

**PIONEER DISTRICT - BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY**  
**MINUTES**  
**HOUSE OF DELEGATE'S MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 17, 2008**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Pioneer District President Jim Kunz called the meeting to order in the Miller Room of the McCamly Plaza Hotel, Battle Creek, Michigan at 1:35 pm. The singing of "The Old Songs" was directed by District President Jim Kunz.

President Kunz advised those present that District Secretary Joe Serwach had a scheduling conflict with his employment at the University of Michigan and is unable to be present; that former District Secretary Marvin Skupski was contacted and agreed to sit in for Joe at today's Management Team Meeting, Board of Directors Meeting and House of Delegates Meeting.

**QUORUM:** Acting Secretary Marvin Skupski announced that a quorum was present. (Twenty-seven officers and delegates out of a possible fifty-four were present. Among the signed-in guests were Past District President Earl Berry, Society Treasurer Jim Lee and Society Immediate Past President and Pioneer District Past President Roger Lewis. Delegates were present from fourteen of our twenty-eight Pioneer District Chapters.)

**INVOCATION AND MEMORIAL TO DECEASED MEMBERS:** A tribute to the deceased members since the last meeting was given by Executive Vice President Brian Dunckel for the following members: Jeff Cavinder, Battle Creek; Chuck Fulks, Swan Valley and Saginaw Bay; Paul Hanson, Huron Valley; Jim Lekander, Macomb County; Ben Leone, Macomb County; Paul Millis, Detroit-Oakland; Harold Pulhamous, Grosse Pointe; Gordon Rood, Lansing; Frank Sebastian, Kalamazoo; Russ Seely, Grosse Pointe; Wayne Stringer, Saginaw Bay; Rich VanValkenburg, Grand Rapids; Jack Ware, Saginaw Bay; John Wenzel, Monroe North. As the name and chapter of each deceased member was read those present intoned a four part harmony "Rest in Peace."

No formal action was taken.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Minutes of the April 25, 2008 House of Delegates Meeting had been previously distributed by e-mail attachment. Discussion and comments were invited.

Mt. Pleasant Chapter Delegate Jim McMahan clarified that at the time of the last House of Delegates Meeting the spring convention for 2011 was not yet finalized to be in Mt. Pleasant. It is now finalized to be in Mt. Pleasant.

Motion to accept the Minutes as clarified by Delegate Jim McMahan was made by Macomb County Chapter Delegate Dave Anderson, supported by Battle Creek Chapter Delegate Jeff Woodworth. Without further discussion, motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Pioneer District Budget for 2009 and current financial statements had been distributed by e-mail attachment.

Treasurer Robb Smith explained that, as to the 2009 budget, not knowing which revenue generating events were to take place and not knowing what the income and expenses for those events would be, he wanted the 2008 budget accepted as a "Continuity Budget" for 2009, the process to be followed being that

when the plan for an income generating event was finalized and revenue and expenses could be approximated, the budget could be amended to reflect that approximation. Discussion followed and no formal action was taken at this time.

Robb indicated that we have a surplus again as we have been having in the last few years, but the reason for the surplus is that we have been failing to promote events to spend the money on. Robb indicated it is nice to have a surplus but it is our job in Pioneer District to promote and produce these events, some solely for our members' participation and some for the members' participation and the public's entertainment. No formal action was taken.

Macomb County Chapter Delegate Dave Anderson brought up the \$35 cost of competing quartet and chorus DVD tapes and suggested that cost to the quartets and choruses could be eliminated by the District paying those DVD costs out of the surplus. Discussion followed and no formal action was taken.

See below for formal action taken on the financial statements and Budget or 2009 as submitted by Treasurer Robb Smith.

**PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:** President Jim Kunz announced that our Director of Contests and Judging Al Fisk was stepping down after many years of service and that our newest Pioneer District certified judge Ron Eubank is being appointed to be the new Director of Contests and Judging. Al and Ron received a rousing round of applause. No formal action was taken.

President Kunz announced that Joe McDonald from Mt. Pleasant Chapter is being appointed to be the new Director of Chapter Support and Leadership Training. No formal action was taken.

President Kunz announced that due to time constraints Doug Lynn has stepped down as Director of Membership Services, that Jeff Gougeon has stepped down as District Historian and that Roger Lewis is looking to step down as Director of Financial Development. Jim indicated the District is currently looking to recruit someone to fill each of those positions. No formal action was taken.

President Kunz then informed those present that his employment situation is causing time restraints on him to the point that he feels he is not able to give Pioneer District all that is expected from a district president. Jim therefore is looking into stepping down and having Executive Vice President Brian Dunckel take over the balance of the two year term. No formal action was taken.

**SOCIETY TREASURER JIM LEE:** Our Society President's representative to our 2008 Pioneer District Fall Convention, Society Treasurer Jim Lee, addressed the delegates bringing greetings from Society President Noah Funderburg and the staff in Nashville.

Jim reviewed for the Delegates the items that Society President Noah Funderburg stressed in his letter to all Delegates and the items contained in the letter to the Delegates by Executive Director Ed Watson.

Jim reviewed the surveys that have been conducted. Nashville was happy with the degree of participation and will be publishing the survey results to the districts and chapters presently.

