the group for next year, i.e. to submit a budget, and offer info on their fund-raising plans. It was suggested that this topic should be addressed with a separate motion.

Roger Lewis then indicated that he would like to amend the motion to change the date to December 31, and not the end of the current week. Doug Weaver was comfortable with that idea as long as he can assure the group by the end of this week that they would be getting up to \$2000 by some date. Dan Bezaire suggested that December 1 would be a better date so that the expenditure would still fall within our 2014 budget.

Roger was agreeable to that idea, and proposed that Doug merely modify his motion if Dave was willing to accept that modification. Doug noted that December 31 would only be two weeks before the YCF, and that was cutting it close. The secretary asked if Doug was making a "friendly" amendment that would avoid having to take a separate vote on a motion to amend. Doug concurred.

Chris Berry asked for details about what the top number was going to be on the expenses that the group needed to cover. Doug indicated that their flights were costing them @\$300 per person. They are getting performance shirts. They will have some miscellaneous expenses. One item that is not included in their costs is personal meals.

Chris emphasized that he wanted to know that their expenses would not continue to grow until the \$2000 limit is reached. Doug confirmed that the number is around \$8000, and it is not going any higher. Chris indicated he would like that number to be identified in connection with the motion so that we are not working with a sliding target. Doug asserted that even if the number did go up, we will still not contribute more than \$2000. Chris then wondered why we didn't just write a check for \$2000 right now. He noted that their budget was not in the motion, so he didn't know what its details were. He also didn't know how much they had received to date.

Chris summarized what he understood. He noted that a total budget of \$8000 had been declared. The group has received (or will soon receive) a total of \$6000. We have proposed to give them \$2000. He was concerned that the motion says "up to \$2000", but he didn't know what the cap would be.

VII. "The Voice Barbershop Chorus" (cont.):

Roger Lewis noted that the group's budget had been published on the Pionet, and that is what we are using for a cost basis. Cliff Dake and others indicated, however, that they had not seen the budget. They would have liked to have seen it at this meeting. Cliff observed that he was uncomfortable with making a gift without knowing where the cap is located.

Doug Weaver identified the specific costs that he had at his disposal. Their flights will cost them \$7200. Their performance shirts, and the rental cost of their rehearsal space before they found a free location have equaled the difference between that and \$8000. Doug admitted he did not have a copy of the actual budget with him at the moment.

Dan Bezaire then noted that the group has received, or will soon receive, monies from a variety of sources. Doug summarized those as the Dan Decker bequests, the Mt. Pleasant chapter donation, gifts from specific chapters in support of individual members, etc. When Doug tallies up those monies, he felt the group was about \$4000 short as it goes into the convention weekend. Doug was optimistic that they would receive \$1000 on Saturday night, and then they would get another \$1000 from the donor match.

Doug observed that if a chapter such as DOC offered the group a spring performance, and gave them the up-front money by December 1, that would reduce their shortfall below \$2000. He estimated that he saw the gap right now as having a maximum value of \$2000. His goal, however, is to see that gap fall below \$2000.

If the motion pending is approved, Cliff Dake asked if we were going to inform the group of our plans. Doug confirmed that nothing would be communicated to them right now. Doug noted that his message to the group when he visited them recently was his goal to be able to tell by the end of this weekend that their expenses were covered.

James O'Dell pointed out that we were returning to the concern that Chris had expressed of giving them a carte blanche approval to go to the maximum of \$2000. James was agreeable to us doing that if that was our intent. However, he felt we were not quoting a lesser figure. Doug asserted that he was not saying they were assured of getting that amount. His goal is to make that number as small as possible.

Chris indicated that he was not arguing the amount, but the vagueness of the motion. His concern was that Doug would be telling the group by the end of the weekend that their expenses were covered. Doug agreed that he hoped he could do that, but he wouldn't be stating the source(s) of all of the monies. If the motion is approved, he would be comfortable in telling the group that they are OK. Nevertheless, there will be monies coming from several places. After the final analysis, we would fill in the small gap---up to \$2000. He asserted that their budget is done.

