

PIONEER DISTRICT, SPEBSQSA, INC.
MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
February 2, 2002

CALL TO ORDER: President Bonney called the meeting held in the DeWitt Township Community Center in DeWitt Township, Michigan, to order at 2:50, p.m. The singing of "The Old Songs" was directed by Pioneer District Music & Performance VP Dan Bezaire.

ATTENDANCE: Secretary Skupski reported that a quorum was present. The total attendance was 14 including 12 current officers and guests.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Submission of the minutes of the October 19, 2001 Board of Directors Meeting was postponed until the April 26, 2002 Board Meeting pursuant to prior notification.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Submission of the Treasurer's Report was postponed until the April 26, 2002 Board Meeting pursuant to prior notification.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Submission of the Consent Calendar Reports was postponed until the April 26, 2002 Board Meeting pursuant to prior notification, and those reports are expected to be the same reports required to be submitted to Kenosha fifteen days after the Convention.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS: President Bonney indicated that in response to an effort to have the District Secretary and District Treasurer attend the leadership forum after convention in the fall so that the entire district team would be participating, partial success was realized in that in 2002 the District Treasurer would attend but the District Secretary would not attend. No action was taken by the Board at this time.

A subcommittee is forming for the purpose of creating a national effort in Grant Writing and to provide training in grant writing to chapter and district personnel. No action was taken by the Board at this time.

Most chapter presidents are not satisfied with the current chapter coaching procedures; this issue is under continuing scrutiny for ways to make improvements. No action was taken by the Board at this time.

Kenosha is discouraging the awarding of medals which hang around the neck as an indication of quartet ranking or chorus ranking as they wish to keep the "hanging medals" procedure for only the top five quartets nationally each year. No action was taken by the Board at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Vice President of Events Larry Parker reported that based on the survey taken of House of Delegates and Chapter Presidents, it appears that both he and Executive Vice President Bruce Smith received basically the same information and opinions: That Kewadin Casino is a "dump," that it is not big enough and that the level of smoke in the air makes it intolerable as a convention site. Comments were not solicited concerning other "casino venues," but unsolicited results were that the Soaring Eagle Casino in Mount Pleasant would work, but that Kewadin would not work. No action was taken by the Board at this time.

District-run Barbershoppers Shop was discussed citing that several other districts did this and made good money for the district in the process. Several members felt that the incentive of getting the revenue from

the shop was important to the host chapters and that we should not take this away from them at this point. No action was taken by the Board at this time.

It was reported by President Al Bonney and Secretary Marvin Skupski that the District Directory is now totally on-line. It will now be up to individual members to learn how to access its various parts. No action was taken by the Board at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion of a District Board “host-ship” of a convention was considered. Motion was made by Larry Parker and seconded by Dave Anderson that the Board not undertake such a task at this time. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary Marvin Skupski advised that all persons handling money at District events could be and should be covered by the Society bonding insurance, and to accomplish this the names of all must be attached to the Board of Directors Minutes. “All persons,” would include all District Officers and all members of the Host Chapter, which for Spring 2002 is Detroit-Oakland Chapter. Motion was made by Dan Bezaire and seconded by Gene Hanover that a roster of District Officers and a roster of the Detroit-Oakland Chapter be attached to the minutes for bonding purposes. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was had concerning the March 2, 2002 chorus coaching session in Lansing. Motion was made by Larry Parker and seconded by Dave Anderson that Dan Bezaire be authorized to stay over-night in Lansing. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was had concerning Officers Calls to Chapters and whether they were working. Motion was made by Doran McTaggart and seconded by Greg Humbel that the Officer Calls be suspended temporarily. Motion carried unanimously. We will review this temporary suspension of calls at the Fall Convention to see if we need to reinstate Officers Calls to Chapters.

The District Calendar for 2002 and 2003 was discussed and it was decided that a Board Meeting would be conducted the first week-end in February of each year, and that a Board Meeting would be conducted on Wednesday August 7, 2002 and on Wednesday August 13, 2003. These dates having been established and agreed to by all, no formal action was taken by the Board at this time.

