

Minutes of the Pioneer District Board of Directors of SPEBSQSA, Inc.
held on October 19, 2018, in the Custer Room of the McCamly Plaza Hotel in Battle Creek, Michigan

Attendees:

-----Elected members of the District Board of Directors present (voice w/vote):

Dave Montera (President)
Mike Hansen (Immediate past president)
Joe McDonald (Executive vice-president)
Jim McMahan (Secretary)
Chris Berry (Treasurer) --- (late arrival)
Jamie Carey (Director of Chorus Director Development)
Roger Boyer (Director of Community Outreach)
Brian Dunckel (Director of Contests & Judging)
Roger Lewis (Director of Events)
Dan Bezaire (Director of Marketing)
Aaron Pollard (Director of Youth In Harmony)

-----Elected members of the District Board of Directors absent (voice w/vote):

(none)

----Ex-officio members of the District Board of Directors present (voice w/o vote):

Craig Roney
Doug Weaver
Brandon Smith

---Ex-officio members of the District Board of Directors absent (voice w/o vote):

Zach Schroeder

---Guests:

Dick Powell (BHS president-elect)
Steve Scott (BHS staff representative)

1. Call to order:

President Dave Montera called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and asked Brandon Smith to lead the singing of "The Old Songs".

Following a custom established at the Society BOD, Dave Montera asked Dan Bezaire to read the Pioneer District Mission statement.

Then Roger Lewis was asked to read the Pioneer District Vision statement. Dave Montera commented that a committee was established in the spring to review these two statements. It was realized, however, that a chair of the committee was not designated. It was recalled that Aaron Pollard, Chris Berry, Brandon Smith, Roger Lewis, Mike Hansen, and Joe McDonald were appointed to the committee. Dave knew that Aaron and Brandon had begun looking at the document. He asked the committee to continue doing so, and plan to report back at the spring 2019 convention. Mike Hansen was appointed as the chairperson.

Finally, Joe McDonald was asked to read the Pioneer District Business Theme.

2. Adoption of the agenda:

President Dave Montera referred to the agenda that had been submitted. Joe McDonald moved that the agenda be adopted, and Dan Bezaire made the second.

Roger Lewis asked that some of the reports in the Consent Calendar be considered. Dave Montera indicated that would be done when that topic was covered.

Action was taken on the pending motion. **Motion approved.**

3. Minutes of the BOD meeting on April 20, 2018:

The minutes were previously prepared and distributed by the secretary several months earlier, and also through the Second Notices. Joe McDonald moved that the minutes be approved, and Aaron Pollard made the second. **Motion approved.**

4. Treasurer's report:

(This topic had to be deferred since Chris Berry had not yet arrived.)

5. Harmony Foundation International representative report:

Brian Nelson was not present, but it was noted that he would make a report at the HOD meeting.

6. Barbershop Harmony Society report:

Steve Scott began this area of discussion by announcing that the Society is working very hard to implement the Strategic Vision by 2038---to include the Four Pillars. Specifically, he declared that the Society is "scaling its assets". That involves efforts to deliver music and merchandise to the constituency. Another focus is the re-writing by the Society's BOD of the bylaws that chapters can adopt soon. He mentioned that there has been a lot of hiring of new staff to focus on creating new communities of artists. In the educational arena, there are efforts to provide resources for chapters to deal with the possible addition of female members to their membership. He asserted that it is a busy time right now.

Steve noted that he will be around for the whole weekend to answer questions. He referred to the session that he and Dick Powell will be holding right after the HOD meeting as an "Everyone In Harmony" listening session.

Dan Bezaire asked about the number of women who have joined the Society since the announcement in June that they could do so. Steve didn't know precisely, but knew that several hundred did within days after the announcement. Dave Montera said that, at a meeting he attended in September, it was stated that the number was approaching 400. Dick Powell thought the number was now close to 500. The first surge was expected. Dick felt that it will jump each time a change in the strategic planning is announced. More are expected to join as the "pieces fall in place".

Dick Powell observed the challenge was that, as soon as "EIH" was announced, everyone wanted details on how things would be done and when pieces of information could be seen. He realized that waiting makes things frustrating. Dick expected that people will begin to see the results of all of the work that has been done, i.e., the projects and programs and resources that are starting to flood the website and media releases. He felt he could hardly keep track of all of it. He declared that we should be reaching a critical mass stage in the fourth quarter. Steve Scott expected a lot of announcements then about the support structure. Bylaw options, and strategies for chapter governance, will be a part of that effort.

Steve Scott returned to the comments about the number of women who have joined since June. He noted that there were a large number of Associates who changed to full membership soon thereafter.

6. Barbershop Harmony Society report (cont.):

Mike Hansen asked what new female members will pay in dues if they happen to reside within the Pioneer District. Steve explained that right now they are only joining the Society, and do not pay any district dues. Dick Powell observed that a similar option exists right now for men to join only the Society. They are not associated with any district or chapter. For women members, that could change in January. Right now, they are not even Frank Thorne members within a district.

Steve Scott announced an exciting new option for partnership with music educators who can join the Society at a discounted rate. This will allow them to get access to music and other resources. Dick Powell emphasized that they are not becoming members of the Society. The intent is to get connected to them for distribution of resources. It is expected that more youth will get exposed to barbershop as a result. Possibly they will then want to join as members. The educators may also join as well. Dick pointed out that educators who are already members have access to music and other resources. Those persons will soon get a targeted mailing to remind them of that opportunity. Dick reiterated that the option that Steve mentioned is targeted at educators who are NOT members.

Finally, Steve mentioned that there are efforts to articulate to our current membership the benefits that they receive. Many tend to think of participation in contests as being the only benefit. Steve declared that there is a very large list of other benefits. The new chapter considerations guide is a part of that effort, and the new initiatives are also part of it.

Steve felt that now was an exciting time. In the year since he joined the staff, he has seen the tempo increase from "gliding speed to ramming speed". Dick Powell said that we are on the way to "warp drive".

[Arrival of Chris Berry noted.]

Dick Powell continued the BHS report discussion by offering a reminder about the listening session that he and Steve will be hosting later in the day. He wants that to be an opportunity to answer questions, to address concerns, to allay fears, and to convey excitement. Dave Montera noted that the session will be in the same room as the HOD meeting, and will follow it immediately. Dick reiterated that he and Steve will be around for the whole weekend to do this task.

Dick felt that now was one of the more interesting times to be on the Society board, and for him to become the International president. He confirmed with Roger Lewis that his title during his tenure was that of Society president. Dick recalled watching the leadership that Roger gave then. He found it humbling to follow Roger many years later in that line of succession.

Dick said it seems that everything is changing, and is doing so at a faster rate than what we find comfortable. He noted that people say they are comfortable with change---but they lie! Change is especially unsettling when things have been the same for a long time. "Life is strange, and the only thing I can count on is my barbershop experience---and now you're changing that!" This produces fear and anxiety---but also excitement.