James O'Dell returned to his point that most of the board members have not seen that budget, and therefore don't know that it is "done". He was concerned that the group could submit additional items that raised the budget higher than \$8000. Doug declared that he would not let that happen. James proposed that an amendment be made to the motion that a difference of up to \$2000 would be covered against a maximum budget amount of \$8000. This would effectively define their budget limit. Doug had a problem with that wording because he didn't know if \$8000 was the exact amount; he knew that it was "close to \$8000".

Chris Berry understood the wording of the motion as being an approval of any expenses up to \$2000. He concluded that the group could add expenses---even if they didn't know that they had the power. Dan Bezaire did not have that understanding of the motion, but was concerned that the group might stop working to raise more funds if they knew that everything was covered. Cliff Dake also saw that as a possible interpretation.

In a reference back to James O'Dell's idea of inserting a budget cap of \$8000 into the motion, Mike Ridenour suggested the insertion of a statement that cited the budget "as it is proposed today".

Dan Bezaire confirmed that the finances for the group were being handled through Mike's chapter (Hillsdale).

VII. "The Voice Barbershop Chorus" (cont.):

Paul Ellinger offered an alternate plan on the transportation costs for the group. It had been stated that they had arranged for flights at \$300 per person. It was noted that they had made deposits already with Southwest. Paul had looked at rental costs for vehicles. Assuming four persons per car at a cost of \$217 per week. He figured in for fuel at 25 MPG at \$3.80 per gallon. He added in \$100 for two overnight stays. As a result, he came up with a cost of \$600 per vehicle, or \$125 per person.

Roger Lewis wondered if this was a reiteration of the original plan for the group to go by bus. Roger noted that they have already paid a \$1424 deposit for their airfares. They still owe \$5046. They also owe \$475 for their shirts. Therefore, they needed a minimum of \$6000 as of October 11 to cover those expenses. This is still their current shortfall, so it does not include the Mt. Pleasant donation or any monies they receive during the weekend.

Larry Parker asked for the name of the person who will inform him of the final amount that they will need after this weekend. Doug Weaver felt that he is the one who receive the figure.

Cliff Dake wanted to know what personal expenses the chorus members have incurred to date. It was noted that they have paid for mileage to get to rehearsals. They will have to pay for their food in New Orleans. Harmony Foundation only covers one big dinner that they will have while they are there---which will be from Wednesday (or Thursday) through Sunday. The competition is on Friday.

Dan Bezaire asked the secretary to provide a re-statement of the motion. The secretary indicated he would have to review a few pages of notes to do so.

Doug Weaver reiterated that the group believes that it is \$6000 short as it goes into this weekend. He noted that we know that a certain amount of that amount is covered. After Doug subtracted the Mt. Pleasant donation and the Dan Decker-related donations, he was sure they were already down to \$3800. In anticipation of what he felt would be collected (and matched) on Saturday night, he felt that our support of a maximum of \$2000 will top them out. He was optimistic that the actual amount we provide will be less than that.

The secretary concluded that we have a motion (with the inclusion of a friendly amendment) that says, by December 1, we will commit to provide up to \$2000 to cover their expenses.

Doug Weaver wondered if we should put into the motion that the group is currently \$6000 short. The secretary observed that would be informational as it relates to their goal, but isn't really part of the motion. The secretary did suggest that the language could state that we are making a commitment of up to \$2000 towards their goal of \$6000.

Cliff Dake asked for information on how long the group had been preparing for this event. It was noted that they have been organized since the first of the year. He was dismayed that they had only raised \$2000 in that time. The secretary suggested that the group simply doesn't know how to manage the process. He felt that having guidelines for future groups to use will force them through the process. It will help them to define how they will do fund-raising.

Doug Weaver observed that our first youth chorus was created three years earlier. There were some groups that subsequently talked about organizing one, but didn't. When this group began to take shape, we took a "wait-and-see" posture. This group, however, assumed we knew they were serious. He felt that we took the right approach of waiting until they demonstrated that they were viable. Now that we know they are, he observed that we are ready to help them make it real.

Don Fuson observed that several persons had expressed a concern about what the overall plan was, and how stable it was. Doug affirmed that that kind of plan must happen the next time a chorus is formed.

