

**PIONEER DISTRICT, SPEBSQSA, INC.**  
**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING**  
**APRIL 23, 2004**

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Bruce Smith called the meeting to order in the Oak Room South, Treetops Resort Lodge, Gaylord, Michigan at 9:00 a.m. The singing of "The Old Songs" was directed by Pioneer District VP of CSLT Doran McTaggart.

**ATTENDANCE:** Secretary Skupski reported that a quorum was present. The total attendance was 13 District Officers, plus a number of Committee Chairs, Past Presidents and guests (including Society Executive Vice President Drayton Justus and Society Immediate Past President Roger Lewis).

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** Minutes of the October 17, 2003 Board of Directors Meeting had been previously distributed by e-mail attachment and by posting on the Pioneer District Web Site. Discussion and comments were invited and there were none.

VP Dave Anderson indicated a correction changing a reference to our previous grant from the State of Michigan \$2,000 to \$20,000.

Motion to accept the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of October 17, 2003 as corrected was made by EVP Raleigh Bloch, supported by VP Dave Anderson. Motion carried unanimously.

**VP FINANCE REPORT:** VP Finance Robb Smith distributed and explained a financial statement containing a Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Fund Balance as of March 31, 2004 and Revenue and Expenditures, Budget versus Actual, for January through March of 2004. VP Smith reported that pre-registered attendance for Gaylord Spring 2004 was 928 with on-site registrations still to be added on, and that we should do very financially because we budgeted for 711 based on past performance. No formal action taken.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:** Consent Calendar Reports of the District Officers were submitted. Without pulling reports, specific discussion was had concerning progress in chorus director development, recruiting of judges, Harmony Round-Up, chorus coaching and the Standing Ovation Program, resulting without formal action in the following work assignments:

**IPP Al Bonney will assist VP Dan Bezaire in budgeting for an out-of-district coach to come in and work with five choruses in a week, with focus on chapters in need rather than servicing chapters that are doing well.**

**IPP Al Bonney will suggest to the Society a level of minor working judges or judges-in-training to be qualified to judge division contests in districts where division contests are necessary and other local contests such as Pioneer Bush League.**

**In order to market the Standing Ovation Program more aggressively Secretary Marvin Skupski will courtesy-copy VPs and chapter counselors when sending a Standing Ovation Solicitation letter to chapters when they send in their BMI-SESAC show registration. Follow-up by VPs and chapter counselors will include soliciting SO evaluations for the individual quartet performances as well as for the entire chapter show. Big Screen at convention will also be used to market the SO Program.**

**BOARD CALLS TO CHAPTER PRESIDENTS:** VP CSLT Doran McTaggart called upon each District Officer to report on the conditions of the chapters. After the oral reports were completed it was agreed that the members of the Board of Directors would each continue to make the same contacts prior

to the spring and fall Board of Directors meetings and make oral reports at those meetings, but that some way must be found to help those chapters which are struggling. No formal action taken.

**PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:** President Bruce Smith indicated that at the House of Delegates Round-Table discussion we must stress to the chapters to invite civic leaders, music teachers and other community movers-and-shakers to our events in order to show that we have an impact on the community for the purpose of putting together grant requests. No formal action taken.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**CONVENTION SITES:** VP Events John Szewc announced the date change for the spring 2005 convention in Kalamazoo to one week later, making it April 29-30, May 1, 2005. Fall 2005 Convention will be in Battle Creek October 21-23, 2005. With Gaylord registration being in excess of two hundred more than our last two conventions in the southern part of the state, IPI Al Bonney will check out the facilities in Traverse City as a possible future convention site in the north. No formal action taken.

**CHAPTER INCORPORATION REQUIREMENT:** Secretary Marvin Skupski reported that of the 25 Michigan chapters all are current but one. Audit of the two Canadian chapters is still pending. No formal action taken.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**YOUTH FUND:** District President Bruce Smith proposed the creation of a Youth Fund to subsidize the Pioneer YMIH activities. First raise several thousand dollars and then start using it for district youth activities and chapter youth activities. VP Dave Anderson indicates Harmony Happening needs \$4,000 to operate. Donations will be solicited from chapters, quartets and individuals, perhaps eventually building up to an endowment fund. The establishment of this fund will give the opportunity to seek "matching funds" when making grant applications. A small committee of district officers will be established to determine the mechanics of how to raise funds and to review requests from chapters seeking funds for youth activities.

After further discussion, motion to set the goal at \$5,000 to begin the fund and to present the concept to the House of Delegates Meeting later this day was made by IPI Al Bonney, support by VP Dave Anderson. Motion carried unanimously.

**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION:** After discussion motion was made by IPI Al Bonney that Pioneer do the same number of ribbons as last year and contract for the same allotment of Big Screen time and space at International for summer of 2004, support by VP Brian Dunckel. Motion carried unanimously.

**CHORDITORIUM:** After discussion ranging from doing away with the chorditorium entirely to inviting choruses to sing two songs, one a novelty number, the matter was referred for discussion at the Presidents' Breakfast without formal action.

**CONVENTION MATRIX:** District President Bruce Smith explained how and why he was having a problem applying the convention matrix for district officer expenses. After discussion motion was made by IPI Al Bonney to establish a committee made up of the District President, Executive Vice President and VP of Finance, the committee to make a recommendation by July 1st and have the matter resolved by e-mail vote, support by VP Dave Anderson. After further discussion motion passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn made by Secretary Marvin Skupski, supported by VP Dave Anderson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marvin Skupski, District Secretary

Next Pioneer District Board of Directors Meeting, Saturday, July 17, 2004, 9:00 am, Battle Creek.

**ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN AS DIRECTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

IPP Al Bonney will assist VP Dan Bezaire in budgeting for an out-of-district coach to come in and work with five choruses in a week, with focus on chapters in need rather than servicing chapters that are doing well.

IPP Al Bonney will suggest to the Society a level of minor working judges or judges-in-training to be qualified to judge division contests in districts where division contests are necessary and other local contests such as Pioneer Bush League.

In order to market the Standing Ovation Program more aggressively Secretary Marvin Skupski will courtesy-copy VPs and chapter counselors when sending a Standing Ovation Solicitation letter to chapters when they send in their BMI-SESAC show registration. Follow-up by VPs and chapter counselors will include soliciting SO evaluations for the individual quartet performances as well as for the entire chapter show. Big Screen at convention will also be used to market the SO Program.

IPI Al Bonney will check out the facilities in Traverse City as a possible future convention site in the north.

A small committee of district officers will be established to determine the mechanics of how to raise money for the YOUTH FUND and to review requests from chapters seeking funds for youth activities.

A committee made up of the District President, Executive Vice President and VP of Finance to review the convention matrix for district officer expenses, make a recommendation by July 1st and have the matter resolved by e-mail vote.