Our music has been evolving over time, and the songs and arrangements we sing today are very different from what we did when we started. At heart, however, we have preserved the barbershop seventh chord and four voices singing acapella. Dick quoted Freddie King who said, "The day that barbershop stops evolving is the day that it dies." Dick asserted that we are evolving in our music, and in our governance and operational structures. He alluded to Steve's remarks about the kinds of services and tools we have never had before.

Dick mentioned the fact that, in 2015 and 2016, the Society board determined it was time to have a new strategic plan. The last one was created in 1964. Over the next two years, conversations were held with many people to get a sense of where the world was going, and where the legal and social landscapes were going. The goal was to learn where the Society needed to be, and to lead the target to insure that what we love to do would be available for generations to come.

6. Barbershop Harmony Society report (cont.):

The plan that was developed changed a lot of things, but kept two things paramount: (1), the right of men to gather with other men to sing the songs they love; and (2), the right of local chapters to control their own destiny, i.e., to determine who they serve, how they serve them, where they serve them, what songs they sing, and whether they compete or function just as a social chapter. Dick asserted that those two things never change---even if everything around them changes.

After the plan was developed, the next thing was to create the vision---“Everyone in Harmony”. The phrase was coined by Marty Monson. After the vision was unveiled one afternoon, questions immediately surfaced about how different things would be done. Those questions demanded details, and the answers had to be deferred at the time. Dick declared that a lot of answers have been provided, but a lot more are still to come.

Dick referred to a meeting in September (which Dave Montera attended) where the attendees listened and observed, but also participated in deliberations on changes in governance documents, chapter bylaws, district bylaws, and new organizational concepts---like a virtual district. Discussions were made about the latter concept (how it would be administered, marketed, and used to serve its membership).

Dick declared that the goal is to add, and not subtract. The intent is to provide, to everyone who wants to sing barbershop, ways to do so as it pleases them. The final structure must meet those needs so that everyone has barbershop the way he/she likes it.

It was noted that more info is coming. Dick asked if board members had seen the Healthy Chapter Initiative document. He emphasized that there will be even more info coming after that. There is a FAQ option. Dick cited a link on the Society website where questions and concerns can be directed so that answers can be obtained. He mentioned that he is the person who provides the answers.

Dick asserted that the bottom line is that we are all in this together. We all want the same thing. We want barbershop to thrive. He wants his sons and grandsons to sing barbershop. He knew of men who have daughters and granddaughters who love to sing it. Dick recalled an era long ago when families gathered around pianos and sang together. “A singing community is a healthy community, and is a happier community.” He observed that is hard to be mad for very long at someone when you are singing with them. He declared that we are all in this together. We will work our way through it together. We don’t have all of the answers. Dick commented that he has told his children that he didn’t have all of the answers because he was their father, but he had the will to find the answers.

Dick reiterated that everyone should take advantage of attending the session that he and Steve Scott will be running later in the day. He urged everyone to hammer away at them. He said, “We’ll have fun together”.

Mike Hansen asked if it was envisioned that districts and chapter will be able to decide who their members are. Dick noted that persons are not members of districts, but of chapters. If a chapter within a district accepts female members, they automatically become part of that district. Chapters will have the option of not accepting female members, but the district will have to plan for how it accommodates them in competitions. Dick observed that districts have complete autonomy on how they run their conventions. If contests are being run to determine who goes to the two International competitions, the district will have to follow the Society’s rules regarding that aspect.

Right now, only males can compete at those events. However, the Society is examining how participation of women might be accommodated. Steve Scott added that the Society is taking recommendations from the Contest and Judging staff on what might be done. The C&J staff is also talking with the Events planning staff about how that might be handled. Two possibilities are being considered: (1), doing everything at the same event; or (2), having a separate event.

Dick Powell reported that he will soon be the CA at a district convention where there will be all-male, mixed, and all-female groups competing at the same session, but in different subsections. They will all be judged by the same standards.

6. Barbershop Harmony Society report (cont.):

Dick proposed a scenario for next spring where a chapter has admitted female members and the chapter chooses to compete at a district-level contest. He asserted there would be no problem because it would be a district contest if the district has set up the appropriate categories. He observed that most districts have already taken this action. One benefit of doing so is increased attendance at the convention---with increased revenue and interest.

Dave Montera reported that the FWD had just crowned a mixed chorus as its district champion. All of the members of that chorus had to be members of the Society, but obviously some were not yet members of a chapter and the district.

Steve Scott ascertained that there would be only one contest category at the Pioneer chorus competition on Saturday, but there would be multiple categories in the Friday quartet competition. So far he knew of no open competitions where male-only, mixed, and female-only groups have competed in one category. That option has not yet been recommended. The only option has been sessions and sub-sessions within contests.

Dick Powell emphasized that the plan is for local control. Mike Hansen concluded that districts need to be clear in communicating to their chapters what the vision and future is. Dave Montera referenced the New Business section of the agenda that called for the creation of an Everyone in Harmony task force. This group will focus on how things are set up. Part of the problem is that C&J personnel are saying they will do what the districts want, while districts are looking for guidance from C&J! Dave admitted that C&J is correct in its expectation that districts usually set up who is going to compete. It doesn't matter to C&J who is in front of them---they just do the judging.

Joe McDonald referred to a Chapter Expectations guide that was closely held by a few persons. Dick Powell said that it is now on the Society website. Joe had received it earlier when he was one of 50 persons who went through the chapter advocate training. It was realized that the document that Dick was seeing was not the same one that Joe was describing. The latter was a special guide that the advocates that could use to present 10-11 questions for chapters to consider. Joe felt that effort may have recently diminished. Dave Montera suggested that activities like this may "ebb and flow". He thought that might have been a focused response to an issue that arose. He had recently been involved in a suddenly convened task force on another issue.

Dick Powell mentioned that revised chapter bylaw options will be distributed no later than January, but maybe even by November.

The task force in which Dave Montera recently participated included him, the DPs of JAD and NED, plus the women's advisory group. This group was dealing with an issue where "words matter". Changes in bylaws will have to be done very carefully so that no new problems are created. The emphasis in any new bylaws must be to create more opportunities for choices, rather than limiting the choices. The intent must be to define the objectives, and to say that a chapter is free to do what is right in its circumstance. The Governance and Bylaws committee is working on getting that balance with specific words. Ultimately, those documents will get passed back to the Society board for approval. Dick Powell apologized that the process takes so long.

Steve Scott emphasized that the goal was to do it right and not mess it up. He felt the Society board was being very careful about everything it does. Dave Montera added that it is a slow and painful process.

Brandon Smith acknowledged that the listening session will be focused on E-I-H, but asked if there would be time to ask about the youth movement. He felt that the discussion about E-I-H has been very open, but felt that discussion about the youth contests has been to the contrary.

[The secretary suggested that we return to the treasurer's report since Chris Berry had arrived. However, Dave Montera wanted to defer that topic until later because of the time needed for discussion of the budget. Specifically, the report from Chris will be put before Old Business.]

7. Consent calendar reports:

Dave Montera reported that we had once again received all of the reports. This represents the second BOD meeting in a row where that has happened. He invited questions.

Roger Lewis asked about a comment in Aaron Pollard's YIH report that said that all members of a youth chorus had to be under age 19. Aaron confirmed that a chorus with even one member over that age moves up into a different competition category.