VII. "The Voice Barbershop Chorus" (cont.):

Roger Lewis noted that, while the group's plan may not what we want it to be, it is better than any we have seen before. Their budget is also a lot better than others we have seen. He pointed out that one of the leaders has taken several Sweet Adeline choruses to major competitions, so she does know how to fund-raise. He felt that the amount of money this group has raised so far is far beyond what other youth choruses have done.

While their planning and budgeting has exceeded anything we've seen before, Roger felt that they have reached the point where they must ask for help. He observed that we've never worked with a youth chorus before, because such groups tend to work on their own. He recalled that some of the early groups tended to say, "We want your money, but we don't want to tell you what is going on."

He concluded that we have worked to overcome those early attitudes. He felt were fortunate that this group has indicated it wants to be a part of the District. It wants our support, and it wants to be our representative. He perceived that we have achieved an arm-in-arm relationship; now we just must figure out how to do it! Along with that relationship, there are some things that we would to see happen as we become involved in sponsoring.

Brian Dunckel mentioned that he sat in on the YIH session at the last full-Forum in Las Vegas. He had the opportunity to see some very good plans for the development of youth choruses. In particular, he thought the plan used by the Ontario District was excellent. Consequently, the youth in the chorus from Ontario (the "Oh Yeah" chorus) are committed. The group has even been scheduling performances. Some of the group's members can't always make all of their events because they live far over toward the western side of the province, but they are still involved.

Paul Ellinger observed that a common recruiting technique of youth groups is "learn three songs, and go to Vegas (or New Orleans)". He wasn't sure if that was a technique we should promote, but it has led to a strongly committed group in Ontario.

James O'Dell proposed that the amendment made earlier to the motion be changed to state that the District would cover up to \$2000 of a \$6000 deficit towards a cap of \$8500 on their budget. He felt that language would put a budget limit in the motion.

Dan Bezaire thought that was already defined in the motion by language that said we would provide by December 1 up to \$2000 toward a goal of \$8000. James asked if that was against anticipated shortfall of \$6000. Dan observed that the shortfall at the moment was only \$4000. James recalled that a number of \$6000 was given when the motion was restated by the secretary. It was realized that this was actually an error on the part of the secretary during the restatement.

It was clarified that the shortfall of \$6000 was as of October 11. Roger Lewis confirmed that Doug's figure of a \$4000 shortfall was more accurate at the point.

Dan Bezaire asked the secretary to provide another restatement of the motion. The wording that was given then by the secretary was: "By December 1, we commit up to \$2000 to cover their expenses relating to a shortfall--at this point--of about \$4000 toward a total budget of about \$8000."

Dave Montera asked Doug Weaver if that was an accurate wording of the intent of his motion after it had been (friendly) amended. Doug said he would agree with the wording.

A vote was taken on the motion pending. **Motion approved, with four dissenting votes.**

VIII. Old Business:A. Policy Manual Update:

Dan Bezaire indicated that he had sent copies of the existing document to Mike Hansen and Brian Dunckel for development of a revision. He also included a list of proposed changes. It was noted that this project would be a work in progress. He felt that the manual was hopelessly outdated. Recent changes to the manual were probably made about five years ago.

Dan urged the board members to provide ideas to Mike and Brian of changes they thought should be made---especially in connection with their respective functions. He reminded the board that a policy manual is merely a statement of what we do.

A ludicrous item that Dan discovered in the manual was that a vote to have an electronic vote must be unanimous!

Don Fuson wondered if there were any stipulations in Michigan law regarding electronic votes. He cited the situation of the Central States District which is chartered in Iowa. Iowa law requires that a 100% quorum of the board members participate in any vote.

The secretary suggested that Dave Montera, as the District's legal counsel, could research that question. However, before Dave was appointed to this role, the secretary had asked Barry George, an attorney member of the Mt. Pleasant chapter, to review this topic. Barry came back with the opinion that Michigan had no regulations about the handling of such votes.

