

PIONEER DISTRICT, SPEBSQSA, INC.
MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
APRIL 25, 2003

CALL TO ORDER: President Bonney called the meeting to order in the Michigan Room of Holiday Inn West, Lansing, Michigan at 9:00 a.m. The singing of "The Old Songs" was directed by Pioneer District VP of Contest & Judging Ed Fritzen.

ATTENDANCE: Secretary Skupski reported that a quorum was present. The total attendance was 14 District Officers, plus a number of Committee Chairs, Past Presidents and guests (including Society President Roger Lewis).

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Minutes of the October 18, 2002 and February 1, 2003 Board of Directors Meetings 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.

Motion to accept the Minutes of both BOD Meetings as submitted was made by VP Doran McTaggart, supported by VP Dave Anderson. Motion carried unanimously.

ELECTION TO FILL VACANCY IN DISTRICT OFFICES: After recitation by DP Al Bonney of the two district officer vacancies and reiterating the fact that he, as District President, had made appointments to fill the vacancies on a temporary basis, IPP Don Bazely as Chairman of the Nominating Committee placed the name of Steve Foster in nomination for the position of Vice President of Chorus Director Development, supported by VP Brian Dunkel. Nominations were closed and upon a call for a vote Steve Foster was elected unanimously.

Treasurer Stan Williams placed the name of Robb Smith in nomination for the position of VP Finance, supported by VP Dave Anderson. Nominations were closed and upon a call for a vote Robb Smith was elected unanimously.

STATUS OF EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT POSITION: Discussion of the parameters of the EVP position and the requirements for being considered for the position took place, that discussion being will the EVP fill only the EVP position or must the person chosen for the EVP position also be filling one of the other District Officer positions. Motion that both alternatives remain available as they are now was made by EVP Bruce Smith, supported by VP Ed Fritzen. Motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Stan Williams informed all of the division of duties between the Treasurer and the new VP of Finance and submitted the Treasurer's Report. After discussion and questions a motion was made by IPP Don Bazely to receive the report, and, after more discussion and questions, the motion to receive the report was supported by VP Dave Anderson. Motion carried. DP Bonney requested that Stan and Robb write the job descriptions outlining their particular duties for approval by the Board at the August 2003 BOD Meeting.

VP FINANCE REPORT: VP Finance Robb Smith submitted and explained a written report verifying without formal audit procedures that all income is accounted for and all expenditures paid for were those expected in the normal course of affairs for Pioneer District, and indicated that the District Income Tax Form has been prepared. This satisfies the audit requirements for the District's 2002 books.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Consent Calendar Reports of the District Officers were submitted. No reports were pulled for specific discussion. **Copies hereafter are to be sent to EVP as well as to Secretary and District President. Secretary Marvin Skupski to get word out to the membership**

that the Consent Calendar Reports submitted by the District Officers can be viewed at the Members-Only Society Web Site and on the Pioneer District Web Site.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS: President Bonney thanked John Szewc for adjusting so rapidly to the position of VP of Events and praised the good work he has done in producing his first convention.

President Bonney announced the retirement of Alex Willox after fourteen years as Chairman of the Harmony Foundation Committee and asked all to express their thanks to Alex for his devoted service over the years.

President Bonney also commented on the Task Force established by Society President Roger Lewis to review the governance and management structure of the Society from chapter level to the board. The outcome should be how can we on the district board enable the chapters to do a better job for their members, and part of it may be the way we are structured. Perhaps we should go back to Division Vice Presidents or change some of the VP positions to committee chairs. More to come on our stewardship. DP Bonney requested that we take some time during the August 2003 BOD Meeting in Lansing to discuss the advisability of considering some alternative district organization to better serve the chapters.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

PIONEER DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT AND VISION STATEMENT: After discussion of the dissatisfaction with the Mission and Vision Statements President Bonney appointed **VP Dave Anderson to chair a committee to review Mission & Vision Statements of the Society and other Districts, to consult with the Pioneer District Chapters as to their Mission & Vision Statements, and submit a report and recommendation as to the Pioneer District's M & V Statements at the August 2003 BOD Meeting. Our objective is to find some inspiring words that accurately and simply describe what we do.**

MEMBERSHIP SUMMIT FOLLOW-UP AND EXTENSION SITE ACTIVITY: VP Brian Dunckel indicates a lack of reporting by chapters and a lack of willingness on the part of some chapters. 18 plans have been submitted thus far, some full, some sparse. Better communication needed.

EVP Bruce Smith indicates a better way is needed to find extension sites and to get volunteers from chapters surrounding the target area to work these sites. We should look to giving help to the new extension site areas the way businesses that expand by franchising give help to newly opened franchise facilities.

CHAPTER COUNSELOR REPORTS: VP Doran McTaggart reported that the program is currently under review in all districts for comparison of what works and what does not work. Pioneer will make it work better. Currently attempting to improve counselor reporting to VP McTaggart and chapter follow-up contacts. **VP McTaggart is going to ask feed-back from Chapter Presidents as to how the chapters are receiving the program, something that up until now has not been investigated.** The state of the Pioneer District is good, and the revised effort for inter-chapter events will help, especially up north.

The District Officers then made oral reports on their telephone contacts with assigned chapters and supported Doran's conclusion that the state of the Pioneer District is good.

CHAPTER INCORPORATION REQUIREMENT: Secretary Marvin Skupski reported that of the 27 chapters in Pioneer District, two are Canadian with Province of Ontario procedures to follow, and of the 25 Michigan chapters 17 are incorporated and up to date in their annual reporting; 2 additional chapters are incorporated but not up to date and have been notified; 2 were incorporated and have been automatically dissolved for failing to file annual reports; one is currently being reinstated, the other has

been notified; 4 chapters were not located on the State of Michigan Web Page, one of which currently has registration underway and the other 3 having been notified of their situation and the need to act.