Roger also observed that Jamie's CDD report raised a lot of questions. Dave Montera's first question was "Who won Bush League?" Jamie realized that somehow nothing got sent to the District. He indicated that "Cole's Minors" won first place. Jamie identified the members of the group. "Birds of Prey" took second place. Jamie and Aaron Pollard jointly listed the members of that group. Finally, "Blutonium" got third place.

Bush League was described as a great contest. Dave Montera regretted that he forgot to get the names of the winning quartets so he could have congratulated them in his president's letter.

Jamie had provided Joe McDonald with a slide for the Big Screen with the names of the quartets. Joe also had acquired pictures. Jamie's slide must be divided into two slides because of the amount of information.

Roger reported that concerns have been expressed about the fact that the top two quartets had District champions in their membership. He acknowledged that the rules allow that to happen, but suggested that the rules be reviewed. He urged that a committee be set up to do that task.

Roger observed that the Bush League 2019 plan is to have certified judges and a contest administrator. While he liked the idea of having a CA, he wondered if it was necessary. He thought that anyone with a computer could do that task if there are only a small number of quartets.

Jamie pointed out that past organizers of B.L. had gone that way. He admitted he didn't do it for the 2018 event because he didn't get into the project until May and June, and most judges were not available. He hoped to bring in some big names for 2019 because he thought it will be a great opportunity for coaching and group sessions. He saw big name judges as being a draw.

The need for a CA developed because of spreadsheet problems that occurred at B.L. 2018. A template had incorrect data entered in it. Hopefully, having a CA would avoid those kinds of problems. With the projected income from B.L. 2019, it is anticipated that the extra cost could be handled.

It was suggested that the entire judging process be turned over to Brian Dunckel. Brian noted, however, that he is seldom around in the summer. Another option would be to ask Ron Eubank to manage it. It might be possible if we talk to him now.

Roger also questioned the \$150 fee for attending a CDWI. He felt more of that fee should be absorbed by the CDD budget. Jamie Carey agreed with the idea, but noted that there is usually more cost for air travel and housing for judges. Chris Berry noted that another consideration for setting the fee at \$150---to include lunch---is that some people will forget to come if the fee is only \$40. Jamie offered a compromise of setting the fee at \$100. Joe McDonald pointed out that a notification now of a \$100 or \$150 fee can motivate chapters to decide between budgeting for HU or CDWI.

Dave Montera did not have a problem with a \$150 fee. Even if we incur small deficits, he noted that previous budget discussions have seen these as educational expenses that are a legitimate cost. The real goal is to make money on conventions so we have money for education.

As background, Chris Berry mentioned that the normal cost for judges at a CDWI is around \$2700. Another factor is that a CDWI is usually limited to five participants. A Music Summit, however, can operate with a \$40 fee because more can attend, and a slight profit is possible. Jamie proposed leaving the CDWI fee at \$150, but negotiating a lesser fee with anyone who sees \$150 as being a problem.

7. Consent calendar reports (cont.):

Jamie reported that David Ellis is taking over the management of the Top Gun program. David is planning for the coaches that he wants to utilize. Heretofore, Jamie had run the program by default, but was glad to turn over all of his files to David. Dave Montera asked that David report back to Jamie so that Jamie can then report back to the BOD.

The projected per person cost for T.G. was identified as \$150 to \$200. A unique aspect of T.G. is a QCA requirement that participating quartets must have a recent score of 70 points or higher. For the first few years that Jamie ran T.G., he didn't have enough quartets that qualified. When a wild card option of having a score of 68.5 or higher was added, three quartets made it. For 2019, there are seven quartets that have scores over 70. This will be a challenge, but possibly a two-tiered system (below 76 and above 76) can be developed to handle it. Jamie is happy that Pioneer has made this kind of progress.

Finally, Jamie announced that B.L. 2019 will be held in Cadillac. He is working on a housing contract with the resort. All of the beds at the resort are queens rather than doubles. The rates are based on two persons per room, and include breakfast. Since there may be some groups that want to put three or four in a room, the resort is working on more price options. A golf package will be offered. There will be a package offered for couples---to include dinner. There will be karaoke on Friday night.

The high school auditorium is being lined up as the venue. The plan is to work with the Chamber of Commerce and the Visitors Bureau to make the show a fund-raiser for the high school choir. This may also involve Rotary. If it is a choir fund-raiser, the students will be involved as ushers and ticket sellers. The Grand Rapids chapter has agreed to the host chapter for the show, and will sing on the show---as well as the Harmony Mercenaries. Jamie is hoping to increase the show attendance from around 65 to over 100. There is already a Big Screen slide for the event. Signups for B.L. should be on-line by January. Board members are encouraged to promote it within their chapters. The goal is "keep it north; keep it fun".

Brandon Smith suggested that a rider be created with the venue for a late-hours tag singing location. This was one of the problems at B.L. 2018. The locations shut down around 10:00 p.m. Jamie said that bar space was planned to be available until midnight. After that point, there is an outside volleyball area that can be used. Brandon said he felt that is an important part of every event he attends. Jamie mentioned that Cadillac has downtown breweries and other places that stay open later.

Roger Lewis had a few comments about this convention. He began by stating that McCamly Plaza is supposed to become a Doubletree (Hilton chain). The transition date has been continuously moving, and now it is projected for this coming January. To meet Hilton's requirements, there has been a lot of construction occurring. Some of it is noticeable in carpeting, hallways, and rooms. The second and third floors are currently unavailable.

He reported that the city of Battle Creek provided some money with a stipulation that more apartment type facilities be available in the downtown area. Presently, the third and fourth floors are to be converted into apartments and studio apartments for usage by long-term visitors doing business with Kellogg. This will reduce the number of rooms for our conventions, but it doesn't appear to be a serious problem.

One of the changes for Hilton that must wait until the last minute is the installation of ice machines. Right now, they are only available on floors 8, 10, and 14. Supposedly, room service will deliver ice if it is called.

Roger announced that, on this evening (Thursday), Battle Creek is offering an event called "Fall Into The Arts" from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. One thing that will appear is food trucks just outside the hotel. A lot of businesses will be open with art-related displays. The Battle Creek Community Foundation building is presenting tonight (in a building just beyond Griffin's) the 2017 International Artprize winner entitled "A. Lincoln". It is made entirely of pennies.

Roger learned on the previous evening that the gymnasium where photos were to be taken would not be available. Instead, they will be taken in the cafeteria. There is elevator access.

7. Consent calendar reports (cont.):

At the pre-convention meeting that Roger had with the hotel staff the day before, he discovered that only two of the seven staff members present had been at a previous convention. He was concerned with having so many new people, but felt they had the right attitude. Roger asked board members to contact him if they encounter any problems.

Dave Montera mentioned that the head of housekeeping didn't understand that morning why the judges' rooms didn't need cleaning. He explained that they don't arrive until today.

Dan Bezaire reminded everyone that he uses MailChimp for communications with the District. He knows there are about 865 subscribers to the service, but only about 40% of them open their messages. One of the problems with that program is that G-mail often will send messages to a promotions folder. The recipient has to open a MailChimp message at least once to stop that from happening. Dan also hopes to solicit more subscribers.