Brian Dunckel observed that we might chose to adjourn all of our meetings as remaining open for electronic votes---if we changed out policy manual to say that option was available. Dan agreed that such practices might be viable. He felt our dilemma for now is that the manual currently says we must have a unanimous vote---which is quite cumbersome. He noted that some board members may not check their e-mail on a regular basis. Consequently, it could take several weeks to approve a motion to take a vote.

Larry Parker asked about who was recording the votes. The secretary affirmed that he monitors the e-mails. Without being aware of the 100% requirement, he has been determining when a majority of the board members have approved an item under consideration. When that happens, he sends an e-mail that the item is approved. The item is also placed on the Consent Agenda of the next meeting so that it is documented as an approved action.

Dan reiterated that the policy manual will always be a work-in-progress, but his goal is to get something that can be posted on the District website. He was of the opinion that the manual has never been there---even though the Standard District Bylaws are posted.

Dan planned to send "snippets" of the existing manual to different board members to get their thoughts. He planned to have a committee consisting of Mike, Brian, himself, and any others who have an interest in the topic to develop an overall outline. He again reminded the board members that they could offer changes on areas of the manual that concern them.

The secretary asked for confirmation that the document being revised was the policy manual, and not the Bylaws. Dan affirmed that to be so.

Chris Berry asked if he could get a copy of the existing manual. Dan agreed to send one to him. It was suggested that copies be sent to all board members.

The secretary asked for verification that the manual is currently not on the website. Dan noted that he had typed up an electronic file version from a hard copy, and had made some formatting corrections.

In response to a question from Don Fuson, Dan reported that the last changes to the document were made in 2009. Therefore, Don wondered if the secretary could review the document for changes in policies that have been made since then.

VIII. Old Business (cont.):A. Policy Manual Update (cont.)

Dan indicated that few board actions in the interim have resulted in policy changes that would be need to be reflected in the manual. The secretary also indicated that he did not have records that could review anyway. When he assumed the District Secretary role from Joe Serwach, Joe only provided him with copies of his most recent minutes. Unless there were minutes of previous meetings that Joe gave to Steve Sutherland for archiving, there are no other records available for review.

B. Bylaws:

Dan Bezaire wondered if this document needed to be revised as well. The secretary noted that the Bylaws would normally be the place where the use of electronic votes is authorized, but they would not define the process. The secretary observed that the current Bylaws do not address electronic votes, nor do they mention teleconferenced meetings---something else that might be considered for the future.

Chris Berry asked if the Bylaws define how the board is to meet. Mike Ridenour saw a statement in the Bylaws that said that meetings had to be held at least twice a year, and that special meetings could be called. However, the document did not define how the board must meet. It did not say that meetings had to be face-to-face.

Mike Ridenour asked if we had to modify the policy manual before we could do any more electronic votes. He wondered if we could approve a temporary approval for electronic votes subject to a quorum requirement. Someone asserted that it should be possible to do that.

Dave Montera asked where the electronic vote option was located. Upon learning that it was only mentioned in the manual, he asserted that it should be defined in the Bylaws. The secretary concurred, and suggested that the Bylaws should say that we can do electronic votes, and perhaps should also allow for an option of holding teleconferenced meetings if a normal meeting cannot be held because of severe circumstances.

Roger Lewis emphasized that the wording that Mike read from the manual allowed for meetings, but did not specify that they had to be face-to-face. He felt that applied to teleconferencing situations.

Don Fuson observed that we were making a "gentlemen's agreement" that the language allowed a process as long as it was not specifically excluded.

Dan Bezaire offered to send out copies of the policy manual to board members. He asked that the members provide their comments on recommended changes by December 1.

C. Electronic Votes: (This topic was covered during the discussion of Items VIII.A. and VIII.B.)D. Chapter Visitations (extra topic):

Dan began his discussion of this topic by acknowledging that Cliff Dake is stepping down from his position as Director of Music & Performance, and thanking him for his service. His departure does mean that his role as the board contact with the Monroe North and Kalamazoo chapters must be re-assigned.