ADVERTISING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORTS: VP Greg Humbel reports that for Troubadour advertising there will be better contact with quartets after convention. Secretary Skupski reported on the cost of going to a booklet type convention program with advertising, **final report and recommendation on seeking advertising at convention for inclusion in the program or for stand-alone-advertising circulars to be made at the August BOD Meeting.**

District pins and advertising in the International Convention Program was discussed, **VP Humbel to check out the possibility of advertising in the International Convention Program.** 500 lapel pins will be ordered just as last year, **manner of distribution of pins yet to be decided. Power Point slide of last year to be done again on Power Play, college quartet representative and Harmony Heritage Chorus.** VP Greg Humbel to do all this and advise how best we are able to support him.

Discussion of our own big screen at the contest site; **VPs Humbel and McTaggart to get together to eliminate any potential problems between the working MC and the Big Screen operation inside the auditorium at the competition site.**

AUGUST BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING PLANS: EVP Bruce Smith reported the date for the meeting is August 9th with the location still to be determined. Pioneer District and Society plans amazingly in sync', but we must have our District VPs feeding ideas to the Society VPs for the things we want to accomplish, and we must discuss with chapters before August what we should do and what we want to do, keeping in mind that grant money may be less so we must plan accordingly. Move goals up one year and what to work on to make them come to fruition; how to develop committees to assist our VPs and make each VP and each successor VP a "team player" and not a "soloist"; each VP evaluate his part in the Five Year Plan to determine where we are going; how to have each VP helping other VPs to broaden any activity to be the job of the entire Board.

CONVENTION RE-DO COMMITTEE REPORT: The Committee reported that the Saturday Night Show flow was improved with the scripting; chapter hospitality rooms on the main floor of the hotel and activities outside of the competition for Joe Barbershopper went well. Continuing to talk to make improvements in all areas at the convention. DP Al Bonney will schedule another telephone meeting ASAP following this convention.

NEW BUSINESS

2003 WORK PLAN: Following a long and involved discussion concerning the need of the Pioneer District for additional funds to produce successful conventions, as opposed to the current convention experience which has us eroding by approximately \$2,000 per year, **VP Finance Robb Smith was appointed Chairman of a Committee to investigate the pros and cons of raising dues and having all members pay, or raising the convention registration fee and having those who attend the conventions pay, or finding ways to raise funds at convention without raising dues or convention registration fees. VP Robb Smith to select two more committee members and make a report at the August 2003 BOD Meeting, and have a proposal and recommendation for increasing revenue ready for presentation to the House of Delegates at the 2003 Fall HOD Meeting.**

After discussion of pursuing grant money, a motion was made by VP Dave Anderson to have Chairman **Mike Moyer pursue the same grant that was sought successfully from MCACA last year,** supported by VP Dan Bezair. Motion carried unanimously.

After a request by VP Finance Robb Smith for authority to open a Government Securities Account directly related to our working bank account where it will be possible to do on-line transferring of funds,

a motion to grant that authority was made by VP Brian Dunckel, supported by VP John Szewc. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to adjourn made by Secretary Marvin Skupski, supported by VP Dan Bezaire. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marvin Skupski, District Secretary

Next BOD Meeting August 9, 2003, location to be determined.

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

Treasurer Stan Williams and VP Finance Robb Smith to write the job descriptions outlining the particular duties of each for approval by the Board at the August 2003 BOD Meeting.

All District Officers hereafter when submitting Consent Calendar Reports are to forward copies of these reports to the EVP as well as to the Secretary and District President.

Secretary Marvin Skupski to get word out to the membership that the Consent Calendar Reports submitted by the District Officers can be viewed at the Members-Only Society Web Site and on the Pioneer District Web Site.

VP Dave Anderson to chair a committee to review Mission and Vision Statements of the Society and other Districts, to consult with the Pioneer District Chapters as to the Mission and Vision Statements of the Chapters, and submit a report and recommendation as to the Pioneer District's M & V Statements at the August 2003 BOD Meeting. Our objective is to find some inspiring words that accurately and simply describe what we do.

VP Doran McTaggart to ask feed-back from Chapter Presidents as to how the chapters are receiving the Chapter Counselors' Program and the efforts being made by the Chapter Counselors.

Secretary Marvin Skupski and VP Greg Humbel to make final report and recommendation at the August 2003 BOD Meeting on seeking advertising at convention for inclusion in the convention program or for stand-alone-advertising circulars at the convention.

VP Greg Humbel to check out the possibility of advertising in the International Convention Program; to recommend a manner of distribution of Pioneer District Support Ribbons; to prepare Power Point Slide again as was done last year on Power Play, college quartet representative and Harmony Heritage Chorus.

VPs Greg Humbel and Doran McTaggart to get together to eliminate any potential problems between the working MC and the Big Screen operation inside the auditorium at the competition site.

DP Al Bonney to schedule another telephone meeting of the Convention Re-Do Committee ASAP following this convention to talk about making additional improvements in all areas at the convention.

VP Finance Robb Smith was appointed Chairman of a Committee to investigate the pros and cons of

raising dues and having all members pay, or raising the convention registration fee and having those who attend the conventions pay, or finding ways to raise funds at convention without raising dues or convention registration fees. **VP Robb Smith to select two more committee members** and make a report at the August 2003 BOD Meeting, and have a proposal and recommendation for increasing revenue ready for presentation to the House of Delegates at the 2003 Fall HOD Meeting.

Grant Writing Committee Chairman Mike Moyer is directed to pursue the same grant that was sought successfully from MCACA last year.