Returning to the topic of the convention, Joe McDonald asked Roger Lewis about the location for the JBC rehearsal---since the gym is not available. He wanted to put that location on the Big Screen. Roger said it would have to go to the cafeteria just like the photos.

Jamie Carey asked about the Pionet communication network. He has received messages that are attributed to someone in the District, and yet that person doesn't know anything about it. Dave Montera said that such messages are coming from unknown sources. Jamie felt there was need for a universal and reliable system where everything goes through one person so that a message's validity is assured.

Dave Montera suggested that Pionet was originally supposed to be a forum for discussions, and not for the dissemination of info. Jamie Carey concluded it is now being used primarily for announcements. He thought that Dan's database is probably more up-to-date than Pionet is. Dan reiterated that his database is 865, but he didn't how many are on Pionet. Joe McDonald thought it was less than 400.

Jamie was frustrated with the adequacy of the distribution of announcements about B.L. and other programs. Dan urged that he send items via MailChimp through him. He felt there would be a greater number who get it unless they are on G-mail. Dan said that he would make an announcement on Pionet about that problem.

Jamie recently updated his private list of chapter directors. His old list was only about 50% correct. He is now using that list for many of his announcements. He asked if there was a similar list of members on the board. Dave Montera indicated there was not because the size of our group is much smaller. Setting up a Google and Yahoo group would not be worth the effort.

Joe McDonald mentioned that there is a limit on the MailChimp account of 13,000 subscribers. Dan Bezaire knew there was a limit on the total number of messages that can be sent per month. Chris Berry said it was 12,000. With a subscriber list of 865, we could send out about 13 blasts per month. Joe asked how many of the MailChimp messages are bouncing back. Dan asserted they are not bouncing---they're just not being opened.

Joe agreed with Jamie that we should be using the most effective system. However, if messages are not being opened, we can't control that problem. Dave Montera felt that MailChimp is reaching more members than anything else we have to use.

Roger Boyer stated that he would like to send messages to the presidents of chapters, but doesn't have a reliable list of contacts. Joe McDonald said that he has developed an accurate list of chapter presidents or designated contacts. He told Roger that he would send it to him, but it is in the Google drive.

Brandon Smith suggested that we make more use of our Facebook page. Although younger people don't use it that much, he saw it as a valuable social media platform. He thought it could be used both for dissemination of info and as a discussion platform.

7. Consent calendar reports (cont.):

Jamie Carey asked Dan Bezaire if he was the administrator for the Facebook page. Dave Montera said there were several administrators, and Joe McDonald is one of them. Joe noted that most of the activity on the FB page at the last convention was from either him or Aaron Wilson. Aaron will be doing posting at this convention, but without any photos.

Joe addressed Brandon's comment about making more usage of FB. He noted that there are over 900 people who follow our page, but he suspects that about half of them are not members. He thought was of no harm if that was the case. Brandon urged that there perhaps be daily, or at least weekly postings. He is using this as the mechanism to communicate with all of his students and their families (about 250) to disseminate info through weekly or biweekly messages. He found that the group is good on spotting any need for corrections. He suggested that everyone on the Pioneer board be an administrator on its FB page.

Jamie Carey has found that getting directors together once or twice a year has resulted in communications on many topics (educational or promotional items). He asked Dan if he was the person who is doing that kind of communication with FB. It was established that he was not. Dave Montera felt that we can use our FB page more effectively just like some other districts are doing. He is a FB friend on the pages of 7-8 other districts, so he sees what they are doing. He would like to see us have more activity on our page. Right now, most of our activity is a flurry just before convention, and then nothing for a while. Jamie agreed that postings on a page at least once a week causes people to follow.

It was identified that Joe McDonald has been doing most of the work with our FB page by default. Brandon Smith offered to assist with this task.

Jamie Carey suggested that, if chapters know they can publicize things on the FB page, they will begin to contact Joe and Brandon. Brandon asked Dan Bezaire to add him as an administrator on it.

Joe McDonald observed that Steve Sutherland is putting things on the District website, and we're also talking about MailChimp and FB for info dissemination. He proposed that there be some kind of clearing house for coordination purposes.

Dave Montera emphasized that Steve Sutherland only puts links about chapter shows on the website after the District Secretary has informed him that the show licensing paperwork has been completed. The secretary observed that a surprising number of the chapters do not want to do that paperwork. Joe McDonald did note that Steve also puts info about the Harmony Explosion camp when he learns about it.

Dave reported that Steve had recently updated the banner on the website, and added some photos and a promo about the International win by "Frontier". Roger Lewis has been identified there as a Society Hall of Fame member. A photo of Carroll Adams was added, as were the Mission and Vision statements. The recent experience of trying to find the latter items prompted that decision. Dave indicated that Steve can be contacted directly to post those kinds of things.

Joe McDonald noticed that the membership has been well trained on the usage of Wuhoo for the handling of registrations. He thought that a link could be put on the website or FB where info would upload to one location for approval of posting. Mike Hansen said that an open group on FB could serve that function. Dave Montera indicated that the FB account is currently not an open group; only administrators can post. He recognized that may be why it has been so inactive. Brandon Smith said it should be converted into an open group, and let moderators delete the spam. He changed the FB account at his school from closed to open status, and then had to inform people occasionally that certain items were off-topic. After a while, proper usage became the norm.

Dave Montera asked if there were any further comments on the consent calendar reports. Since there were none, he identified the reports as being received.

4. Treasurer's report (back to):

Chris Berry asked how much detail was wanted. Dave Montera suggested that he offer the short version for the current year, and then present the text for the budget portion.

Chris displayed the highlights report. He pointed out that a new credit card---not a debit card---was obtained for the checking account. The old card had a \$5000 limit on it. The first charge against it was for nametags. It had to be cancelled soon thereafter because the account number was stolen from the nametag vendor.

Chris encountered an issue in the filing for a sales tax number. The number he was given was subsequently rejected by the State of Michigan. He found that the State had issued the wrong number. He thought that the issue has now been resolved. The number should allow on-line payment of sales taxes.

As he began to review the numbers, he emphasized that "profit" means we made money, and "loss" means we didn't. No other interpretations should be drawn.

There were two accounts in his report---the general account and the QCA account. For details on those accounts, Chris referenced his Profit and Loss by Class report that has two columns---plus a total column.

The District is the general account, and it was showing a profit of \$7808 as of October 15. It does not include some expenses related to this convention. He noted that Leadership Academy had a loss of \$79.93. Top Gun had a net loss of \$2093.82. The Spring 2018 convention had a net profit of \$7394.47. Bush League lost \$1891.45. The Music Summit had a net loss of \$252.75.

The QCA account was showing a net loss of \$493.92. That includes Top Gun contributions. There has been income of \$440 to date from the sale of tickets for the QCA show on Friday.

Chris changed to a display of the Balance Sheet. He noted that the checking account for the District had \$35,841.14. The QCA checking account had \$3116.73. There is \$50,215.47 in the District's savings account. This is consistent with the goal of having two conventions worth of money on hand. There is \$571.75 in the accounts receivable because of some invoices that had been forgotten. He expected those would be cleared by the end of the year.

Harmony Marketplace inventory is currently valued at \$2635.78. John Baker has reported that about half of the inventory is turned over each convention. He has purchased some new items, and hopes to sell about half of it.

Chris referenced a prepaid expense of \$3009 for tickets for quartets going to the 2019 International. Three sets were purchased with the early bird option on the assumption that three quartets would qualify. If that doesn't happen, he can sell the extras.

He cited a \$1000 deposit that had to be made for the 2019 Spring convention in Traverse City.

Finally, in the Liabilities section, he pointed out the \$2427.61 escrow that will go for the Windsor Sendoff.

Chris felt the numbers looked good, and he didn't have any special concerns. He noted that some items are budgeted as projected losses.

Craig Roney asked about support of senior quartets going to the 2019 Mid-Winter. Dave Montera noted that one set of tickets have been purchased and are listed as a line item. Chris pointed out that was an expense made this year, and not as a 2019 budget item. Craig's concern was the possibility that there might be more than one senior quartet that qualifies. Chris indicated that he was asked to buy one set of tickets. If we need more than one set, we will have to pay the higher price.

4. Treasurer's report (back to) (cont.):

Dave Montera noted that the treasurer's report was identified as being received. He asked Chris to go on the presentation of the 2019 budget.

Chris asked the board to refer to his document with boxes of information which is his proposed budget. He had sought input from most of the members, but apologized to Roger Lewis who had only seen it a few days earlier. The numbers are based on things that Chris knew for sure. Some things like interest can only be entered as guesses. He also does not budget for extra day stays by board members at a convention because he cannot predict who will do that and who will not.

The first item was contribution income from the Society and HFI, and was projected to be \$20,500.

To project the convention income for the next convention in Traverse City, he pulled forward the numbers from the last one at that location.

Harmony Marketplace income was based on John Baker's plans to earn \$1500 at each convention.

Chris did not know if there would be both a CDWI1 and CDWI2, so he put in \$750 of income (\$150 for five participants each time) twice to cover two events.

Under leadership training, Chris added in \$1000 of income from an Everyone in Harmony event, and also \$3000 of income from a Leadership Academy.

An amount of \$1000 from Bush League coaching was allocated, and \$1400 of income was included from two Music Summits.

There was allocated for Quartet Boot Camp income an amount of \$300, and for Top Gun an amount of \$750. This makes the total income from the Music and Performance area as \$3450.

Under expenses, Chris had budgeted for administrative expenses such as credit card charges and board meeting costs. Since we might have another tri-district meeting, he had included that as a budget item. Another \$1250 was included for International contest and judging expenses (mostly travel by Brian Dunckel). There was \$2000 included for District officer travel to the two International conventions. An amount of \$800 was allocated for insurance, and \$1250 was included for office expenses. Because Joe McDonald had mentioned Wuhoo earlier, Chris cited the amount of \$250 which was budgeted there.

The expense of contributions was mentioned next. It was assumed that we will continue to give \$3000 to the chorus that goes to International, \$3250 for tickets for the quartet(s) that go to that event, and \$750 for one senior quartet that goes to Mid-winter. He observed that Aaron Pollard had suggested that the last number might need to be changed.

Convention expenses for the next two conventions were then referenced. As previously noted, the Traverse City convention is expected to be more expensive. Harmony Marketplace was set at \$2450 per convention to allow for \$2000 for each one, plus \$450 for housing at each one.

The cost of a CDWI was projected at \$2650 for the first one and \$50 less for the second one.

The cost of an E-I-H event was set at \$4000 since it is something that has never been done before. The cost of a Leadership Academy, however, was based somewhat on previous experience.

The cost of Bush League was projected to be \$4375. Jamie Carey thought this would be workable since he hopes to increase the income at the next one.

The cost of the two Music Summits was projected to be \$1100 each. After addition of the Top Gun expenses, the total cost for Music and Performance events came to \$10,075. Chris noted that a detailed description of all of the income for those events could be seen on page 2 of the budget overview, so the net cost to the District would be around \$6500.

4. Treasurer's report (back to) (cont.):

Chris projected a net loss to the District of \$18,775---if we did everything at full projected cost at the budgeted amounts. For example, since we usually don't do two CDWIs, doing only one would reduce the cost by \$3000.

Dave Montera pointed out that part of our income is the revenue we get from District dues. He asked if we wanted to increase those dues. Any change we wish to make must be reported to the Society in November. It was noted that dues are currently \$30. **[NOTE: This is for RG memberships. Other classifications of membership are at lower rates.]** In light of the projected deficit of about \$18,000, now might be the time to consider an increase.

Chris Berry emphasized that the proposed budget does not show any reimbursements we may get. While he was looking for some numbers in his reports, it was asked when the last raise in dues occurred. It was indicated that happened three years earlier.

Joe McDonald observed that the \$18,000 loss should be knocked down to \$16,000 because of a miscommunication between himself and Chris on one item that he did not identify. Chris knew what Joe was referencing and agreed with that assessment.

Dave Montera noted that, although we have a \$35,000 reserve, we could nevertheless consume \$16,000 of it. Chris Berry declared that he creates a budget with the idea of what we could spend. The question then becomes "What do you want to spend?"

Dave felt the question should be stated as "What do we actually spend?" In addition to having just one CDWI, there may be reduced expenses for Top Gun. We may get more revenue from Bush League. For budget purposes, however, we have to look at what is projected for revenues and expenditures. He felt that we have to decide if we can absorb the \$16,000 deficit.

Aaron Pollard asked if Society dues were going up. It was noted that they increased in April of this year. Someone calculated that increase being equivalent to \$10/year.

Dick Powell asked if we get a check from HFI, and if so, was that amount included in the income projection. It was confirmed that was the case. Dick also asked how many judges we have in Pioneer (one CA), and will he be going for recertification (yes). Dick recognized that circumstance as a potential reduction in expenses.

Joe McDonald was aware of the current membership trends, but wondered if they will reverse as a result of E-I-H. Dave Montera thought the question would be "When does it reverse?" It was declared that it began to reverse on June 19. However, Mike Hansen noted that new female members are not yet contributing to District income. Sometime after January 1, that will change if bylaws are changed. Dick Powell pointed out that, if a chapter allows women to join, those women will automatically begin paying district dues. Dick projected that, if only six of our 26 chapters changed their bylaws to allow female members, the effect on our district dues will not be very large---but if all 26 chapters make that change, the effect could be significant. Dick's experience in visiting chapters around the Society has suggested to him that there will not be an overwhelming change.

Joe pointed out that there is another side to that question in terms of the effect on renewals. Dick Powell reported that there have been no big changes. Dave Montera observed that the June 19 announcement was just before the end of a quarter, and there was no big change. Similarly, there was no big change at the end of the next quarter. There might be some change at the end of the fourth quarter, or there may not be. There have only a few anecdotal resignations reported.

[Departure of Steve Scott noted.]

4. Treasurer's report (back to) (cont.):

Jamie Carey pursued the question of changing the dues. He suggested that members will ask what they are getting for their money. He cited the addition of Music Summits, the resurrection of CDWIs, and the restoration of Leadership Academy. Dave Montera added the expansion of Bush League and Quartet Boot Camp, and the Youth in Harmony programs. Jamie contended that we are making things available. Whether or not members use them is another question.

Jamie also observed that we have considered increasing the convention registration fee to include special shows and events---which members may opt to attend or not attend. Therefore, he felt that a small increase in District dues would not affect our membership. Overall, he saw a lot of "value-adds" that we offer. Joe McDonald thought that many of the things Jamie mentioned are expectations of the District that our members have.

Roger Lewis noted that we have a larger total bank balance than most districts. He observed that the IRS occasionally looks at non-profits to see if they have excessive balances. Therefore, a formula was established a few years ago for non-profits. From that formula, a comfortable balance could be as high as \$50,000. We have around \$89,000. He asserted that part of the reason we have that amount is that for a few years we have not done some of the items Jamie mentioned. He thought that having a negative budget balance for next year, or even for a few years, is not a bad business decision. Right now, we have the advantage of having one of the lower convention registrations. He suggested that might be a better place to look for more income.

Mike Hansen sought clarification about the "\$35,000" balance that Dave Montera cited. Dave mentioned that we have about \$50,000 in savings that should serve, if needed, to cover the cost of two conventions. That is considered to be a fund balance. However, \$35,000 is more of an operating balance.

Joe McDonald suggested that we leave the dues at \$30, and it was noted that no formal action is needed to leave things unchanged.

Brian Dunckel urged that any change in dues to be proposed at the fall HOD meeting would be publicized to the membership in advance so the delegates are not surprised by the proposal. Dick Powell suggested that any proposed change be described as a "cents per day" basis. He noted that an increase of 30 cents a day equals \$10 per year. Talking about paying 30 cents a day to have fun is a more palatable message. With 600 members in the District, \$10 a year equals \$6000. Dick advocated that we do the marketing of any change in advance. He mentioned a situation where he proposed a 30 cents/day increase at a HOD meeting, and the delegates proposed that it be increased to 50 cents per day!

Mike Hansen suggested doing an "if, then" scenario at a spring HOD meeting to prepare the delegates for a vote in the fall. He said he would want to know if we have been eating into our fund balance. He knew that we have passed budgets with deficits previously, but didn't know if they were as large as this one is. He felt that continuing to eat into the fund balance is not good, even though our present balance has a good size. He admitted that he was uncomfortable passing a budget with this large of a deficit, even though he realized that much of it was a wish list. He urged the creation of a more comprehensive analysis.

Dave Montera said that he and Mike Hansen had been looking at having another District board planning session yet this year so that can examine issues like this in advance. Brian reiterated his desire for having a possible dues increase communicated to the HOD in advance. He recalled that Larry Parker said, when the last dues increase was proposed, "Is this dues increase enough?" He observed that if Larry was willing to make an increase, you knew we were doing things the right way.

Mike Hansen added that you might as well do something once, i.e., make an increase of \$20 instead of \$10, if that would fix the situation. The focus can then be not just on covering operating costs, but identifying what we can do. Jamie Carey added that, although some things have been on and off, it is good to share the laundry list of opportunities. Joe McDonald saw the \$18,000 deficit as an investment, and one that he felt we could afford. He noted that the Vision statement says this is what we are going to do for chapters. Brian Dunckel alluded to our former treasurer who was happy to see money lost on educational opportunities.

4. Treasurer's report (back to) (cont.):

Roger Lewis expected that we will lose money on the Traverse City convention because it will be more expensive. He thought that a higher registration fee for that event might be worthwhile because the convention should be supporting itself. Brian Dunckel observed that district dues in some districts include a member's convention registration.

Dave Montera concluded that we would not be increasing District dues for 2019. In response to a question from Jamie Carey, Dave indicated that we can tell the HOD that the topic was discussed and tabled for consideration next year. Since a dues increase must be made in November, there can be no increase in 2019. Jamie urged that we let the HOD know that it is something being considered. He had verified that \$20 is 38 cents per week.

Roger Lewis noted that a motion was needed to approve the budget and send it to the HOD. He made a motion that be done. Dan Bezaire made the second.

Aaron Pollard was concerned that the budget only covers the cost of one senior quartet going to Mid-Winter, and yet two qualified for 2018. One of them chose not to go. He was confident that we will have two that will qualify in 2019, and even a third one that might go under a wild card.

Dave Montera pointed out that budget support for senior quartets that might qualify later in the evening would be a 2018 expense. Therefore, Aaron's concern is related to what happens in the fall of 2019.

Aaron Pollard moved that the budget for this item be amended to increase this item from \$750 to \$1500. Jamie Carey offered the second. **Motion approved.**

Joe McDonald also moved that the budget be amended to reduce the expense for the E-I-H event from \$4000 to \$2000. Mike Hansen made the second on this item.

Jamie Carey observed that these two motions would reduce our budget deficit by \$1250.

Action was taken on the second motion to amend the budget. **Motion approved.**

Action was then taken on the original motion to approve the budget, as amended, and submit it to the HOD. **Motion approved.**

8. Old Business (return to agenda):

a. Senior chorus festival:

Dave Montera noted that Mike Hansen had covered this item in his report. It appeared on this agenda as a carryover from the last BOD meeting. Since there were no questions about it during the Consent Calendar portion of the meeting, it was determined that everything is moving forward.

Mike Hansen referred to the information meeting slated for later in the day, and the flyers that have been developed. He complimented Doug Weaver and Jamie Carey for their organizational work. Doug indicated that he wants to see how much interest exists before the project moves forward.

b. District planning timeline:

Dave Montera referred to the planning meeting held at Mike Hansen's office in March. Most of the board was able to attend and submit input. Dave wanted to have another such meeting yet this year to prepare for 2019, and to begin talking about special topics like E-I-H and how they can be integrated into the District's mission and focus.

8. Old Business (return to agenda) (cont.):

b. District planning timeline (cont.):

Because of December vacation plans that Dave had, he wanted to schedule this planning meeting in early November. He was proposing a Sunday. Both the secretary and Joe McDonald had a chapter event scheduled for November 11. Jamie Carey first thought that November 18 would work for him, but then realized he had a conflict. That moved everything back to November 4 as the only remaining option. It was decided to have the meeting again in Mike Hansen's office in Lansing with a start time of 10:00 a.m. **[NOTE: The time was later changed to 11:00 a.m.]** It was expected that the meeting would be done by 3:00 p.m. Dave Montera will establish an agenda for it.

c. Joint board meeting with JAD and CAR:

It was noted that a meeting was held with these two boards on May 19. Dave Montera would like to do that again, but he has a problem in that the term of office for the DPs of both districts end on December 31. The EVP for CAR is not sure of his plans at the moment, but the EVP for JAD is David Rubin, and he has been contacted. Dave anticipates that the three of them will be able to set a date for a meeting.

A joint project that was to have been started after the last meeting was the creation of brother chapter relationships between the three districts. A survey was to have been developed, but that has not happened. The goal was to match chapters on the basis of size and interests. Large chapters and small ones will have little in common, but similar interests will be meaningful.

Dave plans to work with the new presidents-to-be of the two districts to set up a meeting. He expects the meeting will be held in March before the next conventions occur.

9. New Business:

a. Request from Steve Sutherland on the scheduling of evaluation-only choruses:

There has been some preliminary discussion by e-mail of a proposal from the DOC chapter regarding singing placement of score and evaluation participants in chorus contests. Steve Sutherland has asked that score and evaluation choruses be placed at the end of contests. Consequently, all of the actual competitors are grouped together.

Brandon Smith asked if Steve's proposal applied to quartets getting score and evaluation. It was understood that the proposal was with regard to choruses only. Brandon wondered if the proposal could be expanded to include quartets. Dave Montera felt that the proposal could be modified in any way we saw fit.

Jamie Carey asked for the rationale behind the proposal. One of the reasons was a situation where a competing chorus came on stage right after a score and evaluation only chorus performed with a score that would have been in the 80's.

Dick Powell thought he heard a remark that the judges would have "done their stuff and gone away" after the competing choruses were done. It was clarified that the judges would have finished the competition contest, but would still be there to do score and evaluation of non-competing choruses. Dave Montera emphasized that data on the latter group does not appear on the official score sheet.

Dick Powell cautioned that all of the data obtained must still be entered into the system because that data is used to evaluate the performance of the judges. Brian Dunckel explained that the only thing being discussed here is having the score and evaluation choruses go last.

9. New Business (cont.):

a. Request from Steve Sutherland on the scheduling of evaluation-only choruses (cont.)

Brandon Smith brought up the question of including quartets because he felt there can be a confidence factor there as well. If a group gets a bad draw, they may not feel as confident when they go on stage. He acknowledged that the judges are top rate. It is more of a mental frame for the performers. He related this issue to the "inner game of music" and how it works at that level. He felt the same problem applies to quartets. He cited a quartet that chose not to come to this convention because it was concerned that it might follow one of the historically higher-rated quartets. Brandon suggested that this kind of change might not add extra work, but could encourage a few more quartets to come to conventions. If this change offered only a perceived value, he thought it might be worthwhile.

The secretary spoke to the question of applying this change just to choruses. He noted that, on paper, this change may not be a big deal. However, he was concerned about the stress it may place on the host chapter and the other staff who manage the back stage activities. Dave Montera agreed. He noted that if the host chapter goes last as a competing chorus, they might have to deal with moving score and evaluation choruses afterwards.

The secretary indicated that his question was really directed to Roger Lewis because he was also a representative of the host chapter for this convention. Roger said that, if a chapter chooses to sing last, it must be really last because of the logistics of moving people.

Dick Powell thought that this proposal meant that choruses singing for scoring and evaluation would be singing at a lower level anyway. Brian Dunckel corrected his understanding of the situation by noting that the choruses that sing for scoring and evaluation only are usually excluded because they are past District champions and are ineligible.

Dan Bezaire asked if it would help if the scoring and evaluation choruses were placed first. Brandon Smith observed that the first competitor after them is still at a disadvantage.

Roger Lewis pointed out that the post-contest evaluations are normally in the same order as the singing order. The choruses that are actually there to compete must then wait for some time. Conversely, if the scoring and evaluation choruses are put at the last, they must wait. Brian Dunckel countered that the order of post-contest evaluations could be changed to put them in scoring order.

Dick Powell mentioned that CAs have been urged to have the post-convention evaluation order printed out and communicated to chorus directors in advance.

As the director of a small chorus, Chris Berry said that he doesn't care about the order of singing, and he doesn't care about who sings before his chorus. He believes that judges can understand the difference between groups of different size. He knows that his group may not sing at very high level, but the judges can make a fair evaluation of what it accomplishes. He added that the impact of a high scoring chorus prior to his chorus might even lead to a spill over!

Dave Montera mentioned that he had discussed this issue at some length with Steve Sutherland. Dave recognized that it goes back to Brandon's earlier comment about the letdown that a chorus feels when they follow a larger chorus. The chorus comes out and says, "I can't do that". The chorus members understand that they will be judged fairly, but they are mentally knocked down.

Dave acknowledged that his chorus usually does quite well, and has been a District champion at least three times. He observed that the real problem is a mental block that the members develop. Even though they are told that they are doing well, and listen to that message, they then realize what they are doing. They know where the chorus before them will score. They know where they will score, and where others will score.

9. New Business (cont.):

a. Request from Steve Sutherland on the scheduling of evaluation-only choruses (cont.):

Dave added that, if everyone is competing, there is no issue. The problem develops when a chorus is just getting a score to see what it is doing and to work on problems internally. The request then becomes, "Don't impact the rest of the contest. Let us have our contest, and then do what it is that you want to do."

Chris Berry looked at the issue from the other side. If his chorus chooses to sing for score and evaluation only and gets put at the end of the contest, he felt that his members might say "Why am I going?" Chris was optimistic that someday a small group from his chapter will compete and take second. He declared that was the direction where his chapter is going. He felt that being at the end of the contest will not lead to the desired end result.

Dave Montera noted that the situation his chapter encountered was where the chorus going to International was looking for feedback on its package. Chris Berry countered with the question of how does where another group is located change the evaluation that your group gets.

Brandon Smith added that another complication of having high scoring choruses at the end is that there are often individuals with dual memberships in both groups. A problem can occur to them in allowing them time to get changed. Brian Dunckel noted that putting a delay in the contest to allow that to happen also becomes a problem.

Brandon acknowledged that there are only a few members of his chapter who are duals with the International-bound chorus. He noted, however, there may be an even larger pool of persons who have dual memberships in a variety of chapters and can experience similar scheduling problems. He proposed that this requirement be defined as a solution to a logistical problem.

Chris Berry asserted that, if he knew that all of the evaluation-only choruses were at the end, he would not stay. In contrast, Dave Montera said he would do exactly the opposite, and would strive to see them.

Aaron Pollard proposed that the only choruses that can ask for score and evaluation only, and ask to be put at the last, are the two past District champions that are ineligible to compete. Chris Berry was comfortable with that idea. He just didn't want to be a chorus that followed after them. Dave Montera agreed that is basically the situation, and it occurs only at the spring contest. Normally the ineligible choruses are the ones who want scoring and evaluation only. Brian Dunckel noted an exception that was to have happened at this one, but won't because a chorus withdrew.

Dave Montera noted that, both last year and this year, International-bound choruses had new packages they were taking to that event and wanted evaluation. He felt those were the instances which prompted Steve Sutherland's concern. If those choruses are in the middle, few of the other chorus members get to see those new packages. The other thing that is created is a feeling that "It's not really fair."

Aaron Pollard moved that the two choruses that cannot compete must be placed at the end for score and evaluation only---if they choose to appear at all. Dick Powell suggested this would help to keep people in the auditorium. In response to a question from Chris Berry, Brian Dunckel admitted that it could be an issue if choruses like Grand Rapids and Mt. Pleasant---which have several dual members---were the two choruses involved.

Brandon Smith was asked if he wanted to extend this concept to quartet competitions. Before he answered, he first wanted to clarify the intent of the motion. Was singing by these two choruses at the last a requirement or an option? It was established that it would be a requirement. It was pointed out that the host chapter would then sing after those two---if it requested that privilege.

9. New Business (cont.):

a. Request from Steve Sutherland on the scheduling of evaluation-only choruses (cont.):

Brandon withdrew his idea of applying this concept to quartets. He noted there has not been a tradition in our District of quartets seeking evaluation only. The only exceptions to that instance have been the Ology quartets.

Aaron's original motion was restated that the option for getting scoring and evaluation only at the end of the contest would be limited to the current District champion chorus and the immediate past champion chorus---followed by the host chapter if it so chooses. The host chapter would still have the option of going first, or taking the luck of the draw. It was affirmed that this would be a requirement for the two ineligible choruses. Jamie Carey thought that those choruses would not object to this stipulation.

Dick Powell asked if this would allow the host chapter to sing just before these two specific choruses. It was felt that it would not be feasible because of the logistical duties that chapter has.

The motion was seconded by Roger Boyer. A vote was taken by a show of hands. **Motion approved with one abstention.**

7. Consent calendar reports (back to):

Jamie Carey recalled that he had not reported earlier about a discussion he had with Dave Montera about the official status of Bush League. It was verified that the event is designated now as a District event. Because of that change, Jamie will organize a small committee to run it.

Jamie has talked extensively with Dale Hanson and Dick Hartrick about B.L. They are both fine with the handling of the event as long as it stays "in the north". One of the duties of the committee will be to write up the rules about who can compete. At the moment, Jamie thought there were no written rules. Roger Lewis said he was sure there is a write-up. However, neither Dale nor Dick knows where they are. Roger indicated that he had a copy. The info that the committee gathers will become part of the official District documents.

Dave Montera noted that he forgot to mention this item earlier. He planned then to note that this committee reports to the CDD function.

9. New Business (return to agenda):

c. Everyone in Harmony task force (out of order):

Dave indicated that this group needed to be established since this topic will be considered at the planning session in November. He noted that Joe McDonald has already been involved as an E-I-H contact. Dave has also been a part of the discussions with the Society board, so he felt he should be a part of the group. Aaron Pollard was asked to serve on the task force. Mike Hansen volunteered to be on it, and so did Brandon Smith. Chris Berry also agreed to serve. Dave will serve as the convener.

d. Management of the HFI raffle (extra item):

Chris Berry reported that the District has taken over the financial side of the raffle. He noted that the license is already in the District's name. The processing of the money will be handled by Chris, and all monies will go into the District's books instead. A check to the host chapter will then be issued for it to forward to HFI, or the check will go directly to HFI with credit being given to the host chapter.

This issue was discussed the evening before with Alan Zaeske, Roger Lewis, and Dave Montera. The purpose of this change is to bring the finances in-house so there is more control over the large amount of cash involved. This makes it easier for Alan to run the activity, and yet insure oversight by the District. It also helps legally, since Chris is bonded, while Alan is not.

9. New Business (return to agenda) (cont.):

d. Management of the HFI raffle (extra item) (cont.):

Since Mike Hansen obtained the original license, he wondered if the report that must go to the State of Michigan would be done by Chris or by him. Chris was willing to let Mike handle that task. Mike indicated he just needs the numbers.

b. Status of the Upper Yoopers chorus (back to agenda):

This group had requested again to sing for evaluation at this convention, so the executive committee of the board has had many discussions by e-mail and through one conference call over recent weeks. Dave reminded the board that this chorus is a licensed group, but not a chartered chapter. That means they cannot compete. The other problem the group has is that, in order to have enough singers of all parts, it has a mixed membership. It cannot compete for district championships or International qualification.

The other problem that the group has is that it has been a licensed chapter for four years, and has been unable to get enough members to qualify to be chartered.

Dan Bezaire asked if the group would be able to compete next year when E-I-H takes effect. Mike Hansen asserted the group still could not compete until district competition rules are created. However, the chorus could at least charter in 2019 as a mixed chorus. The secretary noted that, because the rules for competitions will not be in place in 2019, the group would not be able to compete next year.

Someone observed that we could change our district structure to add a competition that could include the group, but that would not allow it to go to an International competition.

Dave Montera noted that this situation raises some of the questions that will be addressed at the November planning meeting. We must eventually decide if we want to have a mixed chorus contest. He observed that an option considered at the joint district meeting on May 19 was the creation of a mixed chorus contest involving the three districts. This would allow this type of contest to be done at a lower cost. He noted that ultimately we will have to decide if we will have a mixed chorus champion, and maybe a mixed quartet contest.

The main problem for now is the status of the Upper Yoopers and their request to participate in contests. Dave Montera had concluded that the issue may need to be postponed until the spring 2019 BOD meeting. The possible changes in chapter bylaws that will appear in January may turn this issue into a moot point.

Mike Hansen observed that, although this chorus could become chartered in 2019, they still might not be able to compete if our District chooses to leave its competition as a male-only contest. Dave noted that this is something that must be addressed at the November planning meeting. We may need to begin thinking about how to set up mixed group competitions. Dave also observed that the new bylaws offered to districts in January may also eliminate this issue.

Dick Powell mentioned that there are guidelines for the handling of mixed group contests, and how those scores can be used, through the Mixed Harmony Barbershop Association, by U.S. and Canadian chapters to send groups to the world championships that are run by BING. These guidelines were created by Barry Towner. Dave Montera noted that the Upper Yoopers group had been advised of the option to try to qualify for the BING competitions. Their presence in our contest would not be as contestants, but to get a score to submit to MHBA.

Brandon Smith suggested that the Upper Yoopers could be listed in the rotation as another asterisked category in the program---specifically to get a score for qualification for MHBA.

Dave Montera shared a comment from David Mills who is overall in charge of judging: "You put anybody in front of us, and we'll figure out what score sheet to use."

9. New Business (return to agenda) (cont.):

e. Job shadow request from Roger Boyer (back to agenda) (extra item):

Roger made a plea for someone to cover his role for a period of time when he must be out of the country. Dave Montera asked the board to convey this need to their chapter or District friends.

f. Chapter affiliation of a deceased member (extra item):

Dan Bezaire had a name of a former member who would be honored in the memorial service to be held later at the HOD meeting. He did not know the individual's past affiliation. The person's name was Jim Bosworth. **[NOTE: The secretary later learned that Jim belonged to the Kalamazoo chapter.]**

g. Possible new person to handle the Big Screen (extra item):

Joe McDonald reported that he was talking to an individual about taking over the responsibility for this task. He wanted to know what benefits the person would receive. It was noted that the info could be found in the convention matrix document. Roger Lewis and Chris Berry have copies.

10. Adjournment:

At 1:00 p.m., Dave Montera noted that the meeting could be adjourned. He asked for a motion for that action. Mike Hansen made the motion, and Chris Berry offered the second. **Motion approved.** Mike Hansen was asked to lead the singing of "Keep the Whole World Singing".

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