Dan made reference to a GoogleDoc system that Paul Ellinger had created for the reporting of the findings that are made as a result of a chapter visitation. Dan admitted that his main concern was not so much the reporting of any findings as it was that we do make the contacts. He was mostly interested in the creation of channels of communication with chapters.

Dan did make a brief report on his recent visit to the Rochester chapter. The chapter had just had a show. He felt they were in good shape, and had made a good decision to merge with the Macomb County chapter. Without that merger, he thought we might have lost both chapters. Instead, the new group is doing fine.

VIII. Old Business (cont.):D. Chapter Visitations (extra topic) (cont.):

Dan returned to the issue of getting persons to be visitors to the chapters that Cliff was covering. James O'Dell volunteered to take on responsibility for Monroe North, and Paul Ellinger volunteered to cover Kalamazoo.

Doug Weaver observed that with Mike Ridenour taking over Joe McDonald's role for the CS/LT function, that leaves us short on one of our member-at-large positions. Dan noted that we were short more than one M-A-L. We have also lost Chris Berry from that role when he took on the CDD role.

It was summarized that our original four M-A-Ls were Chris Berry, Mike Ridenour, Ed Bax, and Dave Montera.

Dan added that not only do we need replacement M-A-Ls, but we also need a replacement to take over Cliff's role. Paul Ellinger noted that our original plan was to have M-A-Ls available who might be able to step into vacancies like this one. Dan Bezaire reported that Dave Montera had considered taking on the Music & Performance role. Dave announced that he was willing to do so.

The secretary asked Dan Bezaire for confirmation that he was making an appointment of Dave to the role.

Doug Weaver asked if we should be looking for candidates to appoint to fill two M-A-L positions. It was confirmed that Ed Bax is our only remaining M-A-L. The secretary observed that we had "chewed up" two of our M-A-Ls when we appointed Mike Ridenour and Dave Montera to their respective roles. Roger Lewis observed that the board M-A-L position is doing exactly what we intended it to do; we are accomplishing our goal.

James O'Dell wondered if we should delay making M-A-L replacements in light of the current status of our budget. Roger Lewis advocated that we fill at least one; Dave Montera favored filling both.

Doug Weaver agreed with the observation from Roger Lewis that the system has worked exactly the way we wanted. He liked the fact that this has happened.

Roger Lewis asked about the status of Evan Boegehold in the YIH role. Dan Bezaire confirmed that Evan is still planning to stay in that role. The secretary reported that Evan's schedule has become more complicated because of a job he has taken at a bank. Brian Dunckel mentioned that Evan had called to indicate he would be delayed as a result of a bank robbery that occurred that morning. Brian had gotten the message because Evan was slated to be on the judging panel that evening.

It was noted that we would have to verify with Evan if he was going to be able to continue in the YIH role because of his new job commitment.

Don Fuson asked for a figure on the number of District chapters who have a YIH contact. Doug Weaver indicated the real question might be how many have one who is doing anything. Don, however, wanted to start with the number of YIH contacts identified. It was determined that most chapters do have someone listed for that role. Don then pointed out that, if over 50% of our chapters have a person serving in that role, our District is in the top 3% of all districts. He also complimented our District for the additional layers of support that we have established for our chapters.

Dan Bezaire made a call again for recommendations of persons who could be appointed to M-A-L positions.

E. Financial Review for 2012 (added item):

Dan noted that a few items had been added to the agenda at the request of Chris Berry. He asked if this item was related to a problem with a \$1500 discrepancy in the 2012 review document. Chris noted that the topic was mentioned in the last set of BOD minutes.

VIII. Old Business (cont.):E. Financial Review for 2012 (added item) (cont.):

The secretary confirmed that this discrepancy was identified in Dale Hanson's report. Because of the problem, it was decided to table any decision to receive the report. However, it was indicated that the report had already been archived in the Financial Filings on the Society website. At this point, any action to receive the document would be retroactive.

F. QCA portion of Top Gun expenses (added item):

Another item that Chris had spotted in the previous minutes was a question about how much of the 2013 Top Gun program was covered by QCA. It was noted that Roger Lewis wanted to wait until he could review the issue with Larry Parker and the QCA committee, and then report how the costs were to be distributed.

Roger noted that the QCA committee had decided to charge the quartets just enough to cover most of the costs. As a result, the amount not covered was about \$1000-1200. Subsequently, the QCA asked for the District to cover ½ of the cost.

For the future, Roger proposed that the net cost, after the quartets have paid a reasonable portion, be split 50:50 between the QCA and the District. Dan Bezaire noted that this was obviously a budget item. Roger observed that this would be a practice similar to what is done for quartet Boot Camp.

G. Financial requests for CDD expenses (added item);

This was the last item that Chris had asked to be considered. It was agreed that these would be handled as 2015 budget items.

IX. New Business:A. Dues:

It was noted that a document had been sent out previously by e-mail. It listed a comparison of dues and convention registration fees of all of the Society's districts. Dan Bezaire indicated that he had about 20 additional copies for distribution at the HOD meeting.

Dan noted that this was simply a money issue. Our District is at the low end of the rates that were shown on the document provided. It has been an unknown number of years since it has been necessary to raise dues and registration fees. Travel cost for judges is the one convention cost that has been going up the fastest. Brian Dunckel pointed that those expenses for this convention will be around \$5000.

Dan emphasized that our District is still below the average of all the districts in both registrations and dues.

Because Larry Parker was temporarily out of the room, Mike Ridenour asked what values for these two items had been factored into Larry's preliminary budget. After looking at several bits of data, it was guessed that Larry had used the proposed dues value of \$30. Don Fuson and Dave Montera dialogued briefly about the process of figuring the income from dues paid by regular members vs. the reduced amounts that are paid by other categories.

At this point, Larry had returned to the room, so he was asked by the secretary what dues figure he had used in his proposed budget. He confirmed that he used \$30. He noted that he actually used a value of \$31.50, but then rounded it down to \$30.

Don Fuson then tried to determine if the multiplier that Larry used was 580 (\$17,100 divided by \$30). Chris Berry calculated it as 507. Larry indicated that he didn't exactly know how many members were in our District. He knew that the number was 1200 at one time.

IX. New Business (cont.):A. Dues (cont.):

Larry Parker moved that the District dues for Regular (RG) members be increased to \$30. Paul Ellinger made the second. It was clarified that this increase would take effect as of January 1. **Motion approved with one dissent.**

Don Fuson asked for verification that the dues “ripple down” to categories such as Y2 and SL which pay 50% of the rate for RG members. Because Don made reference to “lifetime” members, there was some confusion that he might be referring to dues paid by 50+ year members (L5) ---which were known to be \$0.

Don then asked if the Y2 and certain “lifetime” categories such as LS---“lifetime senior” and LT---“lifetime student” would go to \$15, but LF---“lifetime” would not. The secretary also wanted an understanding that all categories that follow the 50% rule (such as SL---“senior legacy”), and the 75% rule (such as SN---“senior”) would change accordingly. **[Secretary’s NOTE: All LF, LS, and LT members move into the L5 category when they acquire 50 years of membership.]**

Don Fuson recommended that Caki Watson be provided with numbers for all of the categories of dues, and noted that the info should be sent to her before November 1. **[DONE]**

The secretary noted that the table of dues is based on percents and not on dollar amounts. He asked if we were carrying over the existing percents for all of the categories with the motion approved. Don Fuson asked if this action was being presented for approval at the House of Delegates meeting. Dan Bezaire indicated that it was. Don then recommended that it be stated that the action will affect other dues categories by the existing percents.

B. Registration Fees:

Dan Bezaire asked for a motion to be offered on this topic. Don Fuson questioned what the current registration fees were, and what was being proposed. Larry Parker noted that the current fees are \$35 (early registration) and \$45 (late). He was proposing an increase of \$10 in each category. Roger Lewis suggested that the fee for a single event should also be included in any motion. Currently, it is \$15. It was decided to propose making that a \$20 fee.

Dan Bezaire interpreted Larry’s proposal as being a motion from him to increase the early and late registration fees by \$10 each, and to increase the single event fee by \$5. The secretary chose to restate the motion as being an action to increase the early registration fee to \$45, to increase the late registration fee to \$55, and to increase the single event fee to \$20, and the fees would become effective at the next convention. Doug Weaver made the second. **Motion approved with one dissent.**

Because James O’Dell had chosen to dissent on both motions, Don Fuson invited him to share his opinion on the issue(s). James indicated that he was against the philosophy of raising dues to fund the District. He did not think that was the proper way to generate more revenue. There was sentiment in support of his position. Don asked if he had ideas on how to do that differently. James contended that we should be more actively involved in our chapters to increase membership. He observed that conventions make less money if we have fewer members. He felt that increased dues could lead to a further decline in membership. He sees this process as a downward spiral. He compared the process to the way that the U.S. government operates. He does not want to see our organization follow that same path.

Don Fuson noted that the position that James espoused was more than a simple “No”, and it is a position that must be heard. It is a desire to put change into effect so that increased membership can lead to a reduction of dues and fees. Don observed that the board could be perceived as heroes if that could be accomplished.

James suggested that increases in membership should be offered as an incentive to get reductions made. Don added that a vision statement at the House of Delegates meeting could say that funds will be used just for continued activities, or for investments for the future. He thanked James for his opinion.

IX. New Business (cont.):C. Marquette chapter (extra item):

Dan Bezaire mentioned that, a few weeks earlier, he and James O'Dell were able to attend (via Skype) the inaugural meeting of the Marquette chapter. Dan had heard that the group had a subsequent meeting with seven attendees and a lot of enthusiasm. The organizer of the chapter (Peter Stephens-Brown) is supposed to be at this weekend's convention. It was noted that Peter already has several plans developed---including the holding of a show.

X. Forum update:

Dan Bezaire reported that this event would be happening within a few weeks. He noted that we were allowed to have six attendees, but only have five going. The attendees were supposed to be the President, the Executive VP, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and two future leaders. Mike Ridenour will be going as one of the latter.

Dan could not find another person who was available to go---even though he asked ten people who he thought would be good candidates. He felt bad about us only sending five---until he learned that one district wasn't sending anyone. **[NOTE: There were two districts not represented.]**

Dan knows that the attendees will have some homework to do prior to attending (some materials to read and some music to learn). The secretary observed that the three songs are old standards that many of us know already ("Sittin' On Top of the World", the "This Little Light of Mine/Do Lord" medley, and "What a Wonderful World").

In response to a question, Dan identified the five attendees: himself, Mike Hansen, Jim McMahan, Larry Parker, and Mike Ridenour. The event will be held in Nashville. Dan noted that Paul Ellinger couldn't go because of a teaching commitment. The secretary mentioned that the training will be held at a location near the airport, so the attendees won't get to go downtown other than for an opportunity to sing. It was clarified that this year's Forum is not a full-Forum event. Don Fuson asked if everyone was reserving the first weekend in November of 2016---assuming that is the correct weekend.

Don observed that our proposed 2015 budget did not have monies set aside for travel to next year's event.

Paul Ellinger mentioned that he had been asked to be a facilitator for this Forum, but could not.

XI: Miscellaneous:A. Special Requests (extra item):

Chris Berry mentioned that he needed membership numbers in order to complete some reports. He didn't know where they were on ebiz, or if he had the password authority to access them. He was assured that he did have the power to get the data, and that it was available through the "My Memberships"/"My Districts" link.

His second request was for information that would allow him to link budget numbers to line items. He felt this would help him to review the documents. He wanted to be able to do more than a simple profit-and-loss review, but instead do a profit-and-loss vs. budget review. This would help him understand what the plans were for each of the conventions.

B. Need for a sound check quartet (extra item):

Brian Dunckel noted that the quartet scheduled to do the sound check on the audio system was not available. He was looking for a group to volunteer at 3:30 p.m. Roger Lewis observed that the QCA was meeting at 3:00, so there should be individuals who could be found in that group.

XIV. Adjournment:

At 12:30 p.m., Doug Weaver moved that the meeting be adjourned. Dave Montera seconded the motion. **Motion approved.**

Dan Bezaire asked James O'Dell to direct the singing of "Keep the Whole World Singing".

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