Jim reviewed the new "Youth Member" membership rates and the fact that it is now for all young men under the age of 26, and the young men do not have to be students.

Jim reviewed the new "Senior Member" membership rates which will now be 75% for seniors, but those seniors now enjoying the 50% rate will be grandfathered in at that rate.

Jim announced that starting in 2009 there will be a new “Associate Member” category open to women only. This will be another 50% rate and will give associate members all membership benefits except the right to compete as singers.

Jim closed by reviewing Harmony College, the article on barbershop harmony and barbershop singers in the October issue of Saturday Evening Post, the computer transition to the new Aptify programming, and then told the Delegates that there would be new membership recruiting aids coming out of Nashville soon.

No formal action was taken.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** President Kunz indicated that he had not called for the Delegates to accept the Treasurer’s financial reports and budget. A motion was made by Gaylord Chapter Delegate Dale Hanson to accept the reports and budget as submitted and explained, support by Grand Rapids Chapter Delegate Derek Hatley. Without further discussion motion carried.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:** Some of the Consent Calendar Reports of the District Officers were distributed in advance by e-mail attachment and some were distributed as hard copy at the meeting.

Director of Events Jerry Ditto reviewed the venues for future conventions. Spring of 2009 will be in Traverse City with Macomb County Chapter hosting. Fall of 2009 will have us back in Kalamazoo with Kalamazoo Chapter hosting. Spring of 2010 we will again be in Kalamazoo with the Quartet Champions Association hosting. Fall of 2010 will be in Grand Rapids with Grand Rapids Chapter hosting. Spring of 2011 will be at the Soaring Eagle Casino facility in Mt. Pleasant with Mt. Pleasant Chapter hosting. Fall of 2011 will have us back in Kalamazoo and we are in need of a host chapter for this one.

Director of Music and Performance Matt Tipton introduced Jeff Pierson from Muskegon Chapter who is organizing the “Rockin’ Barbershop” event for the younger singers to take place August 27-30, hopefully at Interlochen. Matt announced that the Pioneer District Mini-Hep School would be conducted at the same time, August 28-30, nearby at Crystal Mountain Resort. The two events will share some of the same instructors and will culminate in a combined performance. A Top Gun school will be conducted February 1-3.

Jeff Pierson explained some of the details of the Rockin’ Barbershop event.

Executive Vice President Brian Dunckel announced COTS for January 3-4 of 2009 to be held again in Okemos. Registration materials were provided for each chapter. David Wright will not be available to teach his Barbershop History class. But those attending not as chapter officers but as Joe Barbershopper will be able to get a piece of Harmony University. To replace the Barbershop History class we will be having the most popular Harmony University class, Vocal Techniques.

Upon asking for a motion to accept the Consent Calendar Reports Macomb County Delegate Mike Jaissle made the motion, supported by Detroit-Oakland Chapter Delegate Tom Uicker. Without further discussion motion carried.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

President Kunz indicated that the next item on the Agenda was Unfinished Business and that we had no unfinished business to deal with.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**TROUBADOUR DISTRIBUTION:** Director of Marketing & Public Relations Rick Anderson reported that the on-line version of the Troubadour is being up-dated the 1st of each month. New Editor Mike Baribeau having to learn new software and other problems, we are just now mailing out the first hard copy version. It is anticipated there will be only two hard copy versions each year. No formal action was taken.

**SINGING FOR LIFE:** Rick reported that the program was not well organized and was lacking in meaningful communication. Grand Rapids Chapter did very well. Five or six other chapters participated but that was all. The program is to continue, so next year there will be better organization and a higher level of communication. The preferred time will be the month of May but with each chapter making their own arrangements for time of year with their local blood donation facilities. Rick distributed a hand-out containing the pertinent information. No formal action was taken.

**NEW YOUTH MEMBERSHIP RATES:** President Kunz reviewed the new Youth Membership rates with the delegates for all members under age 26. First year no dues at all, just a \$10 registration fee. Then until age 26 international dues at half the regular rate. This new Youth Membership Rate will apply to all new members under the age of 26 years and there is no requirement that the member be a student.

Jim advised the Delegates that the matter was discussed at the Management Team Meeting and the Board of Directors Meeting and it was decided that our Pioneer District Dues will also be zero for the first year and one half the regular rate for new members under age 26. Jim then encouraged the Delegates to have their chapters do the same and assess Youth Membership rates at zero for the first year and then half of what their regular chapter dues are until the young member reaches age 26. .

No formal action was taken.

**MISCELLANEOUS:** Grand Rapids Chapter Delegate Derek Hatley asked for Pioneer District's help in seeking to have International lower the price for unpublished arrangements. The price for unpublished arrangements is much more than the price of published arrangements. International charges this price per issue for unpublished arrangements for the number requested but then sends only one copy with authorization to the chapter to make the number of copies paid for, requiring the chapter to then pay again to have copies made at Kinkos or OfficeMax or some other supplier. After extensive discussion no formal action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT:** After determining there were no more questions from the meeting attendees, and no additional business on the agenda, President Kunz entertained a motion to adjourn made by Macomb County Delegate Dave Anderson, supported by Windsor Chapter Delegate Doran McTaggart. Motion carried, and President Kunz declared the meeting adjourned at 2:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

MARVIN SKUPSKI, Acting Pioneer District Secretary