Taking credit card charges on-line was discussed. No Board action was requested. The matter was tabled for more information regarding acceptable services, cost structure and a website that would support it.

NEW BUSINESS (Added after Planning Session):

Milford Chapter, Swan Valley Chapter and Petoskey Chapter were discussed as failing chapters. Stan Williams reported that Petoskey is finished except for one stale check still outstanding that he will take care of. Dean Moore will close out Swan Valley Chapter when he returns from wintering in the South. No new information on Milford. It is planned to have all three failing chapters closed by Spring Convention. No Board action was requested. Dave Anderson is following the progress in Milford; Don Bazely is coordinating with Petoskey; no one is currently assigned to Milford. Brian Dunkel is the general coordinator for the District. Dave and Don will report to him with their progress and he will do the business for the District with the Society. Monroe North Chapter is still struggling but is expected to bounce back. No Board action requested.

Discussion of Web Site. Encourage all to use it for events six months ahead of time and to depend on the Calendar for information of chapter shows and district events. No Board action requested.

Discussion was had concerning two-year terms for district vice presidents instead of one-year terms; should a VP be allowed to succeed himself after a two-year term; would such a change be contrary to the Society Policy and Operations Manual. No Board action requested, but Board Members were asked to analyze this possible change for action at the April Board of Directors Meeting.

Discussion was had concerning succession planning and the use of committees, the conclusion being that each officer and committee chairman should find a potential replacement for himself. No Board action requested.

District Treasurer Stan Williams indicated that the service being provided by the bank the District is currently using is inadequate and that he would like to move our accounts to Independent Bank of South Michigan. After discussion a motion was made by Stan Williams that we move our accounts to Independent Bank of South Michigan, seconded by Gene Hanover. Motion carried unanimously.

President Al Bonney advised of the assistance the District and the chapters could get in getting grants and in getting assistance in grant writing by being members of the Michigan Association of Community Arts Agencies. President Bonney urged that the District should spend the \$100 to join and that the District should continue membership in the future. After discussion motion was made by Gene Hanover and seconded by Dave Anderson that the District Join the Michigan Association of Community Arts Agencies. After further discussion motion carried.

Directors College. Music and Performance VP Dan Bezaire indicates we have two slots for this summer for two directors, front line directors only, who have never before attended Directors College, tuition paid courtesy of Ron Knickerbocker. Guest Steve Foster, new Chairman of Laws & Regulations Committee, advances the position that we are defeating the purpose if we limit our attention to front line directors only.

Motion by Gene Hanover that we send one of our directors at district expense, does not have to be a front line director. Seconded by Dave Anderson. After more discussion motion carried.

Motion by Doran McTaggart that Music and Performance VP Dan Bezaire budget sufficient funds to pay tuition and transportation for himself to attend director's college or harmony college. Seconded by Gene Hanover. After further discussion motion carried.

After discussion of 500 promotion ribbons for \$248 for international touting our quartets and chorus, motion by Dave Anderson that we do it again this year, plus put an ad on the screen at International Convention. Seconded by Gene Hanover. After further discussion motion carried 7 to 3. We will need a coordinator to have these things arranged. Assignment of a coordinator will be made at the Spring Convention.

Motion by Larry Parker that the District pay for District Officers hotel rooms at District Conventions "from now on," seconded by Don Bazely. After discussion motion carried 9 to 1.

Motion by Larry Parker that the District pay for Officers All-Events Registrations, participating spouses All-Events Registrations, and selected committee chairmen All-Events Registrations at District Conventions, seconded by Doran McTaggart. After discussion motion carried 8 to 1.

Motion to adjourn made by Marvin Skupski, seconded by Gene Hanover. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:40, p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marvin Skupski, District Secretary

Attachments to the original Minutes on file:

1. Roster of Pioneer District Officers for 2002 (3 pages) for purposes of coverage under the Society's Bonding Insurance;
1. Roster of Detroit-Oakland Chapter, Pioneer District, for 2002 (9 pages) for purposes of coverage under the Society's Bonding